Germany, europe, media: **"Migrants Will Soon Be The Powerful" - German Broadsheet Causes Uproar With Immigration Article**

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, JUN 02, 2023 - 03:00 AM

Authored by Thomas Brooke via Remix News,

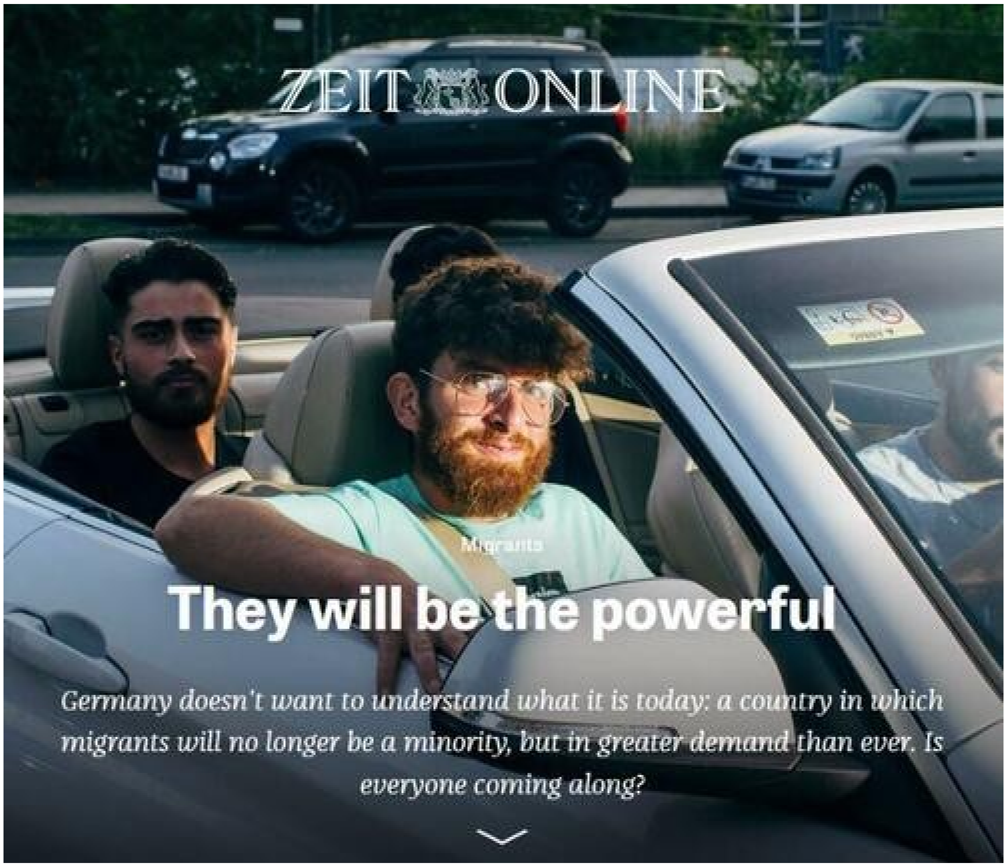
Die Zeit deleted the social media post linking to the article after a number of users expressed their outrage at the rhetoric, although many others praised the publication...

The German broadsheet Die Zeit has caused a storm on social media after publishing an article in which it claims **Germany will soon be "a country in which migrants will no longer be a minority."**

Die Zeit, the Hamburg-based newspaper widely considered to be a more highbrow read than the tabloids, posted the article highlighting Germany's irreparable demographic change to its socials on Tuesday with the caption:

Integration was yesterday: Germany is the second-largest immigration country in the world, and the original Germans are likely to become a numerical minority among many in the foreseeable future. And now?

The accompanying photo showed a group of four young immigrants in a top-down flash convertible smiling at the camera with the headline: ***"They will be the powerful."***



They will be the powerful

Germany doesn't want to understand what it is today: a country in which migrants will no longer be a minority, but in greater demand than ever. Is everyone coming along?

The article recounted a time when there used to be a "familiar homeland" before "the others" came, explaining that Germany used to have just 500,000 foreign nationals residing in the Federal Republic and the country “belonged to the Germans.”

You knew the neighbors. One understood what they said, what they believed, what they served up in the evening. There was peace. The economy grew miraculously.

Despite the article portraying a more peaceful era before mass immigration, the article itself is not anti-immigrant. It later attempts to persuade the reader to consider that Germany has almost always been a country of immigration, citing the Prussians who imported foreign workers — despite nearly all of these workers being European and Christian.

The article also claimed that Germany is “now safer than ever.” Despite statistics showing crime falling overall over the last decade, murders and gang rapes are increasing, and a disproportionate share of them are committed by Germany’s foreign population. In fact, gang rapes reached a record high in 2022, with half of the suspects being foreigners.

However, the article’s posting on social media caused a stir across the German political landscape as campaigners on both sides of the immigration debate commented on the story.

“Please what?” Green MEP Erik Marquardt wrote on Twitter in response to the Die Zeit post.

The social media post was later deleted and replaced with a new photo, depicting two white females and the caption, “In recent years, Germany has become the world’s second-largest immigration country without really wanting to admit it.”

“This teaser is almost even worse than the old one,” commented Marius Mestermann, a journalist with Der Spiegel, a sentiment shared by a number of other self-proclaimed liberals.

Others, however, praised the publication for drawing attention to the demographic changes in the country, an indisputable fact materialized through record levels of mass immigration under years of liberal governance.

This trend shows no signs of slowing down, with the German government prepared to spend €36 billion on its open borders policies this year, despite growing resentment among the electorate. This public resistance is evidenced by a rise in support for the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) party.

Germany continues to experience record population growth, with nearly 1.5 million migrants arriving in 2022, and 163,000 new arrivals in the first three months of 2023.

Censorship: Here's How OpenAI Plans To Cleanse ChatGPT Of False Information

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 11:00 PM

Authored by Amaka Nwaokocha via CoinTelegraph.com,

OpenAI aims to reduce AI hallucinations in ChatGPT by enhancing math skills, as process supervision shows promise in improving accuracy...

Latin America: Virginia, West Virginia Governors Sending National Guard Troops To Texas Border

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 10:40 PM

Authored by Ryan Morgan via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Inflation, government: “Investor Home Purchases Fell a Record 49% Year Over Year in the First Quarter”

Investor Home Purchases Fell a Record 49% in the First Quarter (redfin.com)

Censorship: **Shellenberger: Why The Media Is Attacking Free Speech**

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 07:20 PM

Authored by Michael Shellenberger via 'Public' substack,

Governments around the world are cracking down on free speech. What they are demanding includes the ability to read private encrypted text messages and invade homes in search of *wrongspeech*. Their demands thus go far beyond what the Censorship Industrial Complex was able to get away with over the last six years.

Inflation, government, journal (Same thing happening to the banking industry: all sectors becoming top heavy, with most dominated by companies that

receive subsidies from the government so they can compete on the world stage):

> “Free to speak his mind, Kaplan concludes rather ominously, *"**the recent banking turmoil has highlighted the disparity between too-big-to-fail banks and smaller and midsize banks.** I worry that increasing the Fed funds rate from here may create further strains on the deposit base for those smaller banks. I’m concerned that, as the Fed raises rates, it is **tightening the vice on small and midsize banks and the small and midsize businesses that rely on those banks for funding**."*

zerohedgedotcom/markets/bank-bailout-facility-usage-hits-new-record-high-money-market-fund-inflows-soared-again-0

Censorship: **"I Am The Enforcer" - EU's Ministry Of Truth Threatens Google, Twitter, And Facebook With 'Stress Tests'**

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 04:07 PM

Authored by Mike Shedlock via MishTalk.com,

*EU's Thierry Breton tells US Big Tech corporations that **he's "The Enforcer" against disinformation**...*

Stress Test for Truth Coming Up

The Enforcer is coming after US technology companies demanding a stress test on the truth. No, this isn't The Onion.

Politico reports EU’s Breton Wants to ‘Stress Test’ Silicon Valley Giants.

LULEÅ, Sweden — **The European Union's Thierry Breton wants Big Tech to know that he's "the enforcer."**

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European Commission

The internal market commissioner will travel to California next month to **carry out "stress tests" to see how social media companies are preparing for new content rules**, known as the Digital Services Act (DSA).

The French politician told POLITICO that he and European Commission officials would **meet with Google, Twitter and Meta Platforms during his trip to the United States,** most likely during the week of June 19.

At least some of those companies would participate in the informal checks to see if they are ready for the new rules, which come into force in August, and carry fines of up to 6 percent of a firm's annual revenue.

"We are going there, but don't want to be vocal before because I don't want to speak too much. But we offer this and I'm happy that some platforms took our proposal," Breton said of the non-binding compliance checks. **"***I am the enforcer. I represent the law, which is the will of the state and the people***."**

"It's a voluntary basis, so we don't force anyone" to join the code of practice on disinformation, Breton said. **"***I just reminded (Musk and Twitter) that by August 25, it will become a legal obligation to fight disinformation.***"**

A Legal Obligation to Fight Disinformation

Say what?!

And who gets to decide the truth? Hunter Biden? Joe Biden? Dr. Anthony Fauci? Hillary Clinton and her totally discredited Russia campaign?

I guess the answer of the day is Thierry Breton. As "The Enforcer", he is apparently in a unique position to understand the truth about everything.

First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Are we really at the shocking point where US corporations are forced to listen to French politicians who get to tramp on the US constitution, with their determination of "The Truth"?

Big tech should tell the EU to go to hell. Ironically, that is what the EU should do with Biden's sanctions on anything and everything.

It's a sad day when US corporations take marching orders from EU politicians on what constitutes "the truth".

And where the hell is Biden on objecting to this?

Government: **Supreme Court Deals Blow To Unions, Rules Company Can Sue For Damage Caused By Strike**

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 03:30 PM

Authored by Matthew Vadum via The Epoch Times,

In an 8-1 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court on June 1 decided that a union's deliberate destruction of company property as a pressure tactic in a labor dispute is not protected by federal law.

China, energy, middle east, war, sanctions: Three New China-Russia-Iran And Iraq Agreements Confirm The New Oil Market Order

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 02:10 PM

Authored by Simon Watkins via OilPrice.com,

- **Moscow signed 10 new cooperation agreements with Iran for the oil sector alone on 18 May.**

- **China waited for the dust to settle before it too signed new cooperation agreements with Iran on 23 May.**
- **China has significantly expanded its influence in the Middle East in order to secure sufficient hydrocarbon supplies to fuel its economic growth.**

The last week or so has seen a flurry of major cooperation agreements - including in energy, security, and logistics – between various permutations of Iran, Iraq, Russia, and China. Like a very dark version of the old U.S. soap opera parody ‘Soap’ this real-life version is equally convoluted, albeit a lot less funny. Its key elements constitute a significant part of the new global oil market order, which is analysed in depth in my new book on the subject, but **the three most recent principal cooperation agreements will have immediate consequences for oil and gas flows around the world and their pricing.**

The best place to start here is at the end point of what China wants in its grand scheme of things, as delineated in its multi-generational power-grab project, ‘One Belt, One Road’. What it wants is to turn the Middle East into a large oil and gas station by which it can fuel its economic growth to overtake the U.S. as the number one superpower by 2030. The three biggest oil and gas reserves in the region belong to Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, so it wants to control those to begin with. For Russia, which already has lots of oil and gas – over which China already has significant control – the objectives in the Middle East are more varied. One objective is to continue to exert influence in several countries that it regards as being key to maintaining some of its hold over the Former Soviet Union states. Another, more recent one, is to use this influence to bolster its position as a partner of note to China. As for the other countries in this soap opera –Iran, and Iraq, and now also more clearly, Saudi Arabia – they are in this new global alliance partly for the economic and political support from China (and to a lesser degree, Russia) and because their political systems are naturally much closer to the authoritarian regimes of China and Russia than they are to the democratic ones of the U.S. and its allies.

To the money shot, then, which was Iran and Iraq signing a new set of oil and gas agreements within the last two weeks. As also analysed in full in my new book on the new global oil market order, Iran has long exerted enormous influence over its neighbour directly and indirectly through its political, economic, and military proxies. Iraq was always pre-disposed to such cooperation in the energy sector, as the two countries share several of their biggest oil reservoirs. These include Azadegan (on the Iran side)/Majnoon (on the Iraq side), Azar/Badra, Yadavaran/Sinbad, Naft Shahr/Naft Khana, Dehloran/Abu Ghurab, West Paydar/Fakka and Arvand/South Abu Ghurab. This has long proven extremely useful to Iran in avoiding sanctions, as oil from its side of these reservoirs can easily be re-branded as non-sanctioned Iraqi oil and then shipped anywhere in the world. **It has also proven a useful tool for Iraq through which it can extort billions of dollar from the U.S. by promising to stop the import of Iranian electricity and gas, only to renegue on those promises the second the money hits the downtown Baghdad bank accounts.** The latest cooperation agreements strengthen all these ties between Iran-Iraq further.

Cue the other recent cooperation agreements aimed at making sure that whatever is Iran’s (including control over Iraq’s oil and gas reserves) it is also China’s and Russia’s. First up was Moscow, signing 10 new cooperation agreements with Iran for the oil sector alone on 18 May. According to a source who works closely with Iran’s Petroleum Ministry spoken to exclusively last week by *OilPrice.com*, the agreements comprise six memorandums of understanding, two contracts, one broader military cooperation roadmap, and another roadmap related to bilateral cooperation in the fields of industry, transfer of technology and oil recovery enhancement. In essence, these add up to a renewal and extension of the previous five-year and 10-year rolling agreements between Russia and Iran as also analysed in full in my new book. These allow Russia (together with China in separate agreements, to be covered in a moment) to have its firms present in any oil and gas field in Iran that Moscow chooses. It also allows for the exchange of the most promising military officers between the two countries and for Russia to have full access to Iran’s airports and seaports. Additionally, it allows for continued cooperation in other military and security matters, including intelligence, equipment and technology sharing.

Russia’s man in Iran - Deputy Prime Minister and co-chair of the Permanent Russian-Iranian Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, Alexander Novak – stressed as well that **the two countries are working on on banking**

interactions and using their national currencies in bilateral transactions. Further progress was also made on the North-South Transport Corridor (NSTC), with several agreements reached in the rail, road, maritime, and air transport sectors. Moscow is interested in developing the corridor all the way to India and beyond. Aside from boosting trade between Russia and Iran through the Caspian and Persian Gulf regions, these routes would also provide many opportunities for ‘dual purpose’ use – both civilian and military - of the airports and seaports.

Always looking to make a big entrance, China waited for the dust to settle before it too signed new cooperation agreements with Iran on 23 May. According to the Iran source spoken to by OilPrice.com, these agreements were simply nailing down some of the remaining details on financial, investment, and energy cooperation contained in the ‘Iran-China 25-Year Comprehensive Cooperation Agreement’ first revealed anywhere in the world in my 3 September 2019 article on the subject and covered in depth as well in my new book. In the 25-Year Agreement, China is guaranteed oil and gas prices from Iran at least 30 percent lower than the relevant oil pricing benchmarks. However, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, China has been demanding an extra discount on Iranian oil to the 30 percent discount at which it can currently also buy Russian oil, according to the Iran source. “On average, the Chinese discount for Iranian crude oil to the international benchmark over the last 12 months has been around 44 percent,” he said. “But, it is even worse for Iran, as – from 11 November 2022 - China has been paying Iran in non-convertible Yuan, that is Yuan that can only be used inside China and/or spent buying Chinese goods,” he added. ***“Worse still is that whilst Yuan is the key instrument in payment, China is also using the currencies of Angola, Zambia and Kenya to pay Iran, and China is doing this as a means to induce Iran to buys goods from these countries so that these countries, in turn, can service their loans to China,”*** he concluded.

Media, stats, censorship: Target Plunges For 10th Day As Boycott Leads To "Traffic Weakness", JPM

Downgrade Adds To Groom And Doom

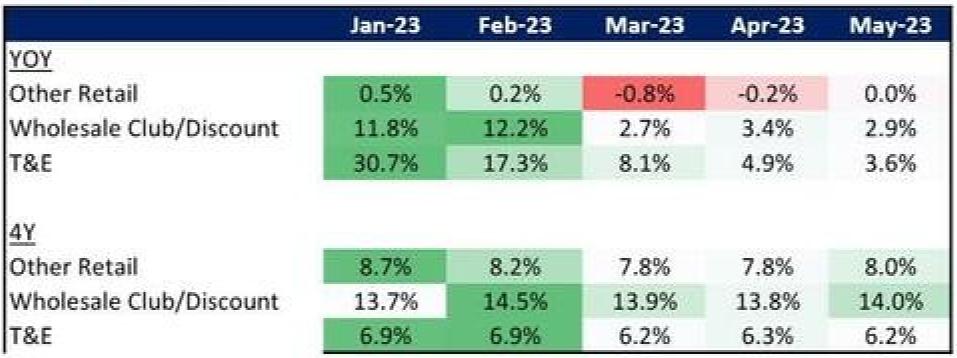
BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 01:10 PM

As if Target didn't have enough headaches on its plate with a nationwide boycotting campaign targeting the grooming-friendly retailer sending its sales tumbling after it too was Budlighted, one can also add a JPM downgrade (from Overweight to Neutral) and price target cut (from $182 to $144) into the mix.

In a note from JPM Chris Hoovers, he explains that he is downgrading TGT to Neutral based on the following:

(1) The consumer is broadly weakening while the share of wallet shift away from goods (51% of TGT sales) is ongoing.

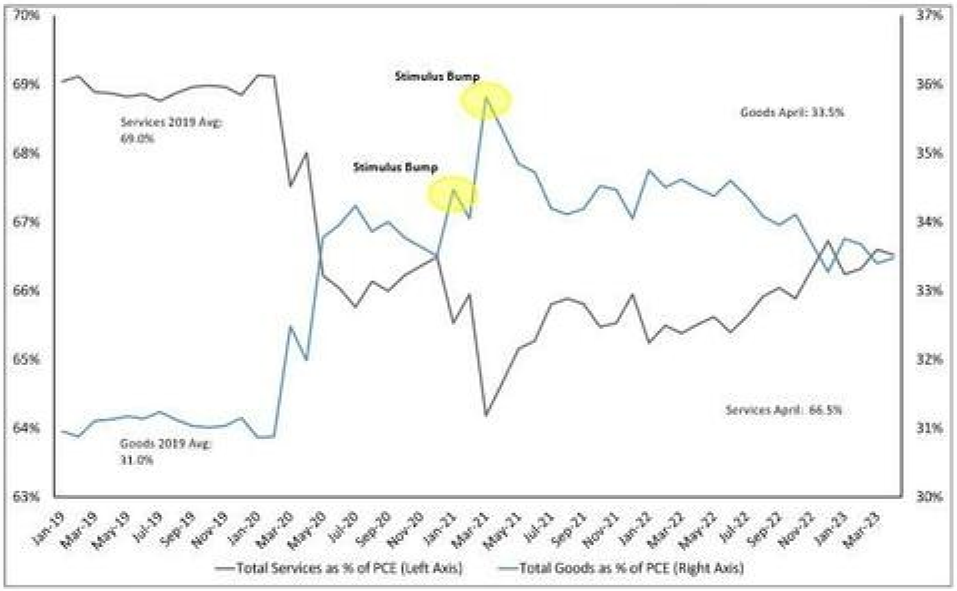
Figure 1: 1Y and 4Y Trends in Discretionary ("Other") Retail and T&E Have Deteriorated since January per Chase Data



	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23
YOY					
Other Retail	0.5%	0.2%	-0.8%	-0.2%	0.0%
Wholesale Club/Discount	11.8%	12.2%	2.7%	3.4%	2.9%
T&E	30.7%	17.3%	8.1%	4.9%	3.6%
4Y					
Other Retail	8.7%	8.2%	7.8%	7.8%	8.0%
Wholesale Club/Discount	13.7%	14.5%	13.9%	13.8%	14.0%
T&E	6.9%	6.9%	6.2%	6.3%	6.2%

Source: J.P. Morgan, 7-day average of spending, Data through May 21, 2023, https://www.jpmm.com/research/open/latest/publication/9002054. "Other Retail" broadly represents specialty/discretionary retail and excludes consumables retailers like wholesale club, discount, supermarkets, and drug stores.

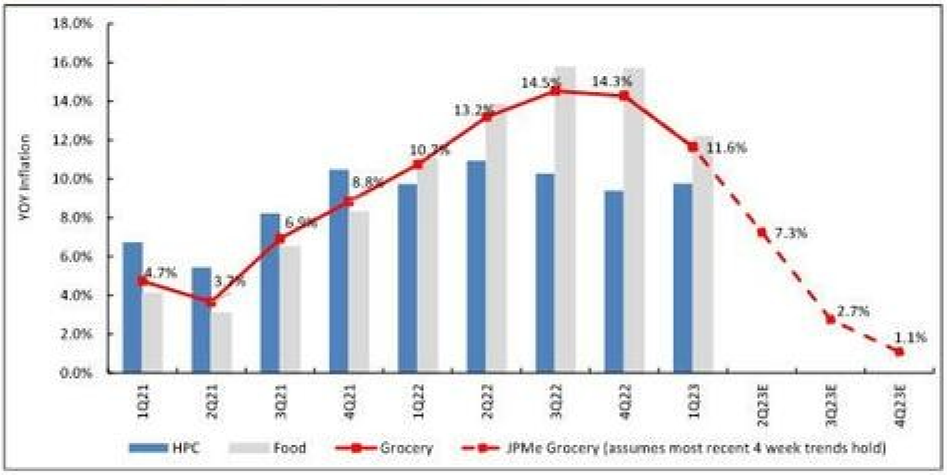
Figure 2: Services Share of Wallet Still Normalizing to Pre-COVID at the Expense of Goods



Source: PCE and J.P. Morgan Research

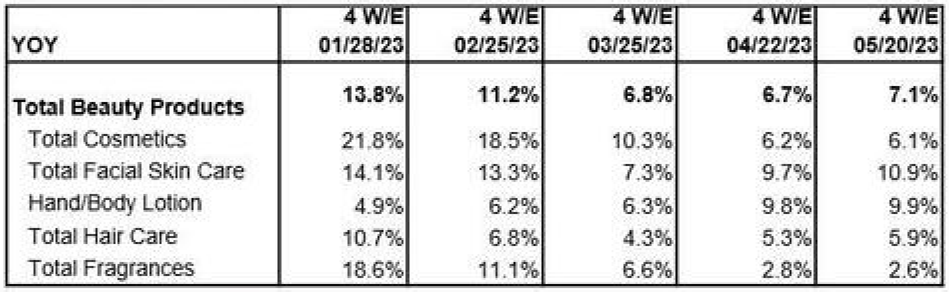
(2) Disinflation in grocery (~40% of sales ex beauty and including essentials) continues to accelerate, eating into the ballast of TGT's recent slightly positive to negative LSD SSS trend. TGT comped +HSD in grocery and +LSD in essentials in 1Q, adding 2-3 points to total 1Q SSS vs. the overall flat comp. However, JPM's projection suggests this tailwind could be close to nil by 4Q. Even beauty (estimated at ~10% of sales) is slowing on a 1Y basis per Nielsen .

Figure 3: Grocery Disinflation Continues to Accelerate



Source: NielsenIQ and J.P. Morgan Research

Figure 4: Beauty Sales Have Decelerated Materially Since January

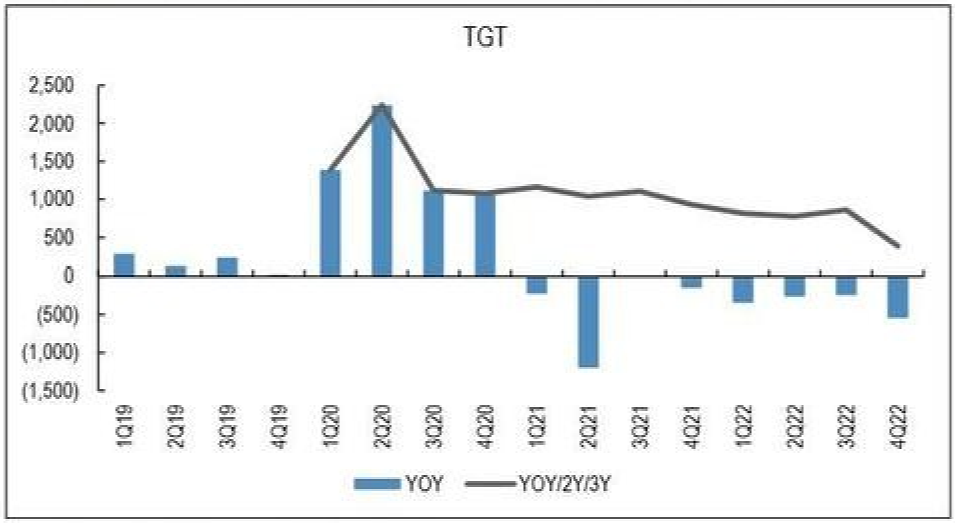


YOY	4 W/E 01/28/23	4 W/E 02/25/23	4 W/E 03/25/23	4 W/E 04/22/23	4 W/E 05/20/23
Total Beauty Products	**13.8%**	**11.2%**	**6.8%**	**6.7%**	**7.1%**
Total Cosmetics	21.8%	18.5%	10.3%	6.2%	6.1%
Total Facial Skin Care	14.1%	13.3%	7.3%	9.7%	10.9%
Hand/Body Lotion	4.9%	6.2%	6.3%	9.8%	9.9%
Total Hair Care	10.7%	6.8%	4.3%	5.3%	5.9%
Total Fragrances	18.6%	11.1%	6.6%	2.8%	2.6%

Source: NielsenIQ and J.P. Morgan Research

(3) While still positive on a 3Y basis, TGT has been giving back share on a 1Y view and this share loss could accelerate into back to school and linger into holiday given consumer pressures and what JPM tactfully calls "***recent company controversies.***" This, the bank says, **could turn TGT's traffic negative after an impressive run of 12 consecutive positive quarters.** This shift is "generally bad for retail stock valuation given attribution is highest at the topline and, particularly for traffic."

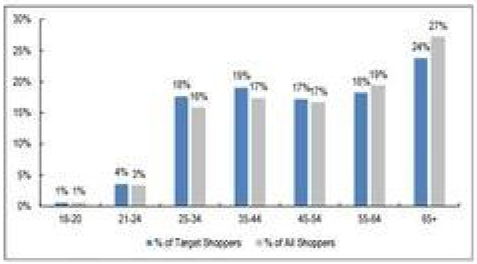
Figure 5: While Up Relative to Pre-COVID, TGT Has Given Back Share since 4Q20



Source: Company Reports, Census, and J.P. Morgan Research

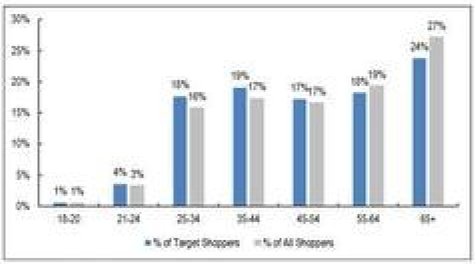
(4) JPM notes that TGT over-indexes to the millennial customer and, should student loan payments come back on - which they are about to, as we discussed recently - the company is more exposed than others in JPM's coverage. Buyside client expectations are in the $6-8MM per month consumer outflow range should this happen, which represents a potential 1-2 point comp headwind to retail spending which is material given the baseline comp discussed above.

Figure 6: TGT Over-indexes to Shoppers 25-44



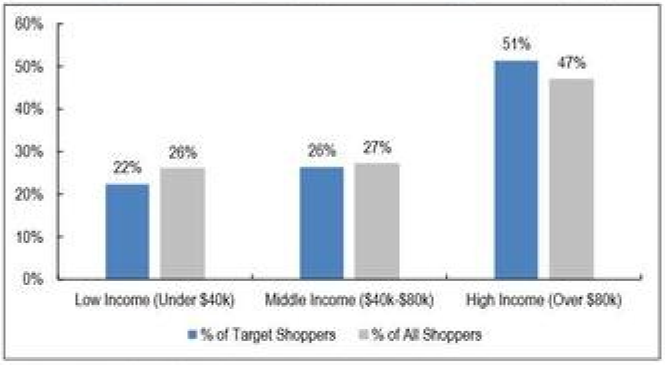
Source: Numerator and J.P. Morgan Research

Figure 7: Particularly Millennials



Source: Numerator and J.P. Morgan Research

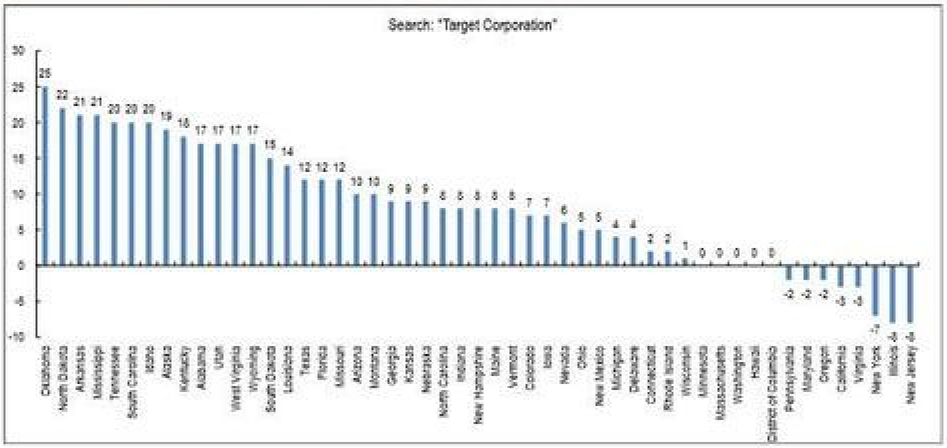
Figure 8: And, Higher Income Households (> $80k) vs. Under-Indexing to Low Income (< $40k)



Source: Numerator and J.P. Morgan Research

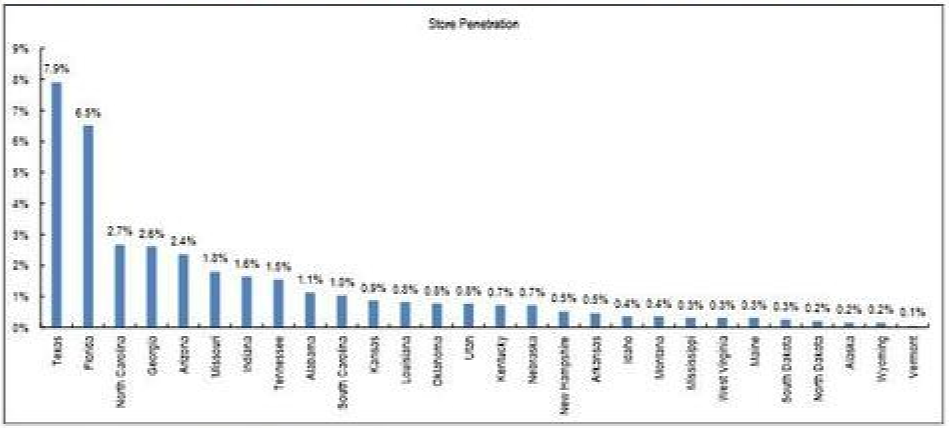
(5) **Google search surges in states representing ~37% of its stores with the biggest uptick in the south central and south Atlantic (guess what people are searching).** JPM examined Google Trends data to see which states have seen the greatest increase in relative search frequency for ˘Target Corporation˙ over the last week (5/24/23 - 5/31/23) vs. the period from (5/25/22 -4/30/23). Using 8 as the mendoza line to measure the potential for a negative reaction, the states where search surged represent ~37% of its store base.

Figure 11: Google Search Analysis Shows Big Uptick in Key States



Source: Google Trends and J.P. Morgan Research; Note: figure shows change in relative search by state between the periods 5/24/23 - 5/31/23 and 5/25/22 - 4/30/23. Google Trends calculates on a scale from 0 to 100, where 100 is the location with the most popularity as a fraction of total searches in that location, a value of 50 indicates a location that is half as popular.

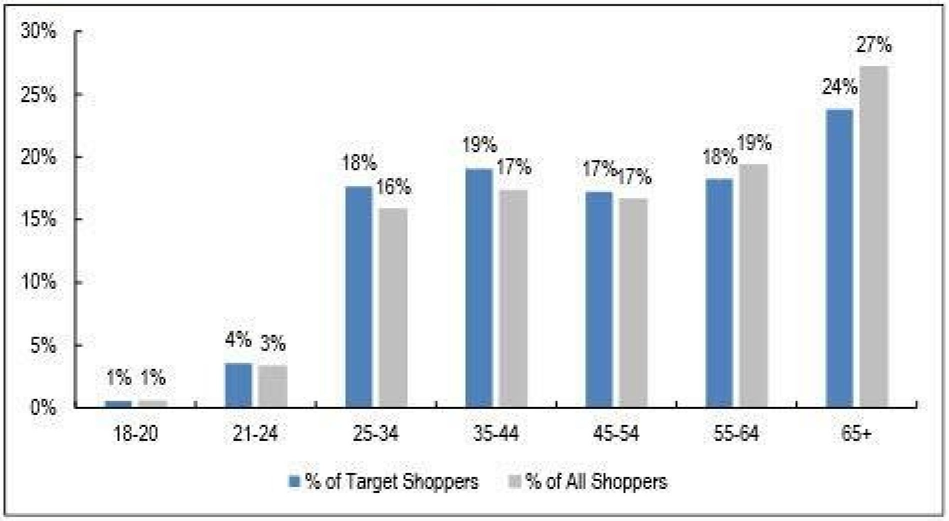
Figure 12: States with Highest Increase in Search Frequency Make Up ~37% of TGT Stores



Source: Company Reports and J.P. Morgan Research; Mendoza Line = 8

(6) Finally, TGT share gains have been reverting. As seen below, TGT has been giving back share as other retailers opened and the consumer got back into stores and started dressing up for events. Despite 1Y headwinds, the trend has remained positive on a 3Y basis but this could be at increased risk given the above.

Figure 6: TGT Over-indexes to Shoppers 25-44



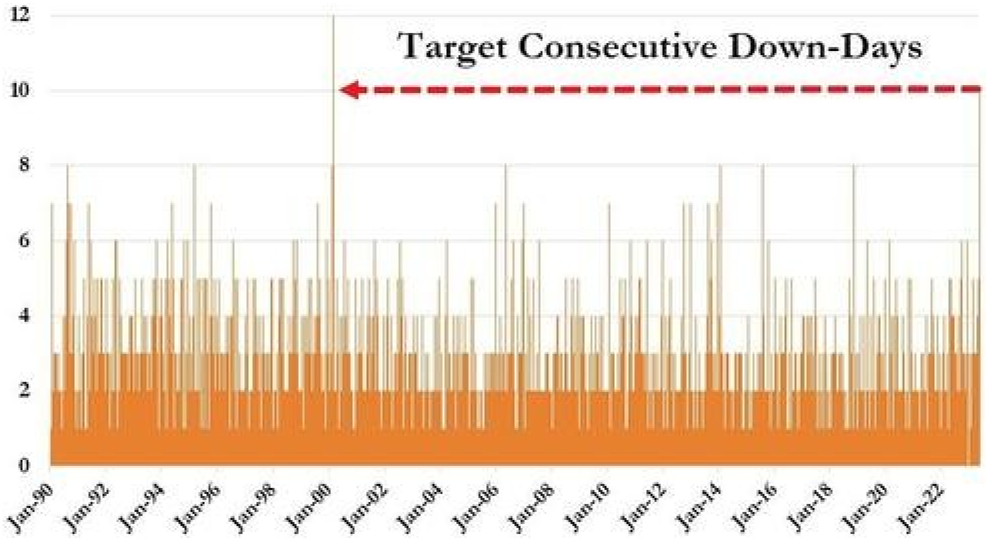
Source: Numerator and J.P. Morgan Research

Meanwhile, as Wells Fargo also opines this morning, the controversy around Target’s collection of LGBTQ-themed merchandise for Pride Month "adds uncertainty to a stock that already had earnings risk amid a pullback in discretionary spending."

Most importantly Wells analyst Edward Kelly writes that "**there is early evidence of some financial impact, with Placer.ai data signaling incremental traffic weakness in the week ended May 28"**

“Traffic has been a key bright spot for TGT as it struggled with margin issues, and a slowdown would be negative”, obviously.

As a result, TGT stock is down for a 10th session in its longest losing streak since February 2000, and together with Tranheuser Bush should serve as a great lesson for any other corporations who seek to alienate the bulk of consumers (especially those who don't live on government handouts) just to cater to a very mentally unstable 0.5% of the population.



Energy, government, planet, war, sanctions: WTI Holds Gains After Biden Admin's 9th Straight Weekly SPR Drain

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 12:05 PM

Oil prices have been choppy overnight, since API reported a big surprise crude build, with WTI hovering around $68. China's factory activity and the OPEC+ meeting over the weekend in Vienna to discuss the group’s production policy are weighing on traders' minds, as US debt ceiling doubts fade.

“Today the market will look to US weekly inventory data and in particular the pace of Strategic Petroleum Reserve selling last week,” said Jens Pedersen, director of oil and commodities research at Danske Bank.

“Oil prices are stabilizing after better-than-expected Chinese PMIs and a halt in the recent dollar rally,” he added, referring to the purchasing managers’ index, a measure of economic activity.

The big question is whether the official data will confirm API's big build...

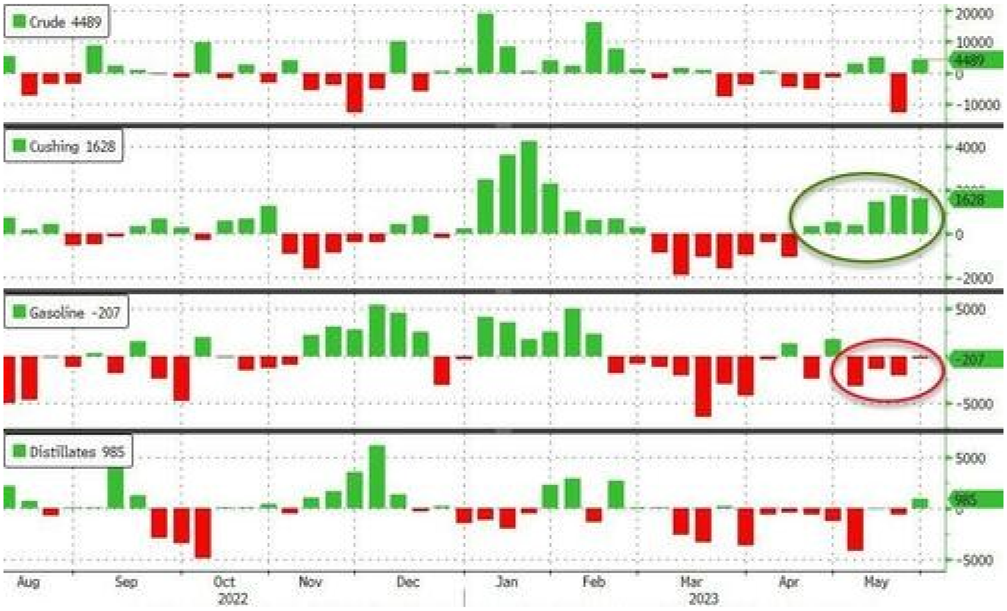
API

- **Crude +5.2mm (-5.1mm exp)**
- Cushing +1.777mm
- Gasoline +1.89mm (-900k exp)
- Distillates +1.849mm (+500k exp)

DOE

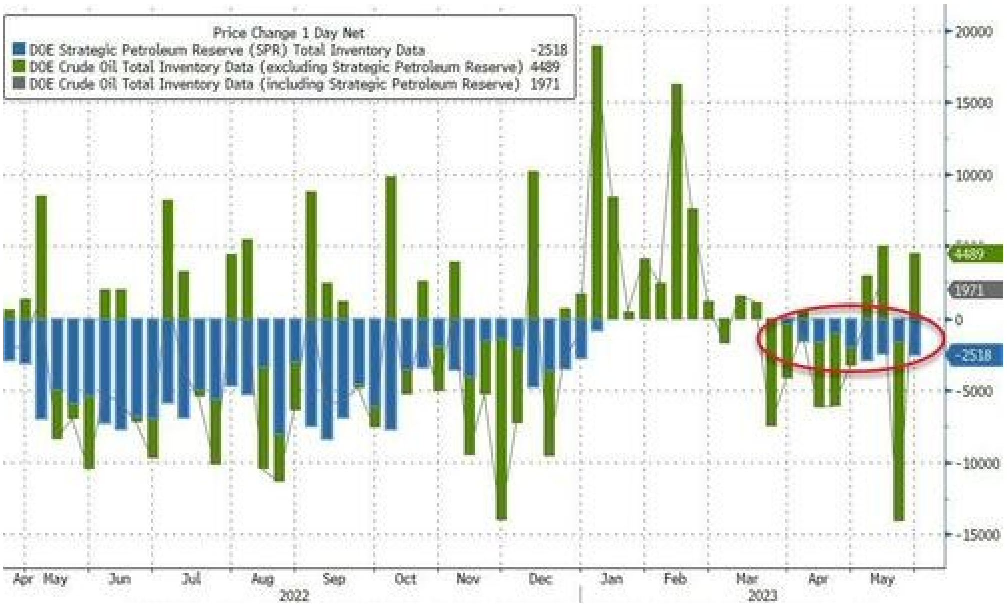
- **Crude +4.49mm (-5.1mm exp)**
- Cushing +1.63mm
- Gasoline -207k (-900k exp)
- Distillates +985k (+500k exp)

The official inventory data confirmed API's report that crude stocks rose significantly last week - after the massive draw the prior week. **Cushing stocks rose for the 6th straight week.** Gasoline stocks fell very modestly...



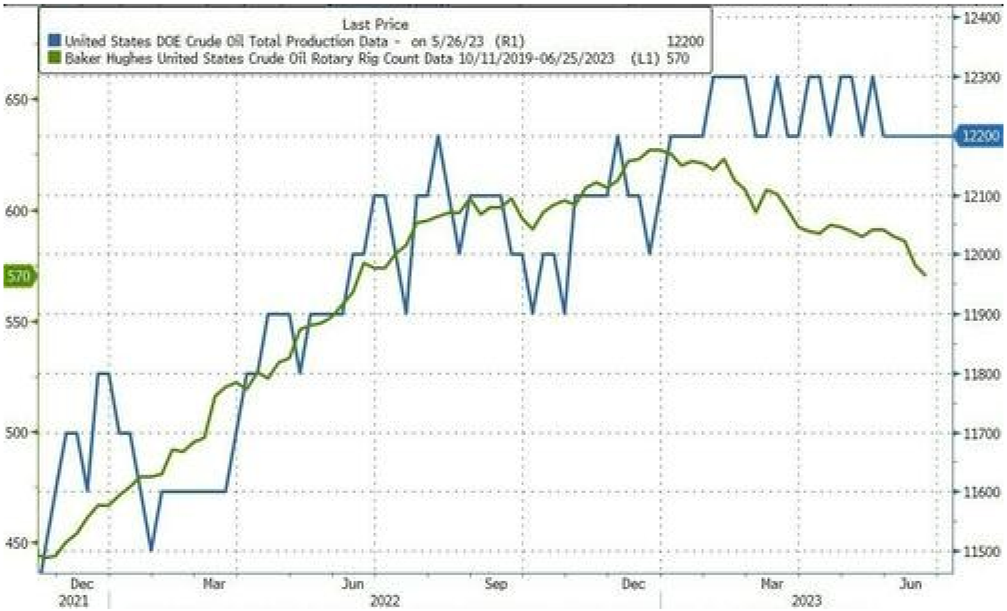
Source: Bloomberg

For the 9th straight week, the Biden admin drained the SPR last week...



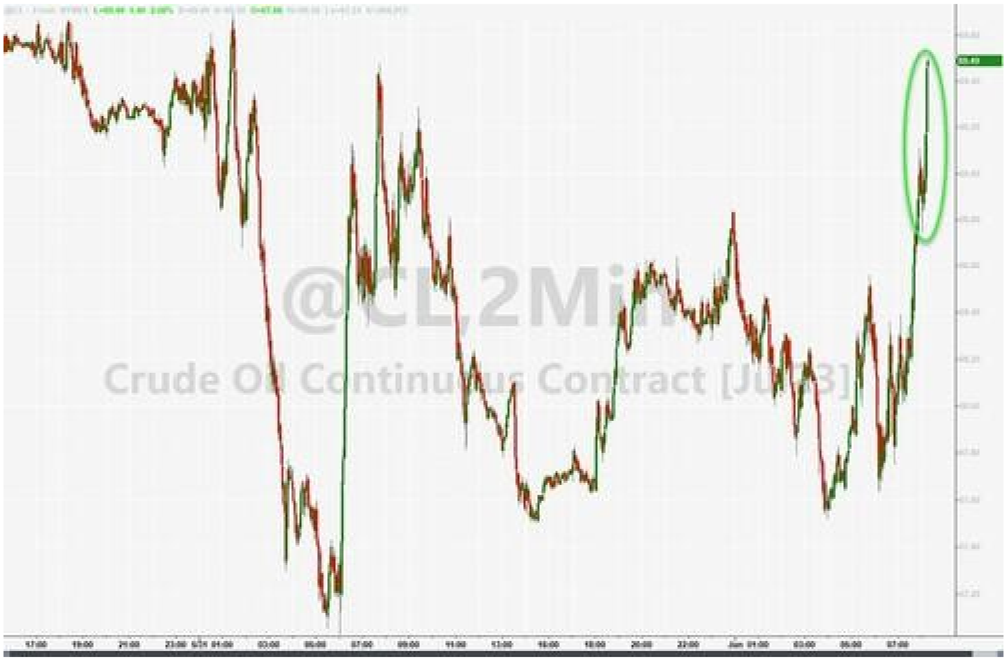
Source: Bloomberg

US crude production remains flat at cycle highs despite the ongoing slide in rig counts...



Source: Bloomberg

WTI rallied up to $69 ahead of the official inventory data and extended those gains...



Finally, we note that US demand for oil and diesel was more robust in March than previously thought, but remained below levels seen at the same time a year ago.

Asia, china, markets, sanctions, journal (Key info on china):

> “**The Euro Stoxx 50 generates one fourth of its revenue in Asia, according to Goldman Sachs strategists. For the broader Stoxx 600, the figure is 21%**.”

Stalling China Recovery Deals A Blow To European Stocks

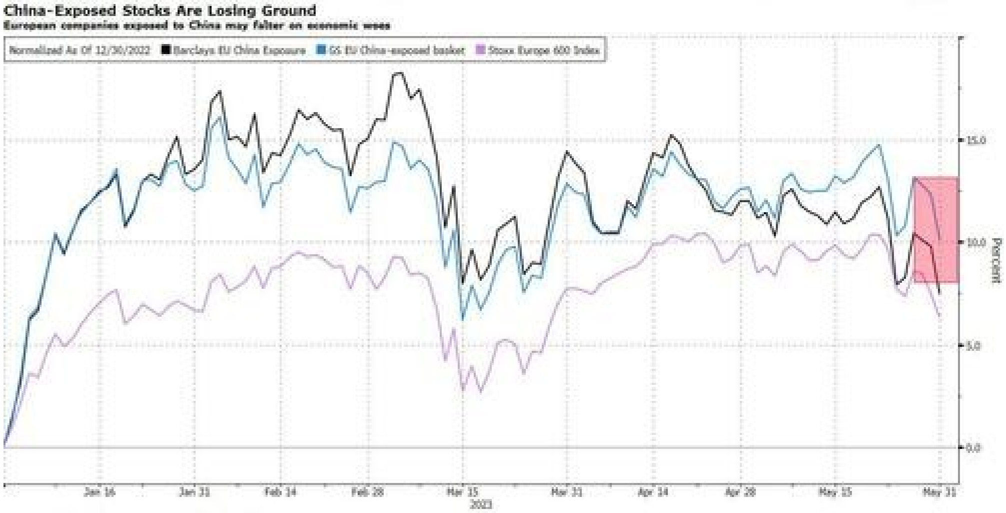
BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 11:15 AM

By Michael Msika, Bloomberg markets live reporter and strategist

With alarm bells sounding in various corners of China’s economy, European stocks with high exposure to its markets are counting on further policy support from Beijing to reinvigorate their gains. Trouble is, the prospects of major stimulus appear poor.

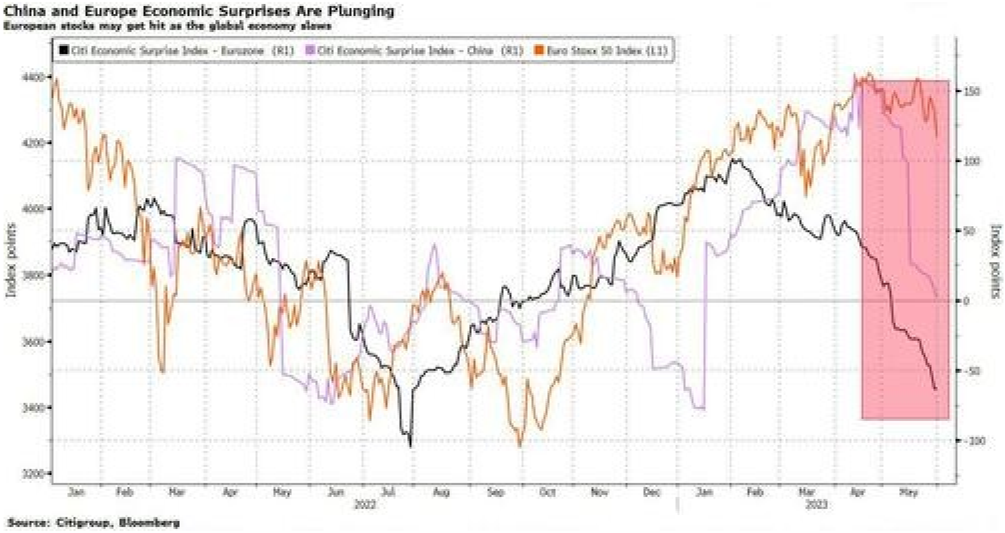
The rally in China-facing stocks has fizzled. Since the Lunar New Year holidays in late January, **baskets of European shares with sizable income from the country have lagged behind the benchmark Stoxx 600.** That gap widened on Wednesday after a surprisingly weak reading of manufacturing activity in the world’s second-largest economy. Today’s Caixin positive reading offered some modest relief, but suggests recovery remains uncertain and more evidence is needed to gauge the outlook.

This is a big deal for European large caps. **The Euro Stoxx 50 generates one fourth of its revenue in Asia, according to Goldman Sachs strategists. For the broader Stoxx 600, the figure is 21%**. To certain sectors, China is a vital source of demand — some miners and tech companies rely on it for as much as half their revenue. **Among industrial, auto and luxury stocks the share is 15% to 30%.**



Almost all the latest data points indicate that China’s economic comeback is sputtering. Industrial output, retail sales and fixed investment grew much slower than expected in April, housing market sales are regressing again, and demand for raw materials from copper to glass has been weak. The services sector has been a bright spot so far, but record-high youth unemployment begs the question of how sustainable that strength will be.

Tepid metals demand from China has helped entrench miners as the worst equity performers this year. But the malaise is spreading, with appliance maker SEB, insurer Prudential, elevator manufacturer Kone, industrial technology company OC Oerlikon, and luxury giants like LVMH and Burberry all taking a hit. Another wave of Covid infections has added to the selling momentum.



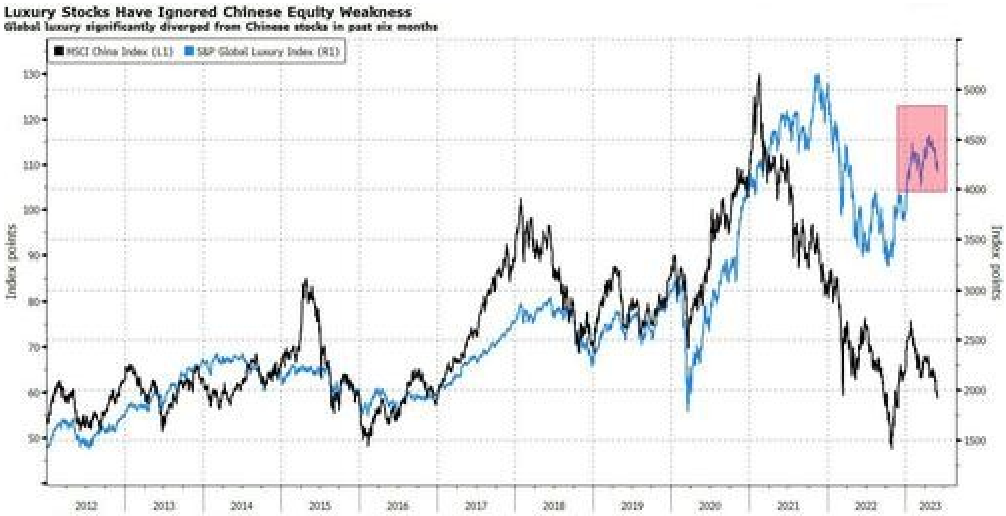
China and Europe Economic Surprises Are Plunging

European stocks may get hit as the global economy slows

Source: Citigroup, Bloomberg

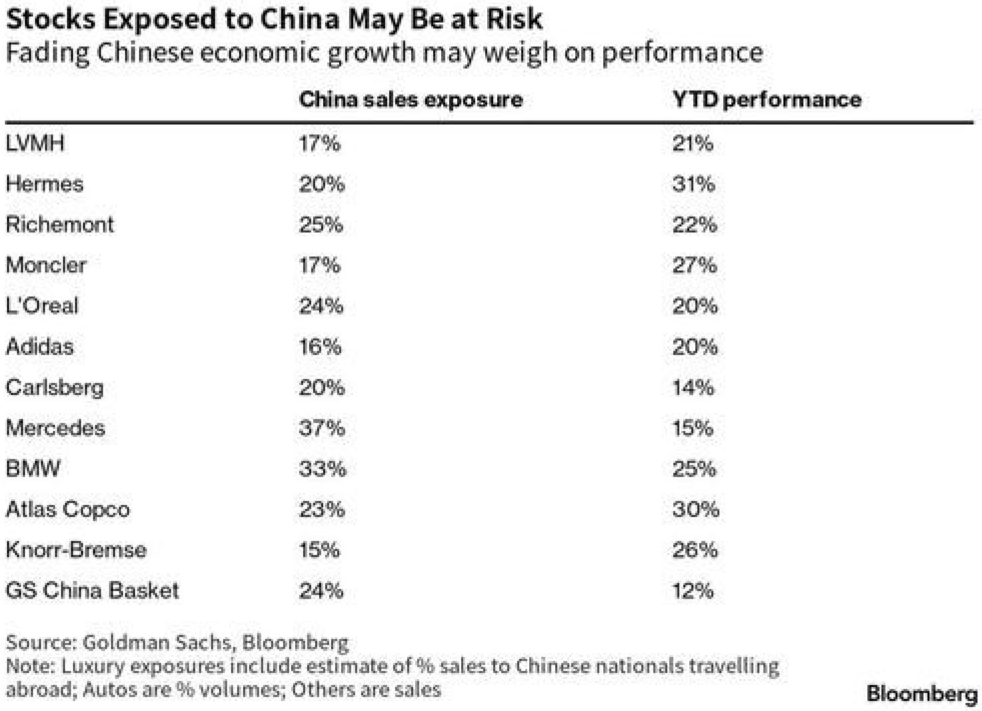
“We believe that China exposure baskets might keep disappointing,” say JPMorgan strategists led Mislav Matejka, citing the faltering recovery there as a key reason to downgrade euro-area stocks weeks ago. That message was echoed by Barclays strategist Emmanuel Cau, who recommends clients selectively reduce exposure to China.

Bets that luxury brands, airports and airlines will benefit from a return of Chinese customers come with risks. The number of outbound flights from China has stagnated at around 40% of pre-pandemic levels, with capacity to countries like Spain and France still low, according to Nomura economists led by Ting Lu. International travel is just too expensive for ordinary households, they say.



Hopes for a return of China-inspired equity gains now hinge on a sweeping stimulus package from Beijing. But most strategists say that won’t come easily at a moment when the government is watchful about rising debt loads and stretched fiscal positions. For its part, China’s central bank has vowed to avoid major monetary easing in the wake of the turmoil in US regional banks crisis.

“We fear that the bar for fiscal support is relatively high,” says JPMorgan’s Matejka. Citigroup strategists led by Dirk Willer say China does need additional stimulus measures to prop up growth, and they may eventually come, but they are “far from imminent.”



Stocks Exposed to China May Be at Risk

Fading Chinese economic growth may weigh on performance

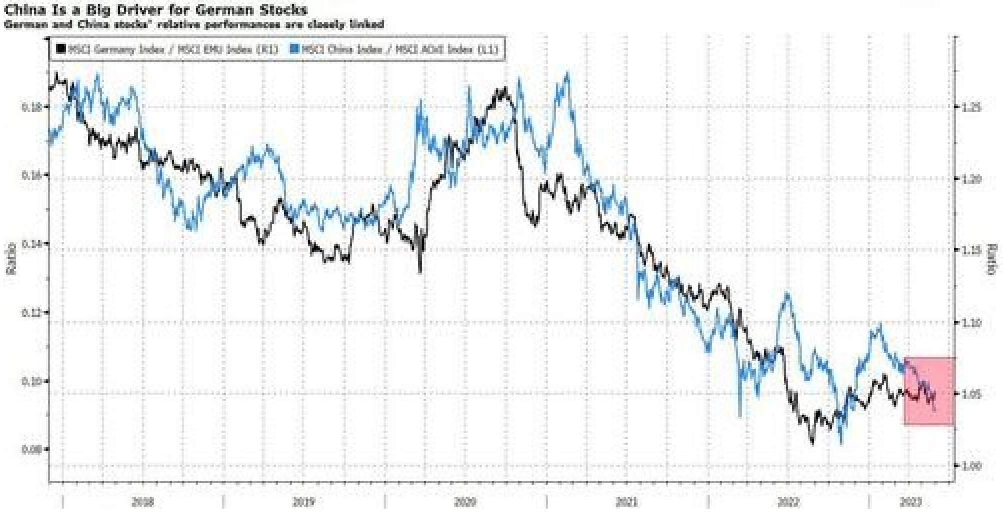
	China sales exposure	YTD performance
LVMH	17%	21%
Hermes	20%	31%
Richemont	25%	22%
Moncler	17%	27%
L'Oreal	24%	20%
Adidas	16%	20%
Carlsberg	20%	14%
Mercedes	37%	15%
BMW	33%	25%
Atlas Copco	23%	30%
Knorr-Bremse	15%	26%
GS China Basket	24%	12%

Source: Goldman Sachs, Bloomberg

Note: Luxury exposures include estimate of % sales to Chinese nationals travelling abroad; Autos are % volumes; Others are sales

Bloomberg

Some are willing to look through the near-term hurdles. Morgan Stanley analysts say job gains will drive the next stage of a rebound in Chinese consumption. While the retail sales recovery has been bumpy, it should accelerate by the end of this year. Within the luxury sector, they prefer owners of brands with an ultra-premium position in China, such as LVMH and Richemont. They see spirits maker Pernod Ricard as another beneficiary.



China Is a Big Driver for German Stocks

German and China stocks' relative performances are closely linked

China-exposed baskets also appeal to investors nervous about raising their direct bets on the country’s stocks when geopolitical tensions are high. “Some investors consider investing in China through European stocks as a lower risk way of doing that," HSBC strategist Edward Stanford says in an interview. "One of the beauties of investing in China through Europe is you've got the reassurance of a European corporate infrastructure, disclosure and regulatory environment for listed investments."

Censorship, court, tech:

Meta Threatens To Pull News Feeds Over California's Journalism Preservation Act

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 10:25 AM

Authored by Bryan Jung via The Epoch Times,

Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, is threatening to pull news feeds on its platforms for California residents if the state legislature passes the Journalism Preservation Act.

In a statement posted on Twitter on May 31, Meta expressed its opposition to the proposal AB 886, which requires big tech companies to pay news outlets a journalism usage fee, is made into law.

The proposed law is aimed at reversing a decline in California’s local news sector.

The statement was Meta’s first official comment specifically addressing AB 886.

Support for Local News Industry

Democrat State Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks, who sponsored the California bill, tweeted that Meta’s threat was “a scare tactic that they’ve tried to deploy, unsuccessfully, in every country that’s attempted this.”

“It is egregious that one of the wealthiest companies in the world would rather silence journalists than face regulation,” Wicks said.

“If the Journalism Preservation Act passes, we will be forced to remove news from Facebook and Instagram rather than pay into a slush fund that primarily benefits big, out-of-state media companies under the guise of aiding California publishers,” Meta policy communications director Andy Stone said in a statement on Twitter.

“The bill fails to recognize that publishers and broadcasters put their content on our platform themselves and that substantial consolidation in California’s local news industry came over 15 years ago, well before Facebook was widely used.”

The California bill would also require publishers to devote 70 percent of the proceeds from these fees to create and maintain positions in journalism throughout the state.

“It is disappointing that California lawmakers appear to be prioritizing the best interests of national and international media companies over their own constituents,” Stone added.

Ai, tech: Artificial Intelligence Poses "Risk Of Extinction", Warns ChatGPT Founder And Other AI Pioneers

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 09:29 AM

Authored by Ryan Morgan via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Artificial intelligence tools have captured the public’s attention in recent months, **but many of the people who helped develop the technology are now warning that greater focus should be placed on ensuring it doesn’t bring about the end of human civilization.**

A group of more than 350 AI researchers, journalists, and policymakers signed a brief statement saying, “Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war.”

Africa, government, Journal (South Africa now unable to maintain basic

infrastructure (railways, an old but essential piece of modern technology).

Second Major Railway Grinds To Halt In South Africa

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 07:55 AM

The precise question one needs to ask is: *What the hell is continuing to unfold in South Africa?* An economic crisis is worsening, and extended rolling blackouts have been the norm over the last several months, but in the last week, multiple major railways have ground to a halt due to rampant theft of power cables.

Bloomberg said a 535-mile rail line used to haul iron ore and manganese from Kumba Iron Ore Ltd.'s giant Sishen mine in the Northern Cape province to west coast ports was paralyzed on Tuesday after criminal organized gangs stole power cables used to power electric locomotives.

War, Russia: **Ukraine Calls For Massive Demilitarized Zone Within Russia As Stipulation For Talks**

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 06:45 AM

Authored by Kyle Anzalone via The Libertarian Institute,

As a condition for ending the war, an aide to President Volodymyr Zelensky has demanded Russia **remove its military forces along its border with**

Ukraine. Kiev hopes the area within Moscow’s borders will be manned by **international forces**.

Presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak called for a **100-120 kilometer demilitarized zone within Russia**. “It will be necessary to introduce a demilitarization zone of 100-120 km on the territory of Belgorod, Bryansk, Kursk, and Rostov republics. Probably with a mandatory international control contingent at the first stage,” he tweeted on Monday.

Censorship, media, government: Female Athlete Retires After Competing Against Biological Men, Says Girls "No Longer Have A Fair Chance"

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 11:45 PM

Authored by Darlene McCormick Sanchez via The Epoch Times,

Hannah Arensman, a 35-time national cyclocross winner, decided to retire at the age of 25 following a loss to a transgender competitor. She shared her decision along with 67 female athletes and supporters in a recent Supreme Court amicus brief filing (pdf) in support of a West Virginia law that would keep biological men out of women’s sports.

“I have decided to end my cycling career,” Arensman declared last Wednesday.

Government, censorship: “it is estimated that some 50 million documents are classified each year across the federal government.”

The U.S. Government's Over-Classification Epidemic: Ratcliffe

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 10:45 PM

Authored by John Ratcliffe via RealClear Wire,

Classified information is a mainstay in the news these days and rarely for positive reasons. On the one hand, classified documents seem to be leaking at an unprecedented rate, often revealing not only sensitive national security information but also government impropriety. While in office, I saw this firsthand in Crossfire Hurricane, the bogus counterintelligence investigation into non-existent links between President Trump and Russia. Much of that information should never have been classified and was only tightly controlled to obscure government wrongdoing. On the other hand, **overclassification of information that does not meet appropriate classification thresholds is an epidemic inside the national security apparatus.** As a result, it is estimated that some 50 million documents are classified each year across the federal government.

Journal: This is how the markets work today: bad news now means government stimulus

Bad News Is Now Good News In China As Market Awaits Stimulus

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 10:25 PM

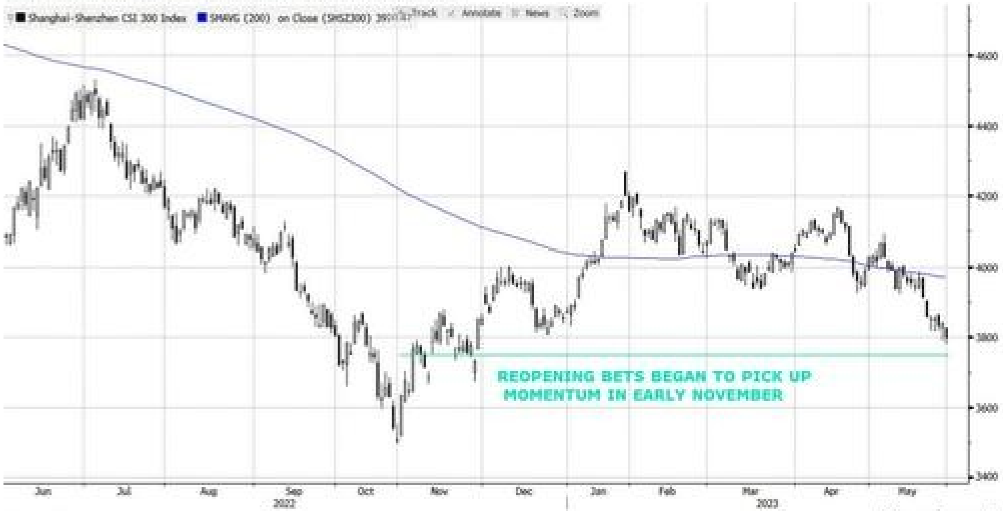
By George Lei, Bloomberg Markets Live reporter and strategist

China’s May PMI survey flashed the latest warning of mounting economic trouble, prompting investors to eagerly weigh the odds of more stimulus out of Beijing. Onshore equities have already relinquished the vast majority of their post-reopening gains, adding pressure on policymakers to move fast and aggressively to promote growth.

The yuan, stocks and commodity prices have fallen since late April, a reflection of China’s pessimistic economic prospects, Shao Xiang and Tao Chuan at Soochow Securities wrote in their WeChat public account on Wednesday. **History suggests monetary policy rarely “stands idly by” once manufacturing PMI stays below the 50 threshold for two or more straight months, they pointed out.**

Post-Reopening Gains Relinquished

China's benchmark CSI 300 index has erased its advance since early November



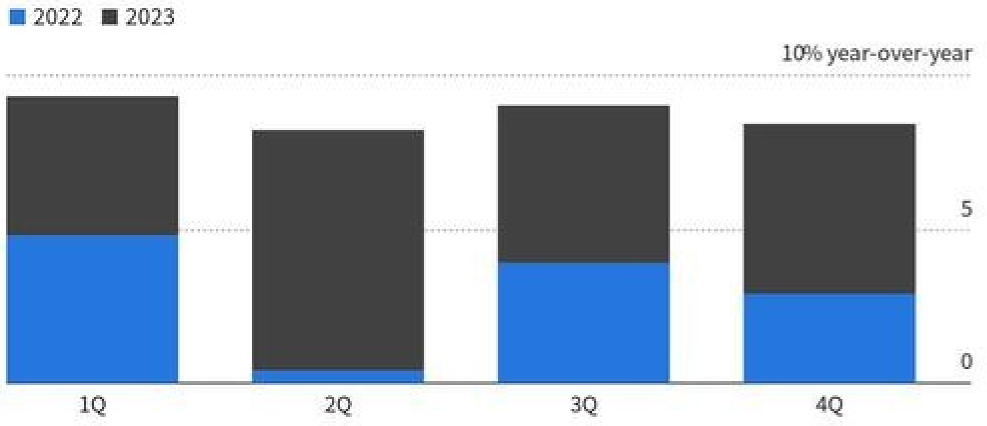
Source: Bloomberg

Bloomberg

The PBOC took actions in 2019, 2021 and 2022 when the factory gauge worsened — including reductions to the Required Reserve Ratio (RRR), the Medium-term Lending Facilities (MLF) rate and Loan Prime Rate (LPR). These actions occurred either during the same month or one to two months after the data was out, the Soochow analysts noted.

The PMI data confirmed China’s post-Covid recovery is “far from a self-sustained one, due to a lack of confidence among corporates and households,” according to Macquarie analysts Larry Hu and Yuxiao Zhang. “Now policy is the only game changer,” they said in a research report on Wednesday.

Beijing will either need to get its stimulus package in shape in the coming weeks or risk a sharp year-over-year downturn in the next quarter, according to Evercore ISI. The lockdown of Shanghai, which took place between April and May of 2022, weighed heavily on the Chinese economy and the low base of comparison suggests 2Q GDP will “look great” in year-over-year terms despite ongoing headwinds, analysts Neo Wang and Gin Wang noted.



Slowdown Awaits

The Chinese economy is expected to grow more than 7% in 2Q - due to an extremely low base of comparison - before slowing down sharply in 3Q

Source: Bloomberg
Note: 2023 growth for 2Q, 3Q and 4Q are consensus forecasts based on Bloomberg surveys

Consensus forecast puts the pace of expansion at 7.8% year-over-year in 2Q and 5.1% in 3Q, according to a Bloomberg survey. **Evercore ISI believes “it makes more sense to announce stimulus taking effects when 3Q arrives,”** while Macquarie sees an “**RRR cut, acceleration in infrastructure spending and more relaxation in property policy” in the weeks ahead.**

Still, whether PBOC will cut MLF or LPR remains a close call given the expectations for another Fed hike in June, Macquarie cautions. More data deterioration may be needed before Beijing makes up its mind.

Censorship, government: “ Weingarten’s recent testimony ignored the fact that, in July 2021, nearly a year after school districts in Right to Work Florida had reopened while “avoid[ing] major outbreaks of COVID-19 and maintain[ing] case rates lower than those in the wider community,” she claimed hysterically that “millions of Floridians” were “going to die” because the state’s elected officials had refused to follow Big Labor orders to keep schools closed.”

Randi Weingarten Has Zero Credibility

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 10:05 PM

Authored by Stan Greer via RealClear Wire,

Censorship: **University Of Colorado Declares Misgendering An "Act Of Violence"**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 07:45 PM

Authored by Jonathan Turley,

The University of Colorado Boulder (Boulder) is under fire this week for a statement on the "Pride Office" website stating that **misgendering people can be considered an "act of violence."**

The guide on pronouns is reportedly the work of students associated with the office and states that ***"choosing to ignore or disrespect someone's pronouns is not only an act of oppression but can also be considered an act of violence."***

It is a familiar position for many in higher education.

Opposing viewpoints are now routinely declared to be violence. That allows professors and students to rationalize their own act of violence or censorship.

The most vivid example was recently seen at Hunter College, which is part of the CUNY system. Professor Shellyne Rodríguez recently was fired after holding a machete to the neck of a New York Post reporter and threatened to "chop you up." However, Hunter College decided not to fire her over a prior incident in which she trashed a pro-life table run by students.

Rodríguez spotted students with pro-life material at the college. She was captured on a videotape telling the students that "you're not educating s–t […] This is f–king propaganda. What are you going to do, like, anti-trans next? This is bulls–t. This is violent. You're triggering my students." Even after a remarkably polite student said that he was "sorry," Rodríguez would have nothing of it. After all, espousing pro-life views is now "violence." Rodríguez rejected the apology and declared "No you're not — because you can't even have a f–king baby. So you don't even know what that is. Get this s–t the f–k out of here."

Just a week earlier, a professor stopped another "violent" display of pro-life views in New York. Professor Renee Overdyke of the State University of New York at Albany shut down a pro-life display and then resisted arrest.

At the University of California at Santa Barbara, feminist studies associate professor Mireille Miller Young criminally assaulted pro-life advocates on campus, and later pleaded guilty to the crime. She was defended by faculty and students, including many who said she was "triggered" by a pro-life display and that pro-life advocates were "terrorists" who did not deserve free speech.

It is that easy. You simply declare opposing views "violent" and then you can justify your own violence as a matter of self-defense.

The Colorado controversy does not involve acts of violence over misgendering. Moreover, the guide reflects a deep-felt concern that using someone's pronouns incorrectly, even unintentionally, leads to "dysphoria, exclusion and alienation." There are also some positive recommendations in dealing with these difficult situations.

However, this is a university site and there are countervailing free speech costs to characterizing of opposing views on pronouns as violence. As have previously discussed how other countries are prosecuting those who “misgender.” Schools in the United States have promised disciplinary action against any misgendering despite some court cases ruling for faculty with opposing views on pronouns. **Even passing out “he/his” candies can result in a university investigation.**

Conservative sites like Campus Reform have reported on the Colorado controversy and sought clarification.

Universities are often presented with difficult countervailing interests. On one hand, it must maintain a welcoming and tolerant environment. On the other hand, it must protect free speech values, including the right to express unpopular views or values.

Colorado students have every right to declare misgendering as violence in their eyes, even if many of us disagree. However, the university has an obligation to clearly establish that such views are not the policy or approach of the university itself. The site states “This information was created by students, for students. The university supports an inclusive environment.” It should state that “while the university supports an inclusive environment, the statements on this site are not official statements or policies of the university.” Otherwise, **the university should address the free speech implications of declaring misgendering as a violent act.**

War, Russia, journal (things just keep escalating. Now these border attacks inside russia have become the norm)

Russia Evacuates Children From Border Villages As Ukrainian Shelling Escalates

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 03:40 PM

In what's now becoming an alarming pattern of cross-border escalation, multiple civilians were injured in Russia's Belgorod region, just kilometers from Ukraine, due to **large-scale shelling on Wednesday**, presumably from Ukrainian forces.

Local governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said at least four people had been injured. He described that situation in the border town of Shebekino has been **"deteriorating" due to the "massive strike"** from Ukrainian forces.

Censorship, government:
"Obstructionist And Unacceptable": House GOP To Hold FBI Director In Contempt Of Congress

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 01:40 PM

Authored by Jackson Richman via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

FBI Director Christopher Wray **has refused to comply with a May 30 deadline to hand over a document alleging that then-Vice President Joe Biden and a foreign national were allegedly involved in a criminal scheme,** announced House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer (R-Ky.)

“Today, the FBI informed the committee that it will not provide the unclassified documents subpoenaed by the committee,” said Comer in a statement. “**The FBI’s decision to stiff-arm Congress and hide this information from the American people is obstructionist and unacceptable**.”

War, Europe: **US Kicks Kosovo Out Of Military Drills For Anti-Serb Escalation**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 01:00 PM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com,

The US ambassador to Kosovo, Jeffrey Hovenier, announced Tuesday that Washington was **kicking Pristina out of the US-led Defender Europe military exercises** over its treatment of the ethnic Serb population of northern Kosovo.

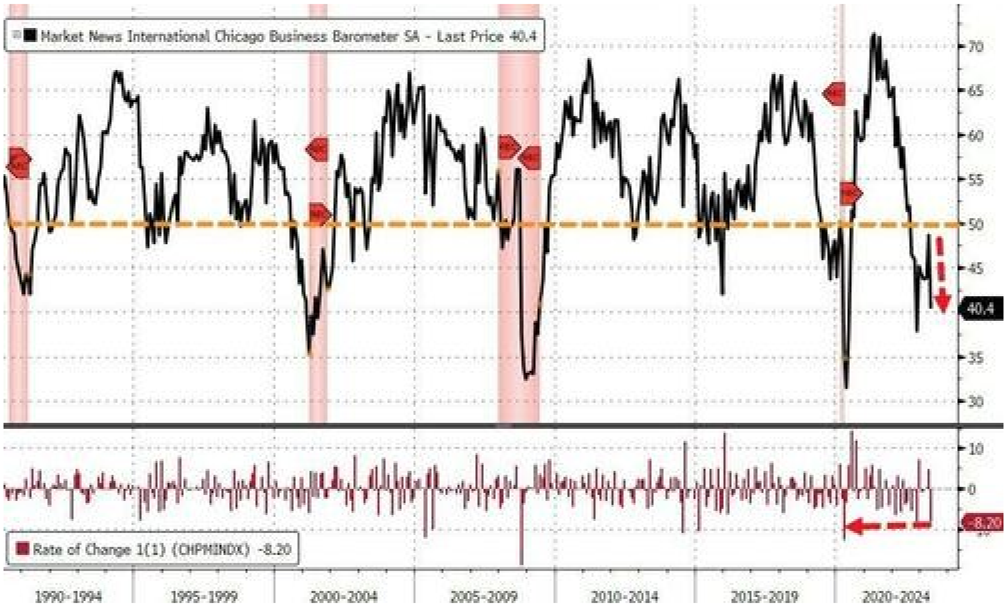
The move was a punishment for Kosovo trying to **forcibly install ethnic Albanian mayors in three Serb-majority towns**. The mayors won office in elections that were boycotted by the Serbs, who have never accepted Kosovo’s independence from Serbia, which was formally declared in 2008.

Markets, inflation: **Chicago PMI Unexpectedly Plummets, Longest 'Contraction' Streak Since Lehman**

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 10:52 AM

After the unexpected resurgence in April, Chicago PMI plunged in May from 48.6 to 40.4 (against expectations of 47.3). That is the ninth straight month below 50 (in contraction)...



Source: Bloomberg

That is the longest streak of prints in 'contraction' since the Great Financial Crisis.

Under the hood, none of the underlying drivers were higher MoM...

- **Prices paid rose** at a slower pace; signaling expansion
- **New orders fell** at a faster pace; signaling contraction
- **Employment fell** and the direction reversed; signaling contraction
- **Inventories fell** at a faster pace; signaling contraction
- Supplier **deliveries rose at a slower pace**; signaling expansion
- **Production fell** at a faster pace; signaling contraction
- **Order backlogs fell** at a faster pace; signaling contraction

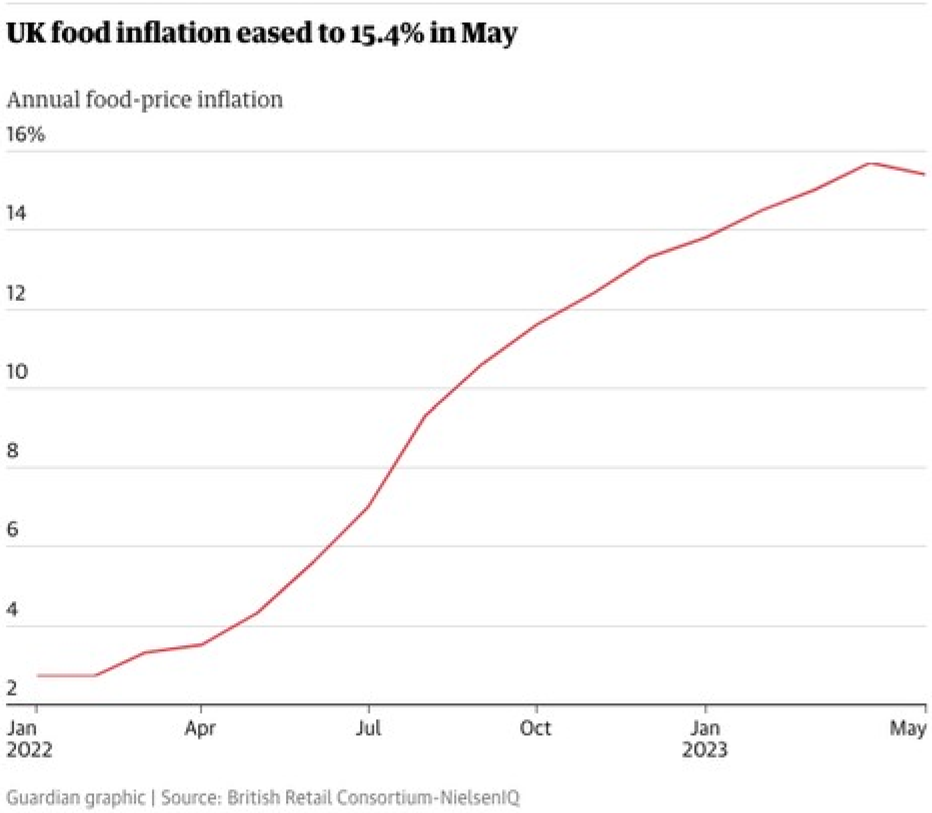
This continues a trend of 'soft' survey data disappointing notably.

Europe, inflation: **UK Enters Worst Period Of Strikes Since Thatcher As Gov't Calls For Price Controls**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 09:50 AM

The UK is headed for the second summer of strikes as the seemingly intractable cost-of-living crisis devastates household finances. British officials are so desperate to alleviate despair among Brits that they are considering drastic measures, such as implementing food price controls.

Brits received the grim news on Tuesday as food prices remain at or near record levels. The British Retail Consortium (BRC) said annual food inflation eased from 15.7% to 15.4% this month. However, the cost of store items, known as shop price inflation, increased to 9%, a new high for the index that dates back to 2005.



UK food inflation eased to 15.4% in May

Guardian graphic | Source: British Retail Consortium-NielsenIQ

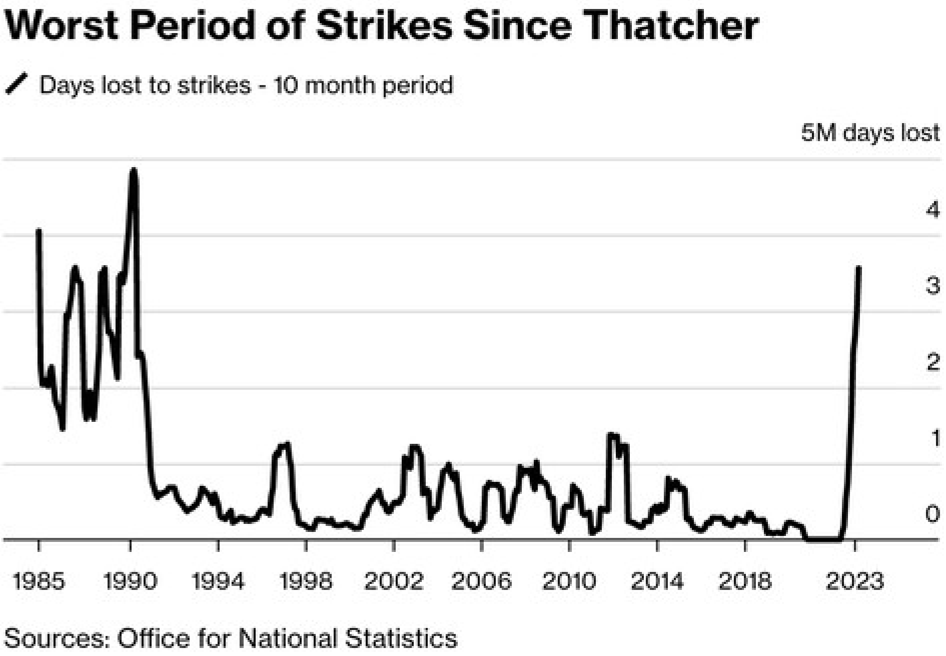
The Guardian reported the government is mulling over price caps for food, such as bread and milk, to alleviate household pain.

In a note, Laura Suter, head of personal finance at stockbroker AJ Bell, told clients that Brits "are still wincing when their total comes up at the checkout… a weekly shop that cost £100 last year is now clocking in at £115."

High inflation has led to households experiencing the sharpest fall in living standards since records began. This despair has led to widespread strikes as workers demand higher wages.

Bloomberg warned, "Britain is heading into a second consecutive summer of train strikes this week as union bosses and ministers remain at loggerheads over pay and working conditions."

A stunning chart by Bloomberg shows the economy has already lost 3.5 million days to strikes since last year, currently at levels not seen since the days of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the late 1980s into the early 90s.



The next wave of strikes is expected to impact rail networks on Friday.

Censorship: **Under Macron, France Brings Back 'Preventive Censorship' After More Than 140 Years**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 07:30 AM

Authored by Oliver Bault via Remix News,

On May 9, French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin asked the prefects throughout France to ban all events and protests organized by "the far right or the ultra-right." In Paris alone, the police prefecture banned six such events last weekend, including a symposium organized by the Iliade Institute

The symposium that was to take place on Sunday aimed to honor the memory of Dominique Venner, a historian who took his life exactly 10 years ago in the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris as a "sacrifice" to "break with the lethargy that is overwhelming us," to "awaken slumbering consciences."

"I rebel against fate. I protest against poisons of the soul and the desires of invasive individuals to destroy the anchors of our identity, including the family, the intimate basis of our multi-millennial civilization," he said in a message read after his death.

In one of the six decisions taken by the police prefect in Paris last weekend to comply with the order of Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne's government, an administrative court overturned the ban against a conference and a march organized by the royalist organization Action Française to commemorate Joan of Arc. It was thus allowed to proceed and did so without disrupting public order, just like in previous years.

The organizers of the Iliade Institute's symposium, however, were informed so late – less than 24 hours before their planned event – that it was impossible to obtain an interim measure in their favor by a court. Hence, when the persons invited to the symposium turned out at the venue rented out by the Iliade Institute in Paris, a police cordon barred their entry.

Laurent Nuñez, the police prefect of Paris, motivated the ban by stating in his decision that: "There is a serious risk that, on the occasion of this tribute, statements inciting hatred and discrimination against a group of people because of their origin or their membership or non-membership of an ethnic group, nation or religion will be made (…) of such a nature as to call into question national cohesion and the principles enshrined in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen."

This is exactly what preventive censorship is about: Nothing has yet been done or said by the Iliade Institute or any participant to the banned symposium, but this might happen, so it should not take place at all.

This type of censorship was previously eliminated in France with the 1881 law on freedom of the press and up to now it was only re-established in times of war.

However, in 2014 the president of the Conseil d’Etat, France’s top administrative court which is closely linked to the executive branch, as its judges are often rewarded for their services with top posts in ministries, created precedence by validating a ban against a show by Dieudonné M’Bala M’Bala, a French comic owing his African name to his father from Cameroon, who had been previously convicted several times of inciting racial hatred because of his anti-Zionist jokes, which were said to be anti-Semitic.

But the May 9 decision by Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin goes even further because it targets organizations that have not necessarily been convicted in the past but belong to the “far right” or “ultra-right” in the eyes of French authorities.

Darmanin made his decision after a march by some 500 young people dressed in black with Celtic crosses, often described as a neo-fascist symbol in France, took place on May 6 as it does every year – always legally and peacefully – to commemorate the death in 1994 of a young far-right activist who was fleeing the police during a banned protest. However, organizations like the Royalist Action Française or the identitarian Institut Iliade have no links with those marching on May 6.

Even a very politically correct commentator like Jean-Yves Camus, who is often invited by the overwhelmingly left-leaning French mainstream media as an expert on the far right, expressed dismay at the Paris police prefect’s decision concerning the Iliade Institute: “There was no real risk, if any, of things getting out of hand,” he said, as “the Iliad’s conferences are filmed and posted on their website fairly quickly.”

About the risk of racist remarks being heard at the Sunday symposium, Camus said that one could assume there is such a risk only “if talking about the Great Replacement is racist.”

It was in fact a point made in the motives given in writing by the police prefect of Paris for his decision to ban the event: “This meeting is not a simple tribute event but rather ‘a celebration to continue the actions against the acceleration of the great Afro-Maghrebi replacement.'” The police prefect used quotation marks in this sentence as he attributed those words about “the great Afro-Maghrebi replacement” to the Iliade Institute, although its director, Jean-Yves Le Gallou, denied at a press conference those words came from his organization.

The Iliade Institute also contested the assertion by the authorities that the Sunday symposium was a public event, as it was to be held in a privately leased venue for invited participants only.

It looks as if the French authorities wanted to ban any discussion about the ongoing population replacement linked to ever-greater mass immigration, both legal and illegal, which a large majority of French citizens see as a cause for worry.

Le Gallou, a former high-ranking civil servant, says this reflects a much wider political tendency: “The government is weakened by its policies that go contrary to the aspirations of the French, in particular on two major subjects: the massive immigration being distributed, little by little, in rural France… and the limitation of private property in relation to the development of wind power.” So the political leaders have only two solutions left, Le Gallou thinks: “massive propaganda and censorship. There are two forms of censorship, which are the direct censorship we have experienced and censorship by intimidation. This is what I call the ‘totalitarian pincer movement.'”

The return of preventive censorship targeted at those who oppose mass immigration or defend conservative, patriotic values comes after President Emmanuel Macron acted through his Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin to ban the non-violent, law-abiding youth organization Generation Identity in 2021 for its peaceful protest actions against the lack of controls by authorities to stop the influx of illegal immigrants at France’s borders with Italy and Spain.

The police prefect’s decision to ban the Iliade Institute’s symposium was preceded by an article published on the left-wing website Médiapart. It was written with information on the late historian Dominique Venner that could only have been leaked to the author by the authorities, so it seems that this publication was part of the authorities' plot to ban the event.

The article was published on Friday at 5 p.m. Only a few hours later, the police prefect decided to ban the event that was planned for Sunday at 3 p.m., but apparently his services waited until Saturday afternoon to inform the organizers about his decision so that they could not have the ban overturned in time by a judge.

In the 2017 presidential campaign, which brought Emmanuel Macron to power, Médiapart was one of the two left-wing media portals that regularly received documents illegally leaked by the police and judicial authorities in the case mounted against center-right candidate François Fillon to derail his campaign and make room for the heir of Socialist President François Hollande, i.e., his former special counselor for Europe and former Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron.

So it appears the same media outlet is still being used by the executive power to attack its opponents in a very unconstitutional way, and one may wonder in this situation if France is still a full-fledged democracy.

Media, government, censorship: Native American Tribe Demands Justice For Man Shot 38 Times By US Border Patrol Agents

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 10:00 PM

Authored by Allan Stein via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Yvonne Nevarez remembers her late uncle Raymond Mattia as a proud Tohono O'odham Nation member who always took a stand against injustice.

JUSTICE
FOR
Raymond Mattia

Mattias family spokeswoman Ofelia Rivas stands while propping a sign with a picture of Ray Mattia, who was shot and killed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents on May 18, 2023. The photo was taken during a protest in front of the Ajo Border Patrol Station in Why, Ariz., on May 27, 2023. (Allan Stein/The Epoch Times)

He was a kind, respectful, peace-loving man, she said, making his shooting death by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents even harder to accept.

"I'm angry. I can't believe it. I don't want to believe it. **Our lives will never be the same**," Nevarez said, struggling through tears.

"He was like a dad to me. And now, he's gone."

Family members say that on May 18, Mattia contacted tribal police to report illegal migrants trespassing on his property in Meneger's Dam Village, a remote southern border community of the Tohono O'odham Nation reservation about 52 miles from Ajo by car.

During a brief encounter with CBP agents, family members say Mattia was shot approximately 38 times for reasons as yet unknown.

"**It was literally at his doorstep**," Nevarez told The Epoch Times at a protest gathering near the Ajo Border Patrol Station in Why, Arizona, on May 27.

Protesters at a rally for Raymond Mattia flash placards at a passing Border Patrol vehicle in Why, Ariz., on May 27, 2023. (Allan Stein/The Epoch Times)

Tribal members and supporters held another demonstration in Tucson on the same day.

“**We feel that how they took his life was unjust. There’s no justification for it,**” Nevarez said.

The family released a statement calling the shooting a “grievous” incident as “it is apparent what happened.”

“Raymond called for help and, in turn, was shot down on his doorstep. Raymond’s rights were violated by the authorities whom we trust to protect our Nation. Improper and unprofessional actions of the agencies involved were witnessed by family members present near the crime scene.

“Loved ones sat in agony, not knowing of Raymond’s condition until they were told that he had passed away hours later. Raymond lay in front of his home for seven hours before a coroner from Tucson arrived.

The statement added, “In our eyes and hearts, we believe Raymond was approached with excessive and deadly force that took his life. He was a father, brother, uncle, friend, and an involved community member. Raymond always fought for what was right, and he will continue to fight even after his death. This is not an isolated incident, but it should bring awareness of the oppression our people live through.”

JUSTICE FOR MY ... RAY!
FTCBP!
LOVE & MISS YOU!
ARIZONA CARDINALS

A nephew of Raymond Mattia holds a sign during a protest in Why, Ariz., on May 27, 2023. (Allan Stein/The Epoch Times)

The family has launched a GoFundMe page to raise $10,000 in legal defense fees.

So far, the effort has garnered $2,954.

CBP Responds

On May 22, CBP issued a statement detailing the events leading to Mattia’s death.

The statement said that at 9:04 p.m., the U.S. Border Patrol Tuscon Sector Tactical Operations Center notified the Ajo station that the Tohono O’odham Nation Police Department had requested assistance responding to a report of shots fired near Mattia’s property.

At least 10 CBP agents met with tribal police at the local recreation center to coordinate a joint response.

At 9:32 p.m., a tribal police officer and several CBP agents arrived near Mattia's residence and "spread out while searching for the man."

"The officer and agents encountered an individual approximately 103 meters (about 337 feet) northwest of their parked vehicles, outside a residence, at approximately 9:03 p.m."

At that point, Mattia allegedly "threw an object" at the police officer as they approached.

The object landed "a few feet" from the officer.

"Shortly after the individual threw the object, **he abruptly extended his right arm away from his body, and three agents fired their service weapons, striking the individual several times."**

"The individual fell to the ground, and the officer and agents slowly approached the man," according to the statement.

The statement made no mention of whether Mattia was armed or whether warnings were given before he was shot down.

JUSTICE
FOR
Raymond Mattia

An unattended sign with the image of Raymond Mattia in Why, Ariz., on May 27, 2023. (Allan Stein/The Epoch Times)

Resuscitation Efforts Fail

Agents began administering CPR after they could not detect a pulse and requested emergency medical services.

However, there was no air life evacuation available due to bad weather. The agents continued administering CPR without success.

Mattia was pronounced dead at a Pima County hospital at 10:06 p.m. The medical examiner's office took custody of the body pending an autopsy on May 19, the statement added.

The agents involved in the shooting will remain on administrative leave according to standard practice while authorities investigate the "use of deadly force."

"All three agents who discharged their weapons and seven additional agents activated their body-worn cameras during the incident."

The statement added the CBP is "committed to the expeditious release of the body-worn camera footage of this incident as soon as is appropriate to do so without impacting the ongoing law enforcement investigation."

The Tohono O'odham Police Department and FBI are currently investigating. CBP said the agency's National Use of Force Review Board would review the incident following the investigation.

Tohono O'odham police referred the matter to the department's public information officer Matt Smith, who did not return a phone call or text requesting comment from The Epoch Times.

At the May 27 protest in Why, family spokeswoman Ofelia Rivas said tribal members have reported many negative encounters with an "aggressive" Border Patrol in the past.

"This has been going on for quite a while," Rivas told The Epoch Times. "**The Border Patrol claims to have supreme authority on the reservation.**"

*Read more **here...***

Energy, planet, war: Canadian Oil And Gas Producers Restart Production As Wildfires Abate

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 09:20 PM

By Michael Kern of Oilprice.com

Canadian oil and gas producer Crescent Point Energy Corp on Monday said it had brought back online full production volumes at its operations in the Kaybob Duvernay play that were shut in due to the wildfires in Alberta in the past few weeks.

Several other operators in Alberta have also resumed partial production after rainfalls helped stop some of the wildfires in recent days.

Following a brief respite in the middle of May, the wildfires in Alberta began raging again last week as temperatures rose, threatening the oil sands operations in the province and forcing operators to shut in oil and gas production.

Earlier this month, the wildfires in Canada resulted in the shut-in of 319,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boepd) from the country’s oil and natural gas production or 3.7% of all output.

Most of those shut-ins and subsequent resumption of production concerned gas output early this month, but as the situation with wildfires in Northern Alberta deteriorated, the oil sands production was threatened.

Rystad Energy has warned that nearly 2.7 million barrels per day of Alberta oil sands production is in “very high” or “extreme” wildfire danger rating zones in the month of May.

But at the end of last week, heavy rains helped the situation, and operators started restoring part of the previously shut-in production.

Crescent Point Energy said today it had brought back on stream the full 45,000 boe/d of Kaybob Duvernay production previously shut-in due to the Alberta wildfires.

Last week, Chevron Canada said it had safely resumed partial operations in the Kaybob Duvernay outside the active fire area, although it continues to monitor the evolving wildfire situation in Northern Alberta.

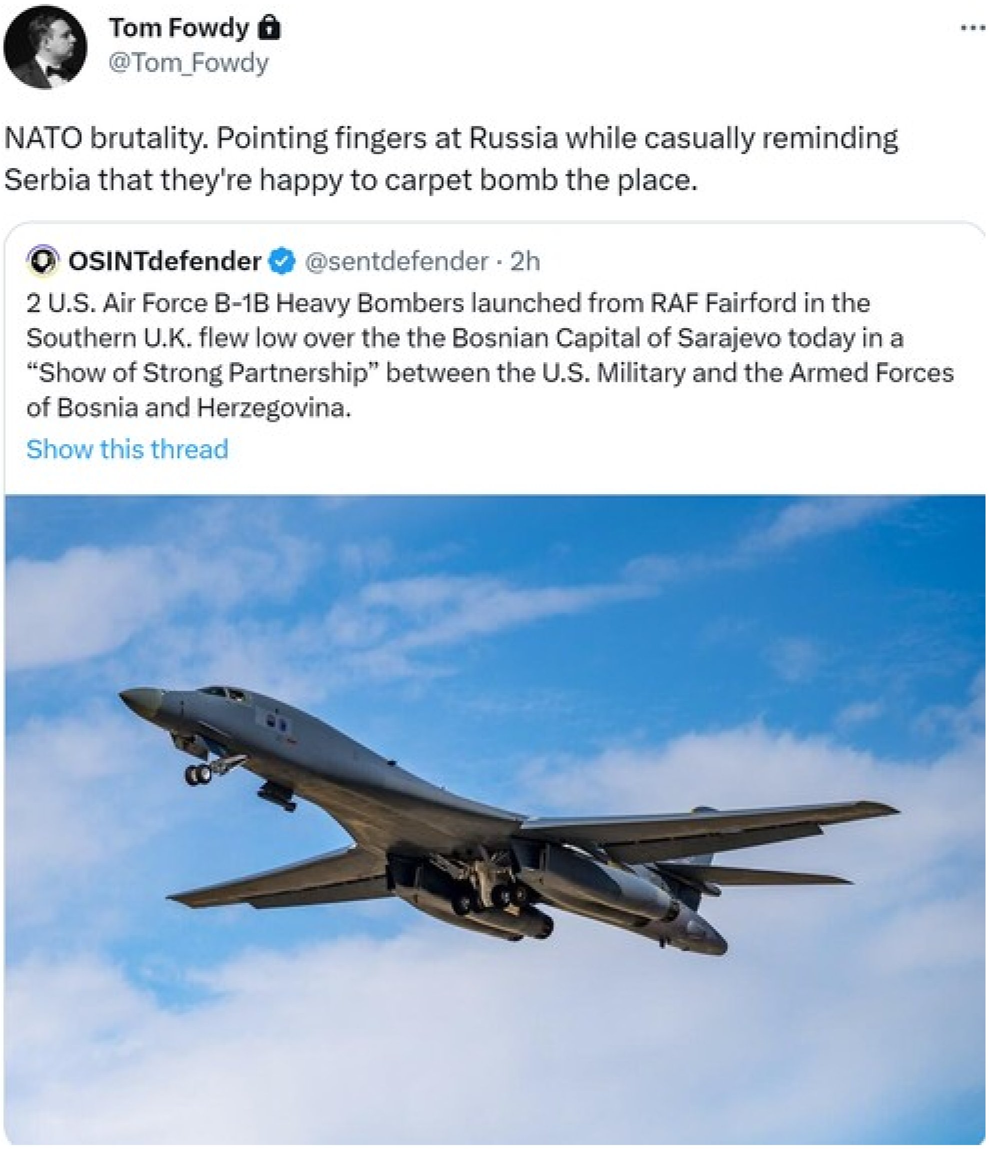
Obsidian Energy said it had restored 5,650 boe/d of operated and non-operated production that was temporarily shut in due to wildfires, evacuation orders, and third-party constraints in Peace River and Pembina.

War, Europe: US Flexes With Low B-1 Bomber Flyover As Balkan Tensions Boil

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 09:00 PM

At a moment tensions are on edge in the Balkans over a fresh crisis between the Serbian minority of northern Kosovo and ethnic Albanians, which over the weekend saw dozens of NATO peacekeeping forces injured while trying to quell fierce protests, the United States **decided it was time for some muscle-flexing**.

Two US Air Force B-1B Lancer bomber aircraft **conducted a low flyover of Sarajevo and other cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) on Tuesday**. It had been pre-announced at the start of this week and described as "a sign of the strong partnership between the United States and the Armed Forces of BiH, according to a statement in the English language news portal *Sarajevo Times*. A US Air Forces statement cited in the publication said it would serve further as a sign of the "permanent dedication of the US to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and multi-ethnic nature of Bosnia and Herzegovina."



Tom Fowdy
@Tom_Fowdy

NATO brutality. Pointing fingers at Russia while casually reminding Serbia that they're happy to carpet bomb the place.

OSINTdefender @sentdefender · 2h

2 U.S. Air Force B-1B Heavy Bombers launched from RAF Fairford in the Southern U.K. flew low over the the Bosnian Capital of Sarajevo today in a "Show of Strong Partnership" between the U.S. Military and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Show this thread

Censorship, media: Groom And Doom: Target Shares Mark Longest Losing Streak In Almost 5 Years

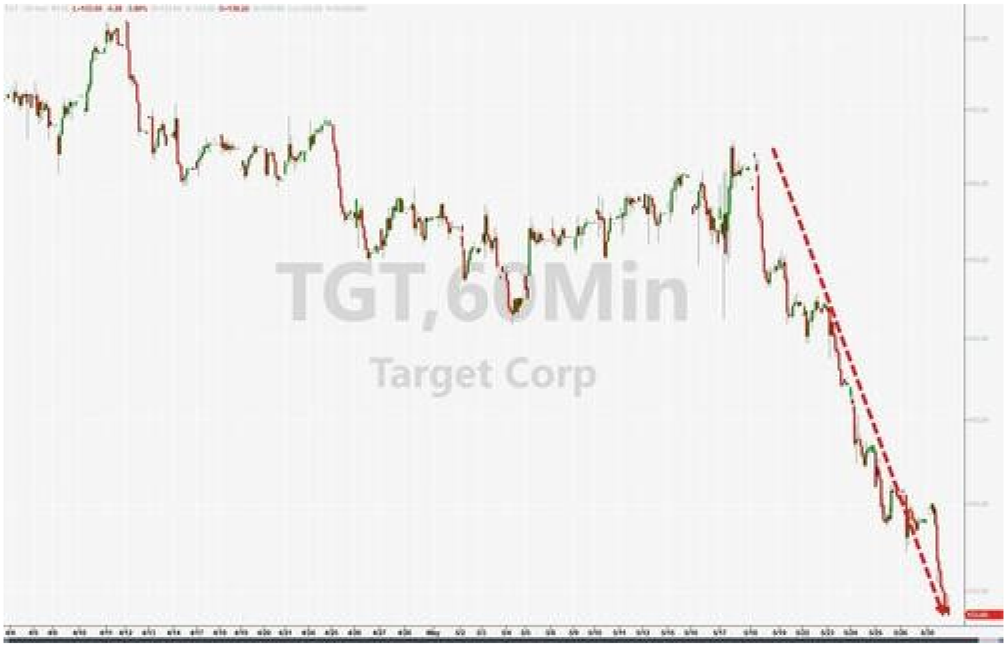
BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 06:20 PM

12.8 billion (and counting) reasons to re-think hiring and marketing practices?

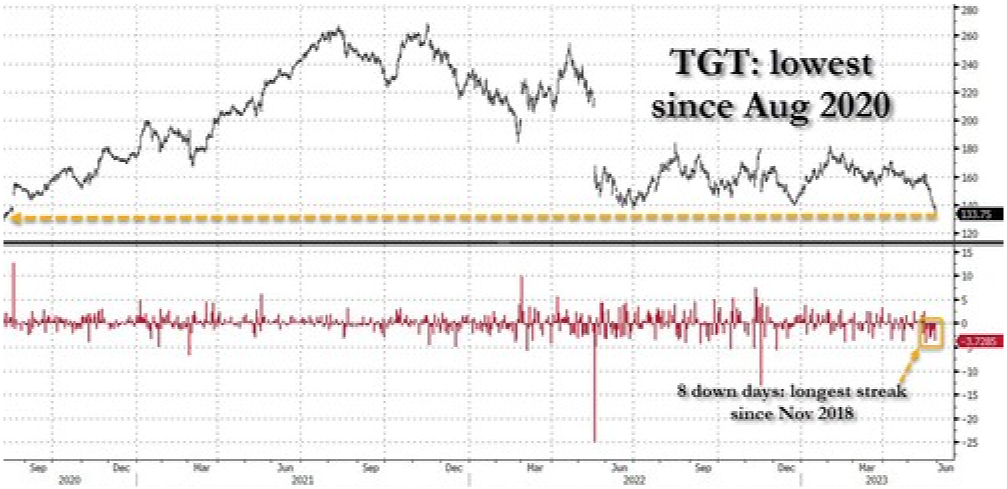
Shares of retailer Target fell as much a 3.8% on Tuesday, **extending losses to an eighth session** which brought the company's share price to its lowest intraday level since August 2020.

TRANS
PEOPLE
WILL
ALWAYS
EXIST!

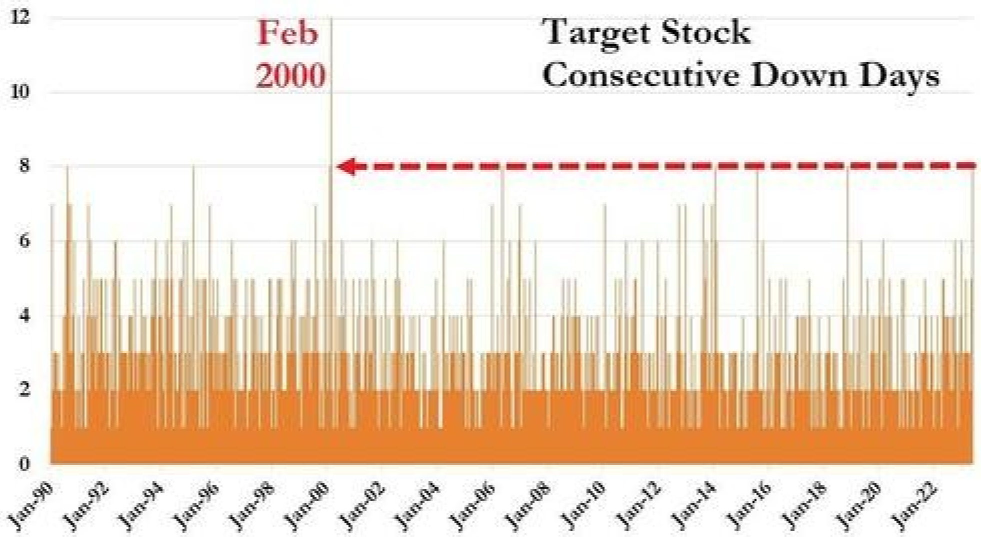
Shares had gotten a brief respite following earnings on May 17, only to decline each session since as controversy continued to mount over the company's transgender-themed clothing for children.



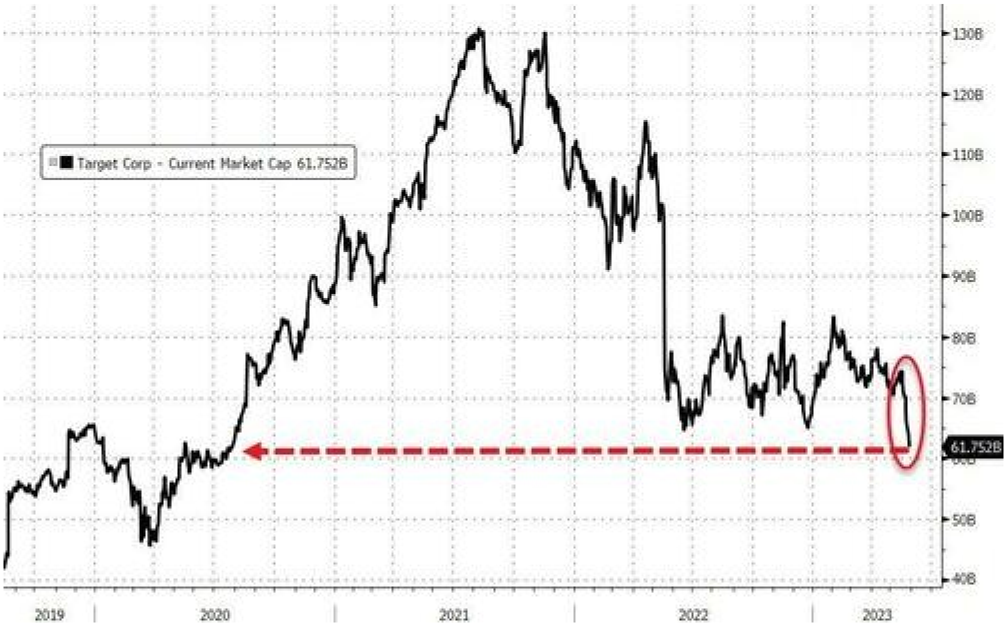
The fall marks the company's longest losing streak since November 2018.



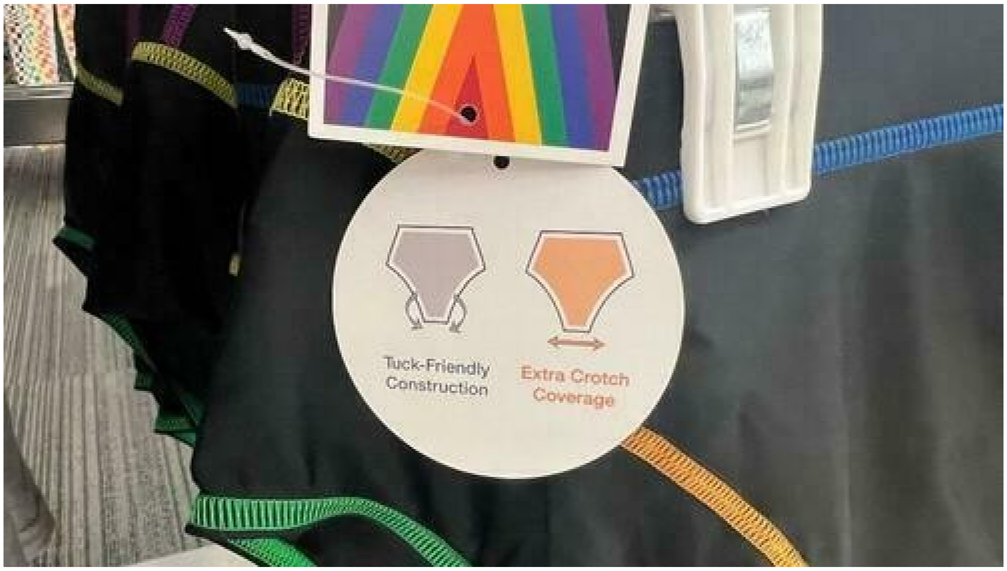
And in fact, if Target is down again tomorrow, this will be the longest losing streak since the DotCom collapse...



Target's Market Cap, meanwhile, **has dropped by $12.5 billion in the last 8 days** - the biggest plunge since COVID lockdowns in Q2, 2020.

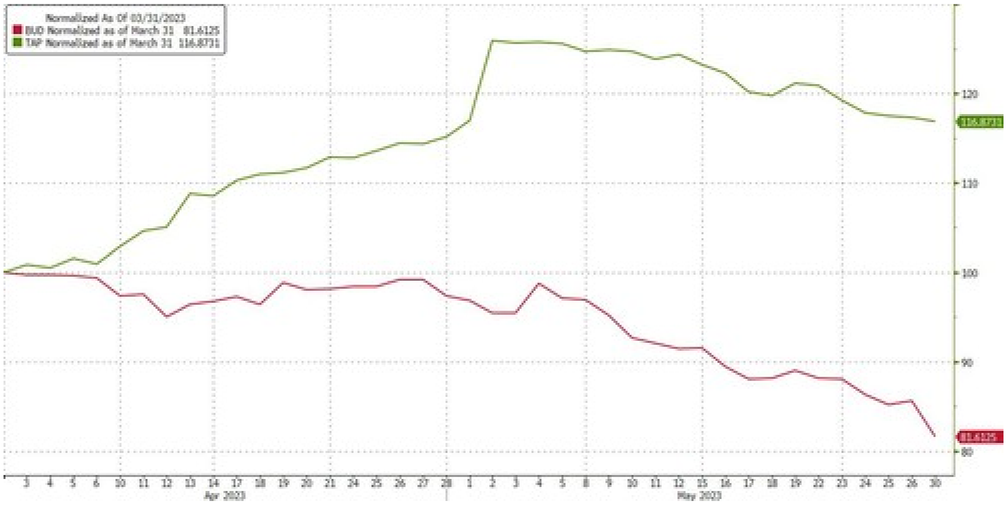


In response to the backlash, Target reportedly removed controversial LGBT-themed products at some stores across the South and rural America ahead of June Pride month to avoid further backlash. Some products ranged from **"tuck-friendly" swimsuits** for transgender people to gender-fluid coffee mugs. The insider said the reasoning behind such an abrupt move is "to avoid the kind of backlash Bud Light has received in recent weeks."


Tuck-Friendly Construction
Extra Crotch Coverage

More recently, *Fox News* reported that Target's VP of marketing, Carlos Saavedra, **is a treasurer for an organization pushing a [transgender agenda in schools](#)**.

Finally, given BUD's dramatic underperformance of TAP since "the Mulvaney incident", we wonder how long before corporates learn that profits (and their jobs) trump virtue-signaling to a tiny minority of America.



At some point the pendulum swings back.

censorship: McCarthy Threatens To Hold FBI Director In Contempt Over Stonewalled Biden Evidence

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 04:45 PM

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) on Tuesday **threatened to hold FBI Director Christopher Wray in contempt** if the agency continues to shelter the Biden family from congressional investigators seeking key documents.

Wray has until end of day Tuesday to produce several FD-1023 forms - records of interactions with confidential sources - from June 2020, which contain the word "Biden." The forms were requested by House Oversight Chairman James Comer (R-KY) after he issued a subpoena to compel the agency to produce the forms.

"So let me not just tell you. Let me tell Director Christopher Wray, right here, right now: If he misses the deadline today, I am prepared to move contempt charges in Congress against him," McCarthy told *Fox News* on Tuesday.

Censorship: "We Have A Captive Audience": Boston University To Require Students Take Social Justice Writing Courses

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 04:25 PM

Authored by Jonathan Turley,

Boston University recently made a new announcement that has rekindled concerns over the rising orthodoxy in our institutions of higher education. **The University issued new guidelines for its mandatory writing program that will require all students to write papers with a “social justice emphasis” as a condition for graduation.** The key faculty organizers celebrated the new policy and the hiring of non-white instructors as guaranteeing social justice results by making students a “captive audience” with no choice in the matter.

STOP HOMOFOBIA
I AM A MAN
solidaridad con CHILE
JUST
PEOPLE
FREE ASIA
HONOR KING:
STOP

Student will now have to choose among such choices as “Linguistic Justice…Who Cares?: Domestic Labor and the Commodification of Care,” “Asians Are People of Color: Exploring the Controversy and Identity Politics,” “Deconstructing Narratives: Stories of Race and Racism in American Cultural Memory” and “Writing Environmental Justice.”

War, journal, Russia: Major Drone Attack On Moscow Damages Several Apartment Buildings

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 04:15 PM

A major Tuesday morning drone attack has damaged buildings in the Russian capital of Moscow, which the Kremlin has swiftly blamed on Ukraine. It's being widely described as the **first attack to hit the capital's civilian areas**.

Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanin said that multiple buildings sustained minor damage, but there have been no reports of fatalities after **eight drones** were inbound in the attack. **"The Kiev regime launched a terrorist attack with unmanned aerial vehicles on targets in the city of Moscow,"** the Russian Defense Ministry (MoD) said.

So basically no more mr. nice guy. If they can just remove prosecutors for not enforcing certain laws, they can control who enforces they laws, and not the people. This will allow the government to implement any law that they want.

Texas Lawmakers Pass Bill Allowing Removal Of 'Rogue' Prosecutors Who Fail To Enforce Laws

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 01:10 PM

Authored by Katabella Roberts via The Epoch Times, The Texas Legislature passed a bill on May 28 that could pave the way for locally elected prosecutors to be removed from office for misconduct if they fail to enforce certain laws.

House Bill 17 (pdf) was introduced by Republican state Sen. Joan Huffman earlier this year and it passed the Senate Sunday in a 20–11 vote after passing both legislative houses in April.

It now heads to Gov. Greg Abbott’s desk to be signed into law.

Under the legislation, Texas residents who have lived in a county for at least six months may file a petition against a prosecuting attorney accusing them of **misconduct if the top local prosecutor fails to “prosecute a class or type of criminal offense under state law,”** or if they instruct law enforcement to **“refuse to arrest individuals suspected of committing a class or type of offense under state law.”**

The legislation defines a prosecuting attorney as a district or county attorney with criminal jurisdiction, while misconduct is defined as “intentional, unlawful behavior relating to official duties by an officer entrusted with the administration of justice or the execution of the law.”

According to the legislation, a public statement from the prosecuting attorney stating that they plan to adopt or enforce a policy in which they fail to enforce certain laws ***“creates a rebuttable presumption that the prosecuting attorney committed official misconduct,”*** and means they can face a removal trial for official misconduct.

The legislation also removes pretrial "diversion programs" which allow for conditional dismissals of cases when permissible under state law.

Abortions, Thefts Divide Prosecutors

If found guilty, a judge may order the attorney's removal, according to the bill's text. Once removed, Abbott can appoint a prosecutor's successor until the next election.

"On receiving a petition for removal of a prosecuting attorney … the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region shall assign a district court judge of a judicial district that does not include the county in which the petition was filed to conduct the removal proceedings," the bill states.

The legislation comes after a group of attorneys nationwide, including five from Texas, signed an open letter (pdf) stating that they would refuse to prosecute any cases that criminalize abortion in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision overturning Roe v. Wade in June 2022.

Under Texas law, abortion is a felony, except in cases where the mother is suffering from a "life-threatening physical condition" or there is "a serious risk of substantial impairment of a major bodily function."

Some prosecutors, including Dallas District Attorney John Creuzot, have also said they do not plan to pursue charges of low-level thefts, such as those involving personal items under $750 that are stolen out of "necessity," or first-time marijuana offenses.

"Unfortunately, certain Texas prosecutors have joined a trend of adopting internal policies refusing to prosecute particular laws," Huffman said at a committee hearing in April.

"These actions set a dangerous precedent and severely undermine the authority of the Legislature."

Elsewhere, Republican state Rep. David Cook, who introduced the House version of the bill, has said the legislation is needed to "reign in rogue district attorneys" and remove politics from prosecution.

Democrats Oppose Legislation

Speaking to The Dallas Morning News in April, the GOP lawmaker said **HB17 "makes it crystal clear the rule of law must be respected and enforced in Texas."**

“I support prosecutorial discretion and know it is a central element of our criminal justice system,” Cook added.

In a statement on May 19, the Texas Senate GOP said the bill will ensure prosecuting attorneys follow the law and “not their political agenda.”

However, Democrats and civil rights groups in the state have argued that the bill is unconstitutional.

Texas state Rep. Ana-Maria Ramos, a Democrat, voiced opposition to the bill earlier this month during a hearing on the legislation.

“It is very clear what Texans are saying: They want to choose who their district attorney is,” Ramos said.

“What they don’t want is a grandstanding legislator to say ‘no, we are not going to allow you to have this … voice.'”

Elsewhere, state Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, a Democrat from Austin, said the bill amounted to a violation of the state’s separation of powers, calling it **“one piece to an unsettling pattern of top-down power-grabbing.”**

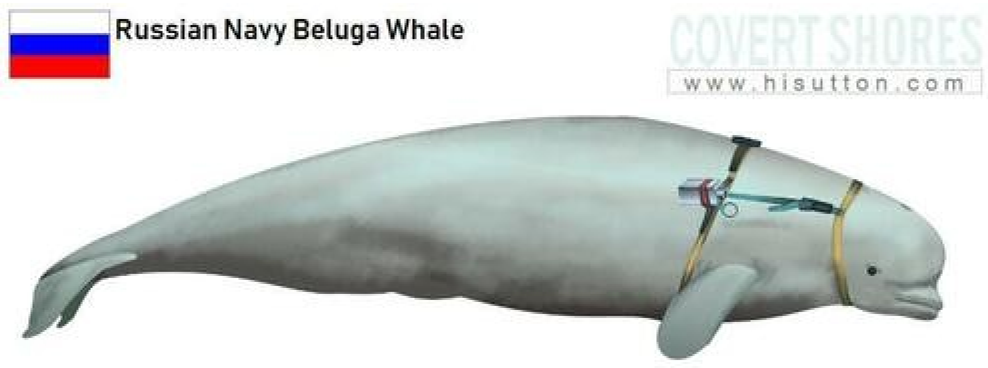
“Tools like prosecutorial discretion are critical—especially in a state like Texas, where our local district attorneys are directly elected by the people,” Eckhardt said.

Russia, Europe, war:

Alleged Russian 'Spy' Whale Reappears Off Sweden's Coast

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 12:10 PM

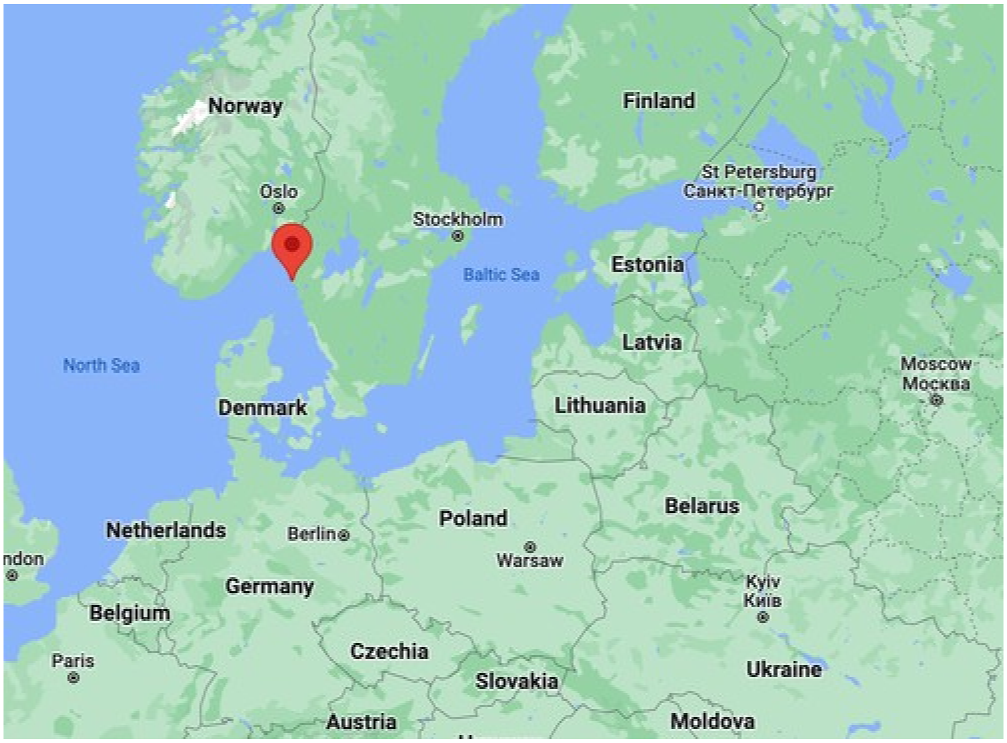
A harness-wearing Beluga whale discovered in Norway's far northern region of Finnmark in 2019 has reappeared off Sweden's coast. It's believed the Russian military trained the whale.


Russian Navy Beluga Whale
COVERT SHORES
www.hisutton.com

Sebastian Strand, a marine biologist with the OneWhale organization, a group that tracks the beluga whale named "Hvaldimir," said he was recently spotted in Hunnebostrand, off Sweden's southwestern coast.

"We don't know why he has sped up so fast right now," especially since he is moving "very quickly away from his natural environment," Strand told AFP News.

The last recorded location of Hvaldimir.


Norway
Finland
Oslo
Stockholm
St Petersburg
Санкт-Петербург
Baltic Sea
Estonia
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North Sea
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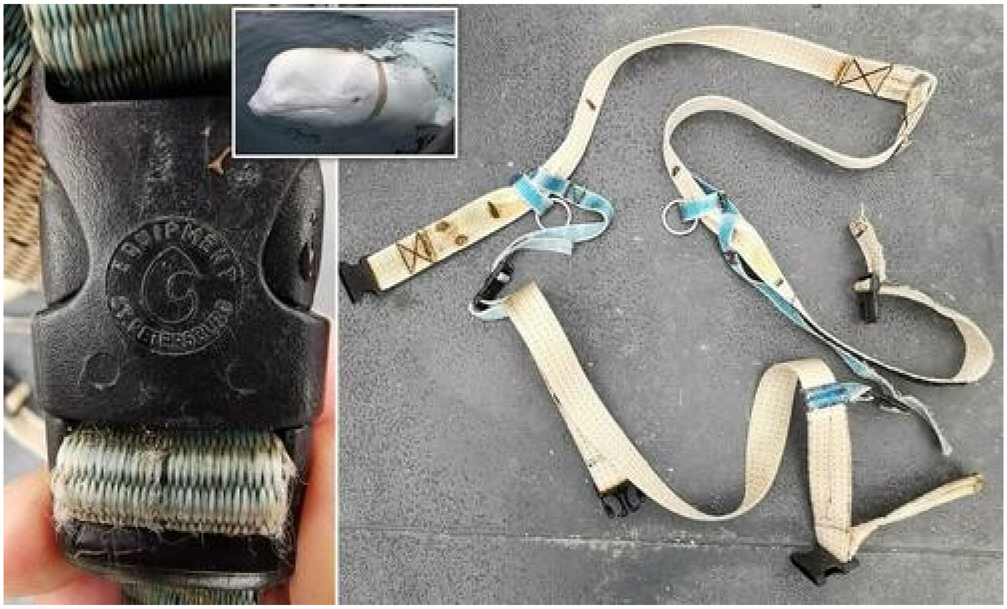
Paris
Czechia
Slovakia
Ukraine
Austria
Moldova

Strand said the whale is estimated to be 13-14 years old and is "at an age where his hormones are very high."

"It could be hormones driving him to find a mate. Or it could be loneliness as Belugas are a very social species -- it could be that he's searching for other Beluga whales," he said.

Hvaldimir is thought to be a former intelligence asset for the Russians. When first observed in 2019 by fishermen, they found he was wearing a harness with "Equipment of St. Petersburg" printed on it.



Russia's Defense Ministry has denied the alleged spy whale belongs to them. However, Russia and the US have used marine mammals, including beluga whales, for decades for various underwater tasks, such as finding underwater mines.

And perhaps the use of spy whales and other marine mammals is being phased out as militaries worldwide are quickly modernizing their forces with undersea drones.

Vaccine, censorship: **Over 300 COVID-19 Papers Withdrawn For Not Meeting Standards Of Scientific Soundness**

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 08:45 AM

Authored by Jessie Zhang via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Research journals have withdrawn well over 300 articles on COVID-19 due to compromised ethical standards and concerns about the publications' scientific validity.

A scientist uses a microscope to look at cells containing the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 at the Stabilitech laboratory in Burgess Hill south east England on May 15, 2020. (Ben Stansall/Getty Images)

Retraction Watch has provided a running list of withdrawn papers on COVID-19 ranging from “Acute kidney injury associated with COVID-19” to “Can Your AI Differentiate Cats from COVID-19?”

A total of 330 research papers have currently been retracted.

During the pandemic, researchers have compromised on ethical standards and tried to either get more publications approved or to take shortcuts around ethics, senior researcher Gunnveig Grødeland at the Institute of Immunology at the University of Oslo says, after going through the list of articles that have been withdrawn, and the reasons for some of them.

Hundreds of papers on COVID-19 that did not meet standards of editorial and scientific soundness have been removed. (Kena Betancur/Getty Images)

While it is quite natural for some articles to be updated or changed to be published in a different form**, some have been retracted because the researchers did not obtain informed consent during the research.**

“It will, of course, be withdrawn when it is found that ethical guidelines have been breached,” Grødeland told Khrono, a Norwegian higher education and research newspaper.

She pointed out that **other articles have been withdrawn after the editors noticed that the strategies the papers mentioned were giving the wrong impression in the media** of being recommended as actual treatment or prevention of COVID-19.

She said these sorts of articles had to be withdrawn as they claimed things that neither the authors of the articles nor their institutions could vouch for.

In addition, some studies did not include a large enough sample size.

When more subjects were included, the researchers could no longer maintain the same conclusions they made earlier about the effect of the drugs.

“A Little Out of Hand”

Grødeland said that part of the reason this happened during the pandemic was that relatively more people suddenly started conducting research on a topic they really knew relatively little about.

Even prestigious journals such as the Lancet were publishing those articles.

One of Lancet's studies even caused both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the national government to stop the comprehensive testing of hydroxychloroquine's effectiveness against COVID-19.

The extensive Lancet study, allegedly based on research fraud, said that the drug increased the risk of heart arrhythmia and mortality for COVID-19 patients.

Read more ***here...***

Planet, sanctions, war: May18

The Looming El Niño Could Cost the World Trillions of Dollars

Warming waters in the Pacific can trigger droughts, wildfires, and extreme rainfall around the world, potentially leading to $3 trillion in losses in the coming years.

wireddotcom/story/the-looming-el-nino-could-cost-the-world-trillions-of-dollars/

Watch: Fierce Serb-Kosovo Clashes Leave Dozens Of NATO Troops Injured

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 05:15 AM

Unrest has been ongoing for days in Serbian minority regions of northern Kosovo after controversial municipal elections resulted in ethnic Albanian mayors being installed in Serb-dominant communities. But what started as clashes between ethnic Serbs and Kosovo police has **spiraled into violence as NATO troops have struggled to crackdown on raging protests**.

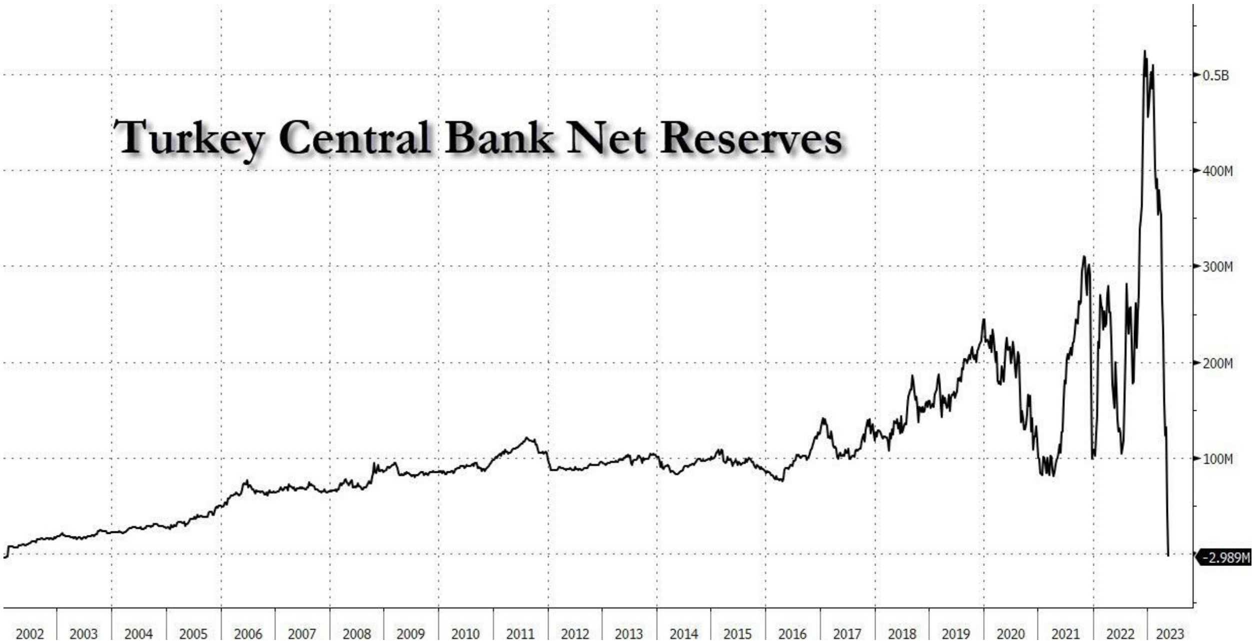
Game Over For Turkey As Net Reserves Turn Negative, Morgan Stanley Sees Lira Collapsing

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 06:45 AM

One week ago, when the Turkish Lira first tumbled below 20 against the USD, we warned that much more pain was in stock based on a rather dire analysis by Goldman of the central bank's reserve position, a much more ominous factor for the coming currency collapse then Erdogan's reelection.

Since then it's gone from bad to worse, with Reuters also jumping on the bearish lira bandwagon and reporting that the **Turkish central bank's net forex reserves dropped into negative territory for the first time since 2002, standing at $-151.3 million on May 19,** as the bank - following Erdogan's strict orders - scrambled to counter demand for hard currencies (USD, gold, crypto) ahead of Sunday's runoff vote.

Forex demand in Turkey surged to record levels ahead of May 14 on companies' and individuals' expectations that the lira, which lost 44% in 2021 and 30% in 2022, will plunge after the vote (spoiler alert: those fears have been justified).



zerohedgedotcom/markets/game-over-turkey-net-reserves-turn-negative-morgan-stanley-sees-lira-collapsing

Journal: This is how the markets work today: bad news now means government stimulus

Bad News Is Now Good News In China As Market Awaits Stimulus

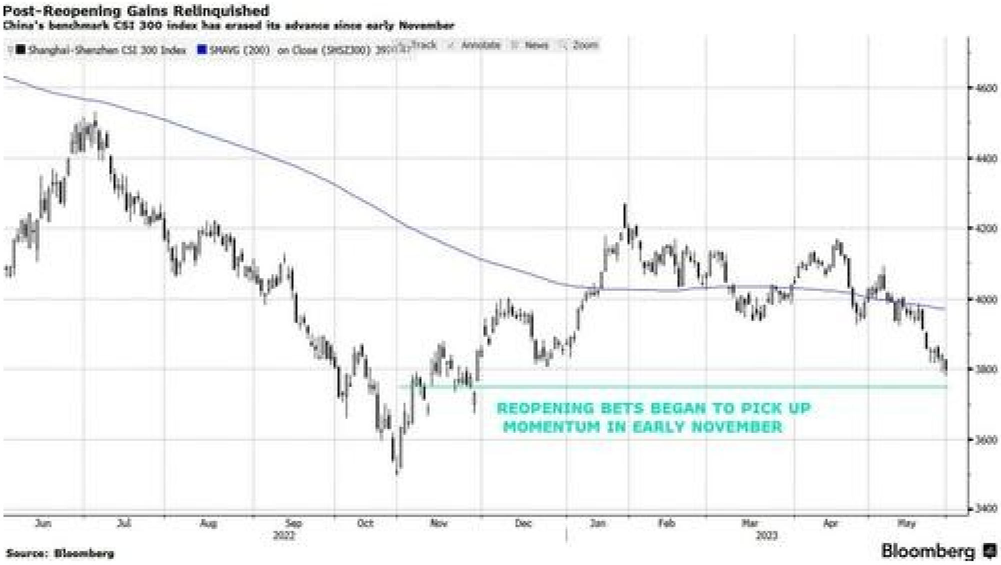
BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 10:25 PM

By George Lei, Bloomberg Markets Live reporter and strategist

China’s May PMI survey flashed the latest warning of mounting economic trouble, prompting investors to eagerly weigh the odds of more stimulus out of

Beijing. Onshore equities have already relinquished the vast majority of their post-reopening gains, adding pressure on policymakers to move fast and aggressively to promote growth.

The yuan, stocks and commodity prices have fallen since late April, a reflection of China’s pessimistic economic prospects, Shao Xiang and Tao Chuan at Soochow Securities wrote in their WeChat public account on Wednesday. **History suggests monetary policy rarely “stands idly by” once manufacturing PMI stays below the 50 threshold for two or more straight months, they pointed out.**



Post-Reopening Gains Relinquished

China's benchmark CSI 300 index has erased its advance since early November

Source: Bloomberg

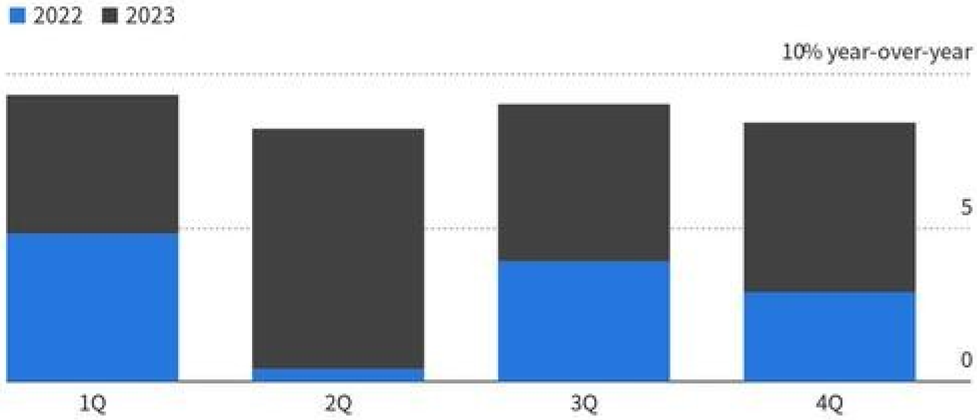
The PBOC took actions in 2019, 2021 and 2022 when the factory gauge worsened — including reductions to the Required Reserve Ratio (RRR), the Medium-term Lending Facilities (MLF) rate and Loan Prime Rate (LPR). These actions occurred either during the same month or one to two months after the data was out, the Soochow analysts noted.

The PMI data confirmed China’s post-Covid recovery is “far from a self-sustained one, due to a lack of confidence among corporates and households,” according to Macquarie analysts Larry Hu and Yuxiao Zhang. “Now policy is the only game changer,” they said in a research report on Wednesday.

Beijing will either need to get its stimulus package in shape in the coming weeks or risk a sharp year-over-year downturn in the next quarter, according to Evercore ISI. The lockdown of Shanghai, which took place between April and May of 2022, weighed heavily on the Chinese economy and the low base of comparison suggests 2Q GDP will “look great” in year-over-year terms despite ongoing headwinds, analysts Neo Wang and Gin Wang noted.

Slowdown Awaits

The Chinese economy is expected to grow more than 7% in 2Q - due to an extremely low base of comparison - before slowing down sharply in 3Q



Source: Bloomberg
Note: 2023 growth for 2Q, 3Q and 4Q are consensus forecasts based on Bloomberg surveys

Bloomberg

Consensus forecast puts the pace of expansion at 7.8% year-over-year in 2Q and 5.1% in 3Q, according to a Bloomberg survey. **Evercore ISI believes “it makes more sense to announce stimulus taking effects when 3Q arrives,”** while Macquarie sees an “**RRR cut, acceleration in infrastructure spending and more relaxation in property policy” in the weeks ahead.**

Still, whether PBOC will cut MLF or LPR remains a close call given the expectations for another Fed hike in June, Macquarie cautions. More data deterioration may be needed before Beijing makes up its mind.

Censorship, government: “ Weingarten’s recent testimony ignored the fact that, in July 2021, nearly a year after school districts in Right to Work Florida had reopened while “avoid[ing] major outbreaks of COVID-19 and maintain[ing] case rates lower than those in the wider community,” she claimed hysterically that “millions of Floridians” were “going to die” because the state’s elected officials had refused to follow Big Labor orders to keep schools closed.”

Randi Weingarten Has Zero Credibility

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 10:05 PM

Authored by Stan Greer via RealClear Wire,

Censorship: **University Of Colorado Declares Misgendering An "Act Of Violence"**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 07:45 PM

Authored by Jonathan Turley,

The University of Colorado Boulder (Boulder) is under fire this week for a statement on the "Pride Office" website stating that **misgendering people can be considered an "act of violence."**

The guide on pronouns is reportedly the work of students associated with the office and states that ***"choosing to ignore or disrespect someone's pronouns is not only an act of oppression but can also be considered an act of violence."***

It is a familiar position for many in higher education.

Opposing viewpoints are now routinely declared to be violence. That allows professors and students to rationalize their own act of violence or censorship.

The most vivid example was recently seen at Hunter College, which is part of the CUNY system. Professor Shellyne Rodríguez recently was fired after holding a machete to the neck of a New York Post reporter and threatened to "chop you up." However, Hunter College decided not to fire her over a prior incident in which she trashed a pro-life table run by students.

Rodríguez spotted students with pro-life material at the college. She was captured on a videotape telling the students that "you're not educating s–t […] This is f–king propaganda. What are you going to do, like, anti-trans next? This is bulls–t. This is violent. You're triggering my students." Even after a remarkably polite student said that he was "sorry," Rodríguez would have nothing of it. After all, espousing pro-life views is now "violence." Rodríguez rejected the apology and declared "No you're not — because you can't even have a f–king baby. So you don't even know what that is. Get this s–t the f–k out of here."

Just a week earlier, a professor stopped another "violent" display of pro-life views in New York. Professor Renee Overdyke of the State University of New York at Albany shut down a pro-life display and then resisted arrest.

At the University of California at Santa Barbara, feminist studies associate professor Mireille Miller Young criminally assaulted pro-life advocates on campus, and later pleaded guilty to the crime. She was defended by faculty and students, including many who said she was "triggered" by a pro-life display and that pro-life advocates were "terrorists" who did not deserve free speech.

It is that easy. You simply declare opposing views "violent" and then you can justify your own violence as a matter of self-defense.

The Colorado controversy does not involve acts of violence over misgendering. Moreover, the guide reflects a deep-felt concern that using someone's pronouns incorrectly, even unintentionally, leads to "dysphoria, exclusion and alienation." There are also some positive recommendations in dealing with these difficult situations.

However, this is a university site and there are countervailing free speech costs to characterizing of opposing views on pronouns as violence. As have previously discussed how other countries are prosecuting those who "misgender." Schools in the United States have promised disciplinary action against any misgendering despite some court cases ruling for faculty with opposing views on pronouns. **Even passing out "he/his" candies can result in a university investigation.**

Conservative sites like Campus Reform have reported on the Colorado controversy and sought clarification.

Universities are often presented with difficult countervailing interests. On one hand, it must maintain a welcoming and tolerant environment. On the other hand, it must protect free speech values, including the right to express unpopular views or values.

Colorado students have every right to declare misgendering as violence in their eyes, even if many of us disagree. However, the university has an obligation to clearly establish that such views are not the policy or approach of the university itself. The site states "This information was created by students, for students. The university supports an inclusive environment." It should state that "while the university supports an inclusive environment, the statements on this site are not official statements or policies of the university." Otherwise, **the university should address the free speech implications of declaring misgendering as a violent act.**

War, Russia, journal (things just keep escalating. Now these border attacks inside russia have become the norm)

Russia Evacuates Children From Border Villages As Ukrainian Shelling Escalates

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 03:40 PM

In what's now becoming an alarming pattern of cross-border escalation, multiple civilians were injured in Russia's Belgorod region, just kilometers from Ukraine, due to **large-scale shelling on Wednesday**, presumably from Ukrainian forces.

Local governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said at least four people had been injured. He described that situation in the border town of Shebekino has been **"deteriorating" due to the "massive strike"** from Ukrainian forces.

Censorship, government:
"Obstructionist And Unacceptable": House GOP To Hold FBI Director In Contempt Of Congress

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 01:40 PM

Authored by Jackson Richman via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

FBI Director Christopher Wray **has refused to comply with a May 30 deadline to hand over a document alleging that then-Vice President Joe Biden and a foreign national were allegedly involved in a criminal scheme,** announced House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer (R-Ky.)

“Today, the FBI informed the committee that it will not provide the unclassified documents subpoenaed by the committee,” said Comer in a statement. “**The FBI’s decision to stiff-arm Congress and hide this information from the American people is obstructionist and unacceptable**.”

War, Europe: **US Kicks Kosovo Out Of Military Drills For Anti-Serb Escalation**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 01:00 PM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com,

The US ambassador to Kosovo, Jeffrey Hovenier, announced Tuesday that Washington was **kicking Pristina out of the US-led Defender Europe military exercises** over its treatment of the ethnic Serb population of northern Kosovo.

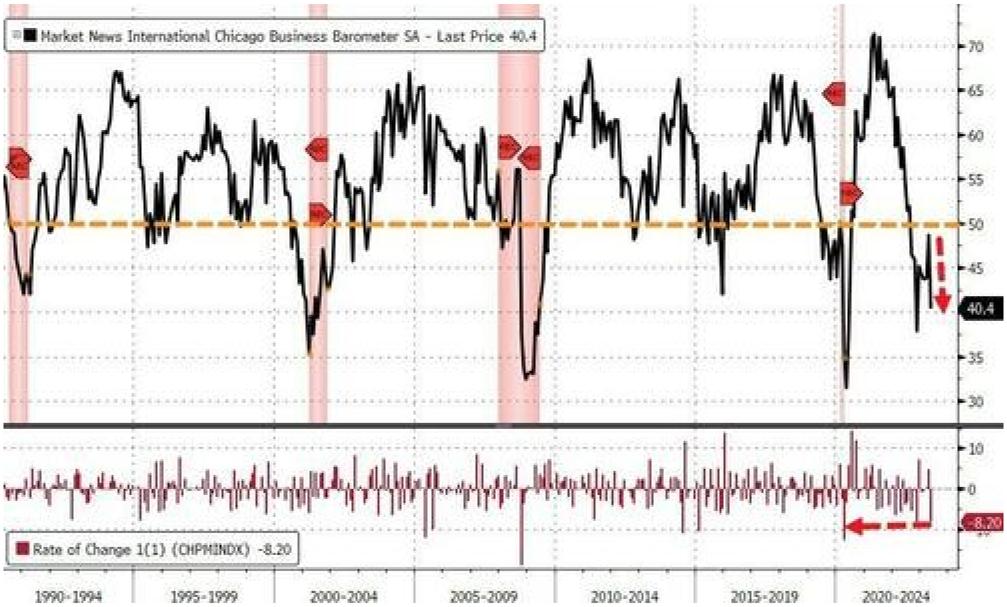
The move was a punishment for Kosovo trying to **forcibly install ethnic Albanian mayors in three Serb-majority towns**. The mayors won office in elections that were boycotted by the Serbs, who have never accepted Kosovo’s independence from Serbia, which was formally declared in 2008.

Markets, inflation: **Chicago PMI Unexpectedly Plummets, Longest 'Contraction' Streak Since Lehman**

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 10:52 AM

After the unexpected resurgence in April, Chicago PMI plunged in May from 48.6 to 40.4 (against expectations of 47.3). That is the ninth straight month below 50 (in contraction)...



Source: Bloomberg

That is the longest streak of prints in 'contraction' since the Great Financial Crisis.

Under the hood, none of the underlying drivers were higher MoM...

- **Prices paid rose** at a slower pace; signaling expansion
- **New orders fell** at a faster pace; signaling contraction
- **Employment fell** and the direction reversed; signaling contraction
- **Inventories fell** at a faster pace; signaling contraction
- Supplier **deliveries rose at a slower pace**; signaling expansion
- **Production fell** at a faster pace; signaling contraction
- **Order backlogs fell** at a faster pace; signaling contraction

This continues a trend of 'soft' survey data disappointing notably.

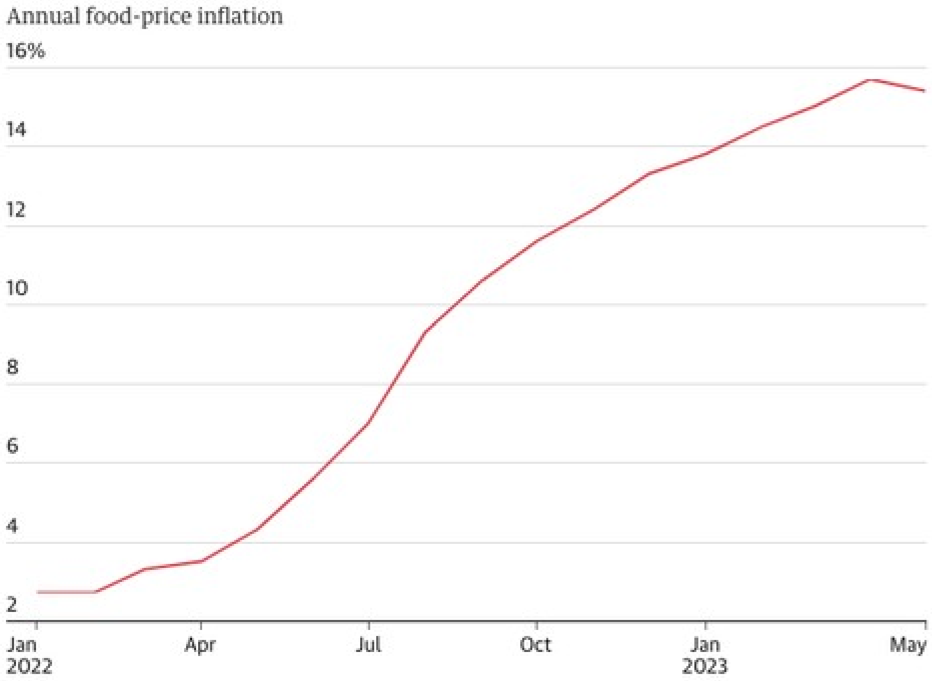
Europe, inflation: **UK Enters Worst Period Of Strikes Since Thatcher As Gov't Calls For Price Controls**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 09:50 AM

The UK is headed for the second summer of strikes as the seemingly intractable cost-of-living crisis devastates household finances. British officials are so desperate to alleviate despair among Brits that they are considering drastic measures, such as implementing food price controls.

Brits received the grim news on Tuesday as food prices remain at or near record levels. The British Retail Consortium (BRC) said annual food inflation eased from 15.7% to 15.4% this month. However, the cost of store items, known as shop price inflation, increased to 9%, a new high for the index that dates back to 2005.

UK food inflation eased to 15.4% in May



Guardian graphic | Source: British Retail Consortium-NielsenIQ

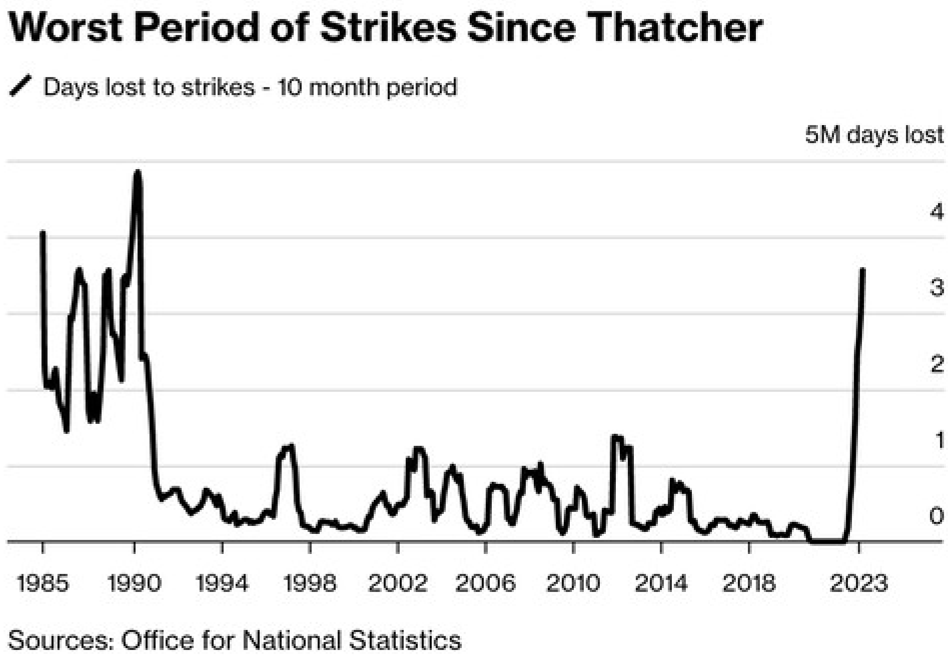
The Guardian reported the government is mulling over price caps for food, such as bread and milk, to alleviate household pain.

In a note, Laura Suter, head of personal finance at stockbroker AJ Bell, told clients that Brits "are still wincing when their total comes up at the checkout... a weekly shop that cost £100 last year is now clocking in at £115."

High inflation has led to households experiencing the sharpest fall in living standards since records began. This despair has led to widespread strikes as workers demand higher wages.

Bloomberg warned, "Britain is heading into a second consecutive summer of train strikes this week as union bosses and ministers remain at loggerheads over pay and working conditions."

A stunning chart by Bloomberg shows the economy has already lost 3.5 million days to strikes since last year, currently at levels not seen since the days of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the late 1980s into the early 90s.



The next wave of strikes is expected to impact rail networks on Friday.

Censorship: **Under Macron, France Brings Back 'Preventive Censorship' After More Than 140 Years**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 07:30 AM

Authored by Oliver Bault via Remix News,

On May 9, French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin asked the prefects throughout France to ban all events and protests organized by "the far right or the ultra-right." In Paris alone, the police prefecture banned six such events last weekend, including a symposium organized by the Iliade Institute

The symposium that was to take place on Sunday aimed to honor the memory of Dominique Venner, a historian who took his life exactly 10 years ago in the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris as a "sacrifice" to "break with the lethargy that is overwhelming us," to "awaken slumbering consciences."

"I rebel against fate. I protest against poisons of the soul and the desires of invasive individuals to destroy the anchors of our identity, including the family, the intimate basis of our multi-millennial civilization," he said in a message read after his death.

In one of the six decisions taken by the police prefect in Paris last weekend to comply with the order of Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne's government, an administrative court overturned the ban against a conference and a march organized by the royalist organization Action Française to commemorate Joan of Arc. It was thus allowed to proceed and did so without disrupting public order, just like in previous years.

The organizers of the Iliade Institute's symposium, however, were informed so late – less than 24 hours before their planned event – that it was impossible to obtain an interim measure in their favor by a court. Hence, when the persons invited to the symposium turned out at the venue rented out by the Iliade Institute in Paris, a police cordon barred their entry.

Laurent Nuñez, the police prefect of Paris, motivated the ban by stating in his decision that: "There is a serious risk that, on the occasion of this tribute, statements inciting hatred and discrimination against a group of people because of their origin or their membership or non-membership of an ethnic group, nation or religion will be made (…) of such a nature as to call into question national cohesion and the principles enshrined in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen."

This is exactly what preventive censorship is about: Nothing has yet been done or said by the Iliade Institute or any participant to the banned symposium, but this might happen, so it should not take place at all.

This type of censorship was previously eliminated in France with the 1881 law on freedom of the press and up to now it was only re-established in times of war.

However, in 2014 the president of the Conseil d’Etat, France’s top administrative court which is closely linked to the executive branch, as its judges are often rewarded for their services with top posts in ministries, created precedence by validating a ban against a show by Dieudonné M’Bala M’Bala, a French comic owing his African name to his father from Cameroon, who had been previously convicted several times of inciting racial hatred because of his anti-Zionist jokes, which were said to be anti-Semitic.

But the May 9 decision by Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin goes even further because it targets organizations that have not necessarily been convicted in the past but belong to the “far right” or “ultra-right” in the eyes of French authorities.

Darmanin made his decision after a march by some 500 young people dressed in black with Celtic crosses, often described as a neo-fascist symbol in France, took place on May 6 as it does every year – always legally and peacefully – to commemorate the death in 1994 of a young far-right activist who was fleeing the police during a banned protest. However, organizations like the Royalist Action Française or the identitarian Institut Iliade have no links with those marching on May 6.

Even a very politically correct commentator like Jean-Yves Camus, who is often invited by the overwhelmingly left-leaning French mainstream media as an expert on the far right, expressed dismay at the Paris police prefect’s decision concerning the Iliade Institute: “There was no real risk, if any, of things getting out of hand,” he said, as “the Iliad’s conferences are filmed and posted on their website fairly quickly.”

About the risk of racist remarks being heard at the Sunday symposium, Camus said that one could assume there is such a risk only “if talking about the Great Replacement is racist.”

It was in fact a point made in the motives given in writing by the police prefect of Paris for his decision to ban the event: “This meeting is not a simple tribute event but rather ‘a celebration to continue the actions against the acceleration of the great Afro-Maghrebi replacement.'” The police prefect used quotation marks in this sentence as he attributed those words about “the great Afro-Maghrebi replacement” to the Iliade Institute, although its director, Jean-Yves Le Gallou, denied at a press conference those words came from his organization.

The Iliade Institute also contested the assertion by the authorities that the Sunday symposium was a public event, as it was to be held in a privately leased venue for invited participants only.

It looks as if the French authorities wanted to ban any discussion about the ongoing population replacement linked to ever-greater mass immigration, both legal and illegal, which a large majority of French citizens see as a cause for worry.

Le Gallou, a former high-ranking civil servant, says this reflects a much wider political tendency: “The government is weakened by its policies that go contrary to the aspirations of the French, in particular on two major subjects: the massive immigration being distributed, little by little, in rural France… and the limitation of private property in relation to the development of wind power.” So the political leaders have only two solutions left, Le Gallou thinks: “massive propaganda and censorship. There are two forms of censorship, which are the direct censorship we have experienced and censorship by intimidation. This is what I call the ‘totalitarian pincer movement.'”

The return of preventive censorship targeted at those who oppose mass immigration or defend conservative, patriotic values comes after President Emmanuel Macron acted through his Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin to ban the non-violent, law-abiding youth organization Generation Identity in 2021 for its peaceful protest actions against the lack of controls by authorities to stop the influx of illegal immigrants at France’s borders with Italy and Spain.

The police prefect’s decision to ban the Iliade Institute’s symposium was preceded by an article published on the left-wing website Médiapart. It was written with information on the late historian Dominique Venner that could only have been leaked to the author by the authorities, so it seems that this publication was part of the authorities' plot to ban the event.

The article was published on Friday at 5 p.m. Only a few hours later, the police prefect decided to ban the event that was planned for Sunday at 3 p.m., but apparently his services waited until Saturday afternoon to inform the organizers about his decision so that they could not have the ban overturned in time by a judge.

In the 2017 presidential campaign, which brought Emmanuel Macron to power, Médiapart was one of the two left-wing media portals that regularly received documents illegally leaked by the police and judicial authorities in the case mounted against center-right candidate François Fillon to derail his campaign and make room for the heir of Socialist President François Hollande, i.e., his former special counselor for Europe and former Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron.

So it appears the same media outlet is still being used by the executive power to attack its opponents in a very unconstitutional way, and one may wonder in this situation if France is still a full-fledged democracy.

Media, government, censorship: Native American Tribe Demands Justice For Man Shot 38 Times By US Border Patrol Agents

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 10:00 PM

Authored by Allan Stein via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Yvonne Nevarez remembers her late uncle Raymond Mattia as a proud Tohono O'odham Nation member who always took a stand against injustice.

JUSTICE
FOR
Raymond Mattia
JUSTICE
FOR
Raymond Mattia
45

Mattias family spokeswoman Ofelia Rivas stands while propping a sign with a picture of Ray Mattia, who was shot and killed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents on May 18, 2023. The photo was taken during a protest in front of the Ajo Border Patrol Station in Why, Ariz., on May 27, 2023. (Allan Stein/The Epoch Times)

He was a kind, respectful, peace-loving man, she said, making his shooting death by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents even harder to accept.

"I'm angry. I can't believe it. I don't want to believe it. **Our lives will never be the same**," Nevarez said, struggling through tears.

"He was like a dad to me. And now, he's gone."

Family members say that on May 18, Mattia contacted tribal police to report illegal migrants trespassing on his property in Meneger's Dam Village, a remote southern border community of the Tohono O'odham Nation reservation about 52 miles from Ajo by car.

During a brief encounter with CBP agents, family members say Mattia was shot approximately 38 times for reasons as yet unknown.

"**It was literally at his doorstep**," Nevarez told The Epoch Times at a protest gathering near the Ajo Border Patrol Station in Why, Arizona, on May 27.

Protesters at a rally for Raymond Mattia flash placards at a passing Border Patrol vehicle in Why, Ariz., on May 27, 2023. (Allan Stein/The Epoch Times)

Tribal members and supporters held another demonstration in Tucson on the same day.

“**We feel that how they took his life was unjust. There’s no justification for it,**” Nevarez said.

The family released a statement calling the shooting a “grievous” incident as “it is apparent what happened.”

“Raymond called for help and, in turn, was shot down on his doorstep. Raymond’s rights were violated by the authorities whom we trust to protect our Nation. Improper and unprofessional actions of the agencies involved were witnessed by family members present near the crime scene.

“Loved ones sat in agony, not knowing of Raymond’s condition until they were told that he had passed away hours later. Raymond lay in front of his home for seven hours before a coroner from Tucson arrived.

The statement added, “In our eyes and hearts, we believe Raymond was approached with excessive and deadly force that took his life. He was a father, brother, uncle, friend, and an involved community member. Raymond always fought for what was right, and he will continue to fight even after his death. This is not an isolated incident, but it should bring awareness of the oppression our people live through."

JUSTICE FOR MY
RAY!
FTCBP!
LOVE & MISS YOU!
ARIZONA CARDINALS

A nephew of Raymond Mattia holds a sign during a protest in Why, Ariz., on May 27, 2023. (Allan Stein/The Epoch Times)

The family has launched a GoFundMe page to raise $10,000 in legal defense fees.

So far, the effort has garnered $2,954.

CBP Responds

On May 22, CBP issued a statement detailing the events leading to Mattia's death.

The statement said that at 9:04 p.m., the U.S. Border Patrol Tuscon Sector Tactical Operations Center notified the Ajo station that the Tohono O'odham Nation Police Department had requested assistance responding to a report of shots fired near Mattia's property.

At least 10 CBP agents met with tribal police at the local recreation center to coordinate a joint response.

At 9:32 p.m., a tribal police officer and several CBP agents arrived near Mattia's residence and "spread out while searching for the man."

"The officer and agents encountered an individual approximately 103 meters (about 337 feet) northwest of their parked vehicles, outside a residence, at approximately 9:03 p.m."

At that point, Mattia allegedly "threw an object" at the police officer as they approached.

The object landed "a few feet" from the officer.

"Shortly after the individual threw the object, **he abruptly extended his right arm away from his body, and three agents fired their service weapons, striking the individual several times."**

"The individual fell to the ground, and the officer and agents slowly approached the man," according to the statement.

The statement made no mention of whether Mattia was armed or whether warnings were given before he was shot down.

JUSTICE
FOR
Raymond Mattia

An unattended sign with the image of Raymond Mattia in Why, Ariz., on May 27, 2023. (Allan Stein/The Epoch Times)

Resuscitation Efforts Fail

Agents began administering CPR after they could not detect a pulse and requested emergency medical services.

However, there was no air life evacuation available due to bad weather. The agents continued administering CPR without success.

Mattia was pronounced dead at a Pima County hospital at 10:06 p.m. The medical examiner's office took custody of the body pending an autopsy on May 19, the statement added.

The agents involved in the shooting will remain on administrative leave according to standard practice while authorities investigate the "use of deadly force."

"All three agents who discharged their weapons and seven additional agents activated their body-worn cameras during the incident."

The statement added the CBP is "committed to the expeditious release of the body-worn camera footage of this incident as soon as is appropriate to do so without impacting the ongoing law enforcement investigation."

The Tohono O'odham Police Department and FBI are currently investigating. CBP said the agency's National Use of Force Review Board would review the incident following the investigation.

Tohono O'odham police referred the matter to the department's public information officer Matt Smith, who did not return a phone call or text requesting comment from The Epoch Times.

At the May 27 protest in Why, family spokeswoman Ofelia Rivas said tribal members have reported many negative encounters with an "aggressive" Border Patrol in the past.

"This has been going on for quite a while," Rivas told The Epoch Times. "**The Border Patrol claims to have supreme authority on the reservation.**"

*Read more **here...***

Energy, planet, war: Canadian Oil And Gas Producers Restart Production As Wildfires Abate

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 09:20 PM

By Michael Kern of Oilprice.com

Canadian oil and gas producer Crescent Point Energy Corp on Monday said it had brought back online full production volumes at its operations in the Kaybob Duvernay play that were shut in due to the wildfires in Alberta in the past few weeks.

Several other operators in Alberta have also resumed partial production after rainfalls helped stop some of the wildfires in recent days.

Following a brief respite in the middle of May, the wildfires in Alberta began raging again last week as temperatures rose, threatening the oil sands operations in the province and forcing operators to shut in oil and gas production.

Earlier this month, the wildfires in Canada resulted in the shut-in of 319,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boepd) from the country’s oil and natural gas production or 3.7% of all output.

Most of those shut-ins and subsequent resumption of production concerned gas output early this month, but as the situation with wildfires in Northern Alberta deteriorated, the oil sands production was threatened.

Rystad Energy has warned that nearly 2.7 million barrels per day of Alberta oil sands production is in “very high” or “extreme” wildfire danger rating zones in the month of May.

But at the end of last week, heavy rains helped the situation, and operators started restoring part of the previously shut-in production.

Crescent Point Energy said today it had brought back on stream the full 45,000 boe/d of Kaybob Duvernay production previously shut-in due to the Alberta wildfires.

Last week, Chevron Canada said it had safely resumed partial operations in the Kaybob Duvernay outside the active fire area, although it continues to monitor the evolving wildfire situation in Northern Alberta.

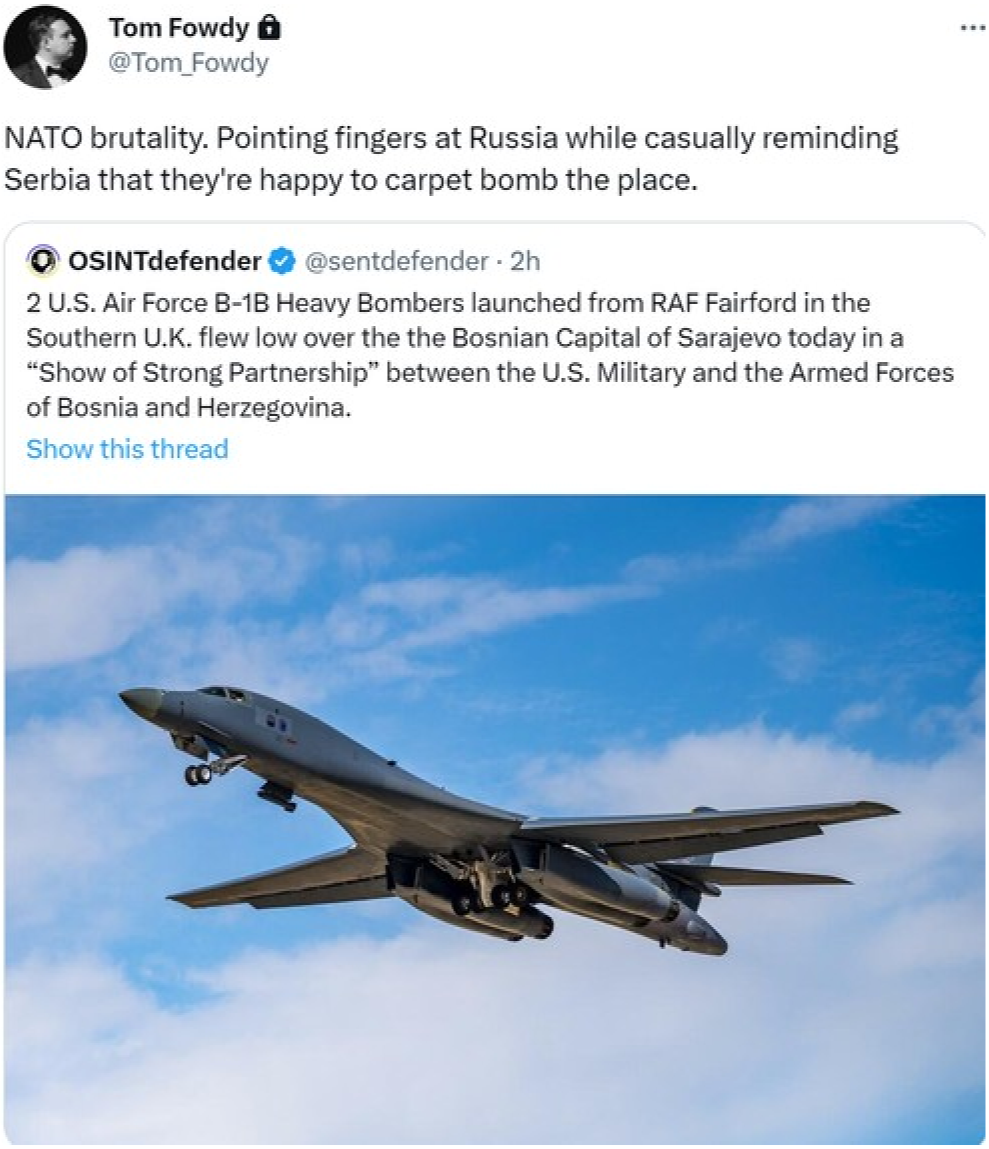
Obsidian Energy said it had restored 5,650 boe/d of operated and non-operated production that was temporarily shut in due to wildfires, evacuation orders, and third-party constraints in Peace River and Pembina.

War, Europe: US Flexes With Low B-1 Bomber Flyover As Balkan Tensions Boil

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 09:00 PM

At a moment tensions are on edge in the Balkans over a fresh crisis between the Serbian minority of northern Kosovo and ethnic Albanians, which over the weekend saw dozens of NATO peacekeeping forces injured while trying to quell fierce protests, the United States **decided it was time for some muscle-flexing**.

Two US Air Force B-1B Lancer bomber aircraft **conducted a low flyover of Sarajevo and other cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) on Tuesday**. It had been pre-announced at the start of this week and described as "a sign of the strong partnership between the United States and the Armed Forces of BiH, according to a statement in the English language news portal *Sarajevo Times*. A US Air Forces statement cited in the publication said it would serve further as a sign of the "permanent dedication of the US to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and multi-ethnic nature of Bosnia and Herzegovina."



Tom Fowdy
@Tom_Fowdy

NATO brutality. Pointing fingers at Russia while casually reminding Serbia that they're happy to carpet bomb the place.

OSINTdefender @sentdefender · 2h

2 U.S. Air Force B-1B Heavy Bombers launched from RAF Fairford in the Southern U.K. flew low over the the Bosnian Capital of Sarajevo today in a "Show of Strong Partnership" between the U.S. Military and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Show this thread

Censorship, media: Groom And Doom: Target Shares Mark Longest Losing Streak In Almost 5 Years

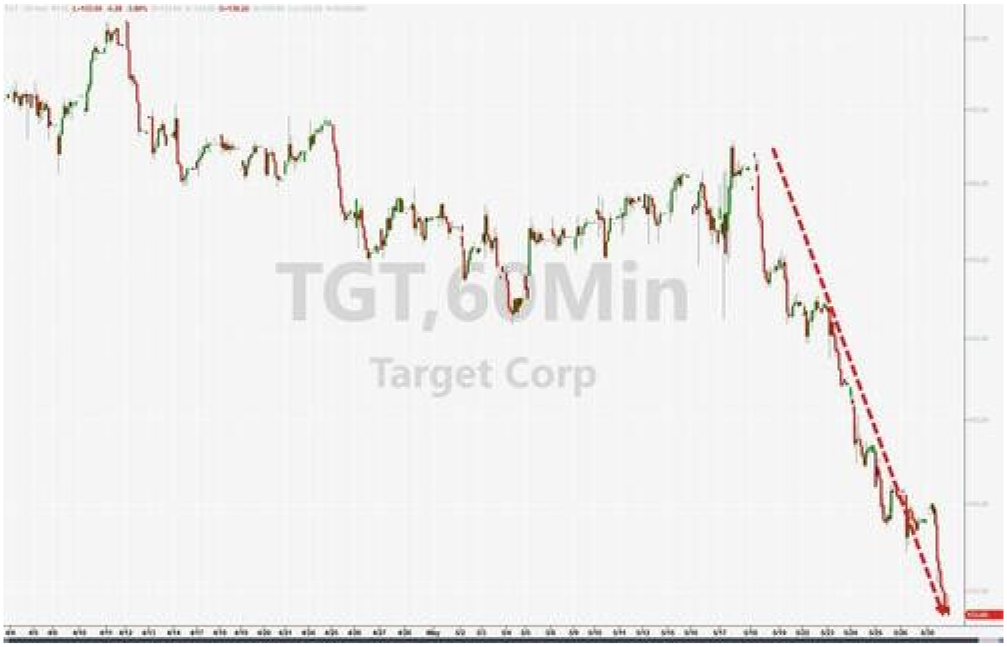
BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 06:20 PM

12.8 billion (and counting) reasons to re-think hiring and marketing practices?

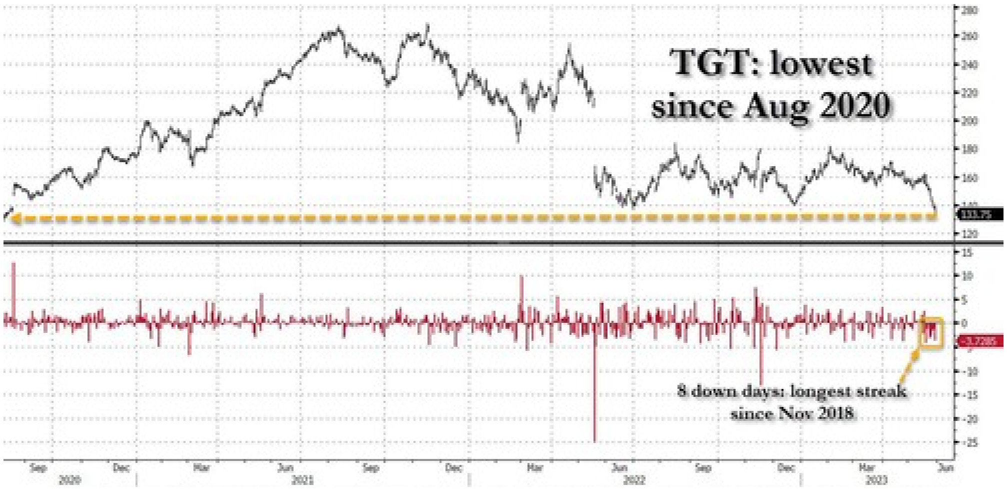
Shares of retailer Target fell as much a 3.8% on Tuesday, **extending losses to an eighth session** which brought the company's share price to its lowest intraday level since August 2020.

TRANS
PEOPLE
WILL
ALWAYS
EXIST!

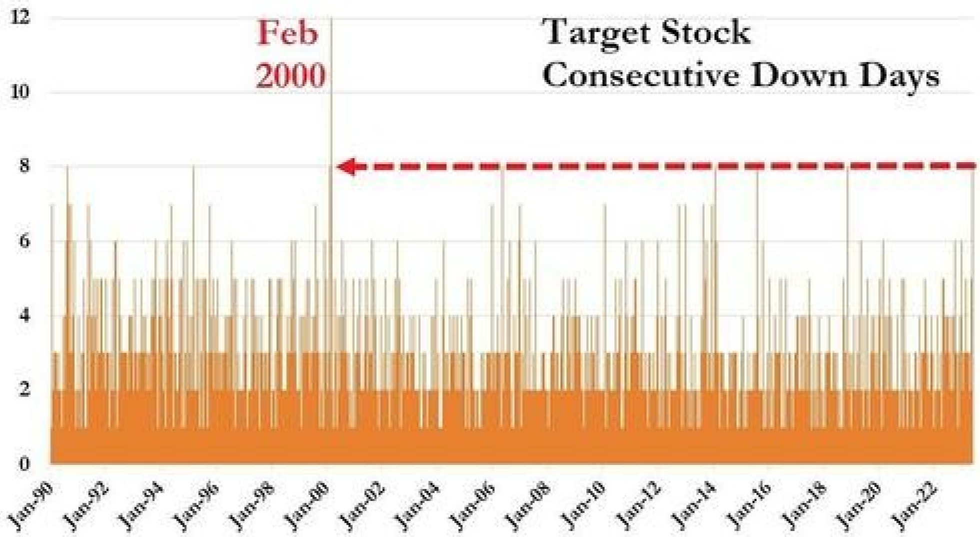
Shares had gotten a brief respite following earnings on May 17, only to decline each session since as controversy continued to mount over the company's transgender-themed clothing for children.



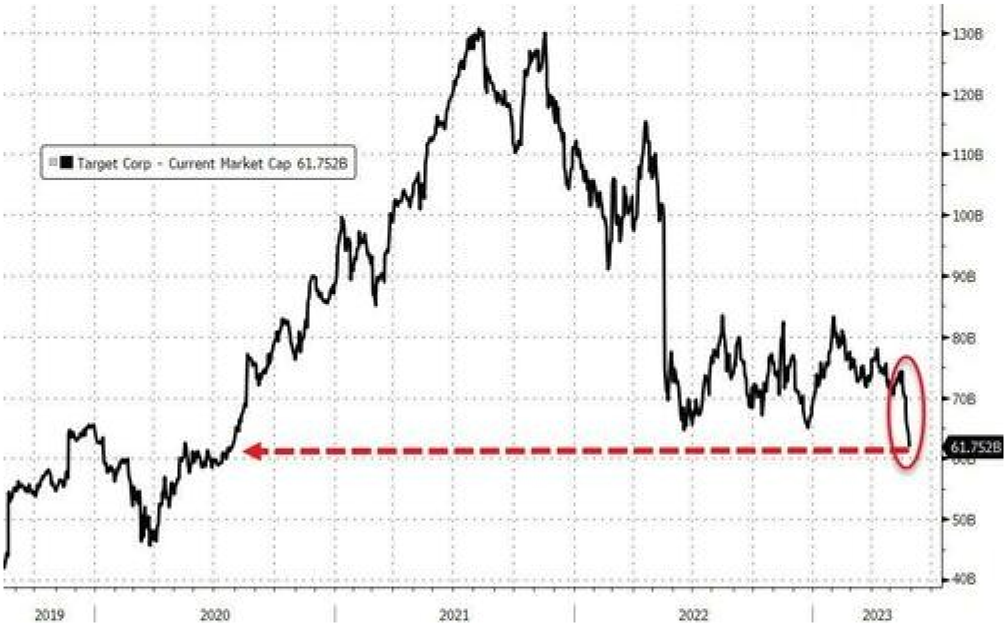
The fall marks the company's longest losing streak since November 2018.



And in fact, if Target is down again tomorrow, this will be the longest losing streak since the DotCom collapse...



Target's Market Cap, meanwhile, **has dropped by $12.5 billion in the last 8 days** - the biggest plunge since COVID lockdowns in Q2, 2020.

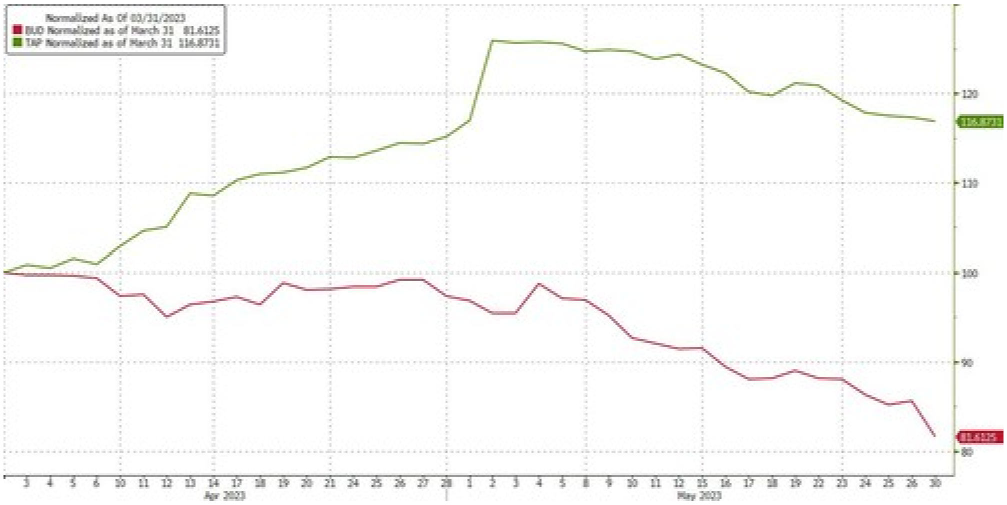


In response to the backlash, Target reportedly removed controversial LGBT-themed products at some stores across the South and rural America ahead of June Pride month to avoid further backlash. Some products ranged from **"tuck-friendly" swimsuits** for transgender people to gender-fluid coffee mugs. The insider said the reasoning behind such an abrupt move is "to avoid the kind of backlash Bud Light has received in recent weeks."

Tuck-Friendly Construction
Extra Crotch Coverage

More recently, *Fox News* reported that Target's VP of marketing, Carlos Saavedra, **is a treasurer for an organization pushing a transgender agenda in schools**.

Finally, given BUD's dramatic underperformance of TAP since "the Mulvaney incident", we wonder how long before corporates learn that profits (and their jobs) trump virtue-signaling to a tiny minority of America.



At some point the pendulum swings back.

censorship: McCarthy Threatens To Hold FBI Director In Contempt Over Stonewalled Biden Evidence

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 04:45 PM

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) on Tuesday **threatened to hold FBI Director Christopher Wray in contempt** if the agency continues to shelter the Biden family from congressional investigators seeking key documents.

Wray has until end of day Tuesday to produce several FD-1023 forms - records of interactions with confidential sources - from June 2020, which contain the word "Biden." The forms were requested by House Oversight Chairman James Comer (R-KY) after he issued a subpoena to compel the agency to produce the forms.

"So let me not just tell you. Let me tell Director Christopher Wray, right here, right now: If he misses the deadline today, I am prepared to move contempt charges in Congress against him," McCarthy told *Fox News* on Tuesday.

Censorship: "We Have A Captive Audience": Boston University To Require Students Take Social Justice Writing Courses

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 04:25 PM

Authored by Jonathan Turley,

Boston University recently made a new announcement that has rekindled concerns over the rising orthodoxy in our institutions of higher education. **The University issued new guidelines for its mandatory writing program that will require all students to write papers with a “social justice emphasis” as a condition for graduation.** The key faculty organizers celebrated the new policy and the hiring of non-white instructors as guaranteeing social justice results by making students a “captive audience” with no choice in the matter.

STOP HOMOFOBIA
I AM A MAN
Solidaridad con CHILE
JUST
PEOPLE
FREE ASIA
HONOR KING:
STOP

Student will now have to choose among such choices as “Linguistic Justice…Who Cares?: Domestic Labor and the Commodification of Care,” “Asians Are People of Color: Exploring the Controversy and Identity Politics,” “Deconstructing Narratives: Stories of Race and Racism in American Cultural Memory” and “Writing Environmental Justice.”

War, journal, Russia: Major Drone Attack On Moscow Damages Several Apartment Buildings

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 04:15 PM

A major Tuesday morning drone attack has damaged buildings in the Russian capital of Moscow, which the Kremlin has swiftly blamed on Ukraine. It's being widely described as the **first attack to hit the capital's civilian areas**.

Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanin said that multiple buildings sustained minor damage, but there have been no reports of fatalities after **eight drones** were inbound in the attack. **"The Kiev regime launched a terrorist attack with unmanned aerial vehicles on targets in the city of Moscow,"** the Russian Defense Ministry (MoD) said.

So basically no more mr. nice guy. If they can just remove prosecutors for not enforcing certain laws, they can control who enforces they laws, and not the people. This will allow the government to implement any law that they want.

Texas Lawmakers Pass Bill Allowing Removal Of 'Rogue' Prosecutors Who Fail To Enforce Laws

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 01:10 PM

Authored by Katabella Roberts via The Epoch Times, The Texas Legislature passed a bill on May 28 that could pave the way for locally elected prosecutors to be removed from office for misconduct if they fail to enforce certain laws.

House Bill 17 (pdf) was introduced by Republican state Sen. Joan Huffman earlier this year and it passed the Senate Sunday in a 20–11 vote after passing both legislative houses in April.

It now heads to Gov. Greg Abbott’s desk to be signed into law.

Under the legislation, Texas residents who have lived in a county for at least six months may file a petition against a prosecuting attorney accusing them of **misconduct if the top local prosecutor fails to “prosecute a class or type of criminal offense under state law,”** or if they instruct law enforcement to **“refuse to arrest individuals suspected of committing a class or type of offense under state law.”**

The legislation defines a prosecuting attorney as a district or county attorney with criminal jurisdiction, while misconduct is defined as “intentional, unlawful behavior relating to official duties by an officer entrusted with the administration of justice or the execution of the law.”

According to the legislation, a public statement from the prosecuting attorney stating that they plan to adopt or enforce a policy in which they fail to enforce certain laws ***“creates a rebuttable presumption that the prosecuting attorney committed official misconduct,”*** and means they can face a removal trial for official misconduct.

The legislation also removes pretrial “diversion programs” which allow for conditional dismissals of cases when permissible under state law.

Abortions, Thefts Divide Prosecutors

If found guilty, a judge may order the attorney’s removal, according to the bill’s text. Once removed, Abbott can appoint a prosecutor’s successor until the next election.

“On receiving a petition for removal of a prosecuting attorney … the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region shall assign a district court judge of a judicial district that does not include the county in which the petition was filed to conduct the removal proceedings,” the bill states.

The legislation comes after a group of attorneys nationwide, including five from Texas, signed an open letter (pdf) stating that they would refuse to prosecute any cases that criminalize abortion in the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision overturning Roe v. Wade in June 2022.

Under Texas law, abortion is a felony, except in cases where the mother is suffering from a “life-threatening physical condition” or there is “a serious risk of substantial impairment of a major bodily function.”

Some prosecutors, including Dallas District Attorney John Creuzot, have also said they do not plan to pursue charges of low-level thefts, such as those involving personal items under $750 that are stolen out of “necessity,” or first-time marijuana offenses.

“Unfortunately, certain Texas prosecutors have joined a trend of adopting internal policies refusing to prosecute particular laws,” Huffman said at a committee hearing in April.

“These actions set a dangerous precedent and severely undermine the authority of the Legislature.”

Elsewhere, Republican state Rep. David Cook, who introduced the House version of the bill, has said the legislation is needed to “reign in rogue district attorneys” and remove politics from prosecution.

Democrats Oppose Legislation

Speaking to The Dallas Morning News in April, the GOP lawmaker said **HB17 “makes it crystal clear the rule of law must be respected and enforced in Texas.”**

“I support prosecutorial discretion and know it is a central element of our criminal justice system,” Cook added.

In a statement on May 19, the Texas Senate GOP said the bill will ensure prosecuting attorneys follow the law and “not their political agenda.”

However, Democrats and civil rights groups in the state have argued that the bill is unconstitutional.

Texas state Rep. Ana-Maria Ramos, a Democrat, voiced opposition to the bill earlier this month during a hearing on the legislation.

“It is very clear what Texans are saying: They want to choose who their district attorney is,” Ramos said.

“What they don’t want is a grandstanding legislator to say ‘no, we are not going to allow you to have this … voice.'”

Elsewhere, state Sen. Sarah Eckhardt, a Democrat from Austin, said the bill amounted to a violation of the state’s separation of powers, calling it **“one piece to an unsettling pattern of top-down power-grabbing.”**

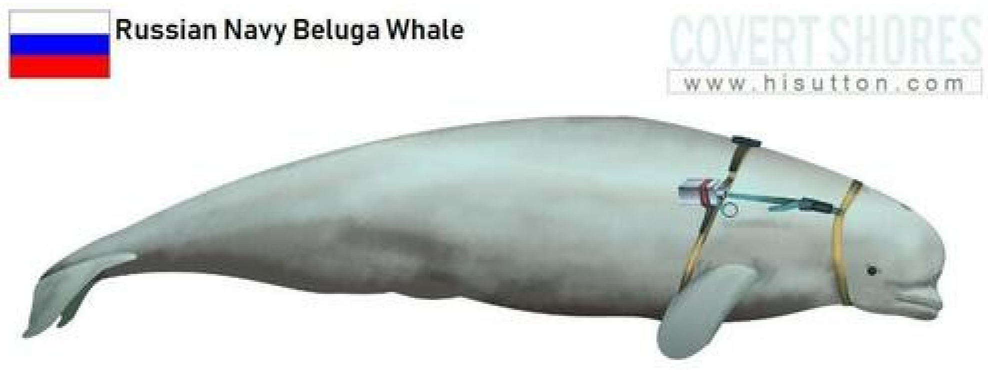
“Tools like prosecutorial discretion are critical—especially in a state like Texas, where our local district attorneys are directly elected by the people,” Eckhardt said.

Russia, Europe, war:

Alleged Russian 'Spy' Whale Reappears Off Sweden's Coast

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 12:10 PM

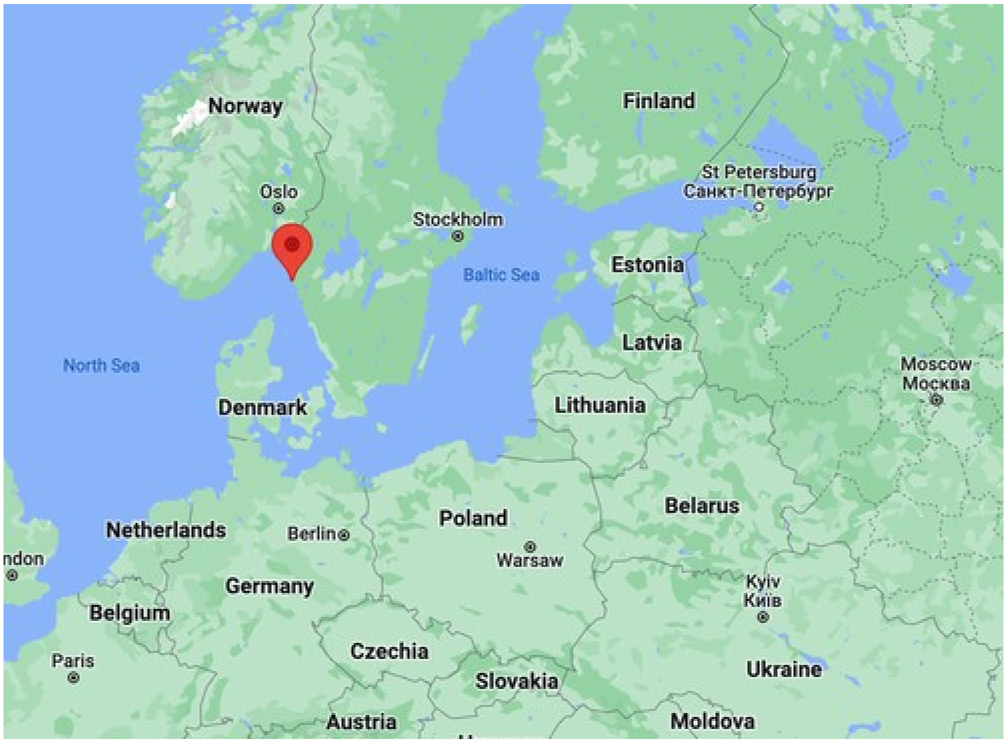
A harness-wearing Beluga whale discovered in Norway's far northern region of Finnmark in 2019 has reappeared off Sweden's coast. It's believed the Russian military trained the whale.


Russian Navy Beluga Whale
COVERT SHORES
www.hisutton.com

Sebastian Strand, a marine biologist with the OneWhale organization, a group that tracks the beluga whale named "Hvaldimir," said he was recently spotted in Hunnebostrand, off Sweden's southwestern coast.

"We don't know why he has sped up so fast right now," especially since he is moving "very quickly away from his natural environment," Strand told AFP News.

The last recorded location of Hvaldimir.


Norway
Finland
Oslo
Stockholm
St Petersburg
Санкт-Петербург
Baltic Sea
Estonia
Latvia
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Moscow
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Lithuania
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Berlin
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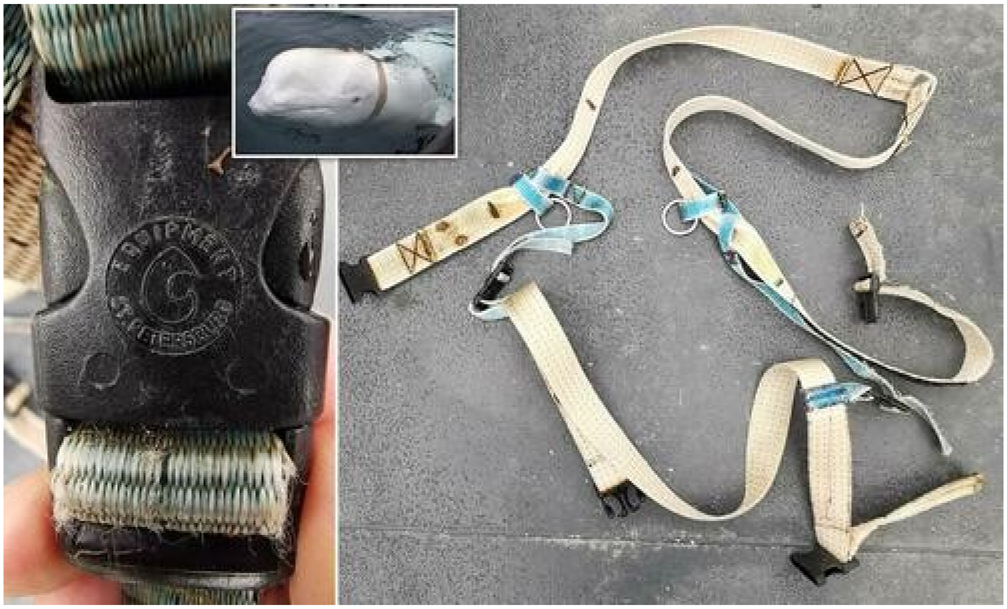
Germany
Kyiv
Київ
Belgium
Czechia
Paris
Slovakia
Ukraine
Austria
Moldova

Strand said the whale is estimated to be 13-14 years old and is "at an age where his hormones are very high."

"It could be hormones driving him to find a mate. Or it could be loneliness as Belugas are a very social species -- it could be that he's searching for other Beluga whales," he said.

Hvaldimir is thought to be a former intelligence asset for the Russians. When first observed in 2019 by fishermen, they found he was wearing a harness with "Equipment of St. Petersburg" printed on it.



Russia's Defense Ministry has denied the alleged spy whale belongs to them. However, Russia and the US have used marine mammals, including beluga whales, for decades for various underwater tasks, such as finding underwater mines.

And perhaps the use of spy whales and other marine mammals is being phased out as militaries worldwide are quickly modernizing their forces with undersea drones.

Vaccine, censorship: **Over 300 COVID-19 Papers Withdrawn For Not Meeting Standards Of Scientific Soundness**

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 08:45 AM

Authored by Jessie Zhang via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Research journals have withdrawn well over 300 articles on COVID-19 due to compromised ethical standards and concerns about the publications' scientific validity.

A scientist uses a microscope to look at cells containing the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 at the Stabilitech laboratory in Burgess Hill south east England on May 15, 2020. (Ben Stansall/Getty Images)

Retraction Watch has provided a running list of withdrawn papers on COVID-19 ranging from "Acute kidney injury associated with COVID-19" to "Can Your AI Differentiate Cats from COVID-19?"

A total of 330 research papers have currently been retracted.

During the pandemic, researchers have compromised on ethical standards and tried to either get more publications approved or to take shortcuts around ethics, senior researcher Gunnveig Grødeland at the Institute of Immunology at the University of Oslo says, after going through the list of articles that have been withdrawn, and the reasons for some of them.

Hundreds of papers on COVID-19 that did not meet standards of editorial and scientific soundness have been removed. (Kena Betancur/Getty Images)

While it is quite natural for some articles to be updated or changed to be published in a different form**, some have been retracted because the researchers did not obtain informed consent during the research.**

“It will, of course, be withdrawn when it is found that ethical guidelines have been breached,” Grødeland told Khrono, a Norwegian higher education and research newspaper.

She pointed out that **other articles have been withdrawn after the editors noticed that the strategies the papers mentioned were giving the wrong impression in the media** of being recommended as actual treatment or prevention of COVID-19.

She said these sorts of articles had to be withdrawn as they claimed things that neither the authors of the articles nor their institutions could vouch for.

In addition, some studies did not include a large enough sample size.

When more subjects were included, the researchers could no longer maintain the same conclusions they made earlier about the effect of the drugs.

“A Little Out of Hand”

Grødeland said that part of the reason this happened during the pandemic was that relatively more people suddenly started conducting research on a topic they really knew relatively little about.

Even prestigious journals such as the Lancet were publishing those articles.

One of Lancet's studies even caused both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the national government to stop the comprehensive testing of hydroxychloroquine's effectiveness against COVID-19.

The extensive Lancet study, allegedly based on research fraud, said that the drug increased the risk of heart arrhythmia and mortality for COVID-19 patients.

*Read more **here...***

Planet, sanctions, war: May18

The Looming El Niño Could Cost the World Trillions of Dollars

Warming waters in the Pacific can trigger droughts, wildfires, and extreme rainfall around the world, potentially leading to $3 trillion in losses in the coming years.

wireddotcom/story/the-looming-el-nino-could-cost-the-world-trillions-of-dollars/

Watch: Fierce Serb-Kosovo Clashes Leave Dozens Of NATO Troops Injured

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 05:15 AM

Unrest has been ongoing for days in Serbian minority regions of northern Kosovo after controversial municipal elections resulted in ethnic Albanian mayors being installed in Serb-dominant communities. But what started as clashes between ethnic Serbs and Kosovo police has **spiraled into violence as NATO troops have struggled to crackdown on raging protests**.

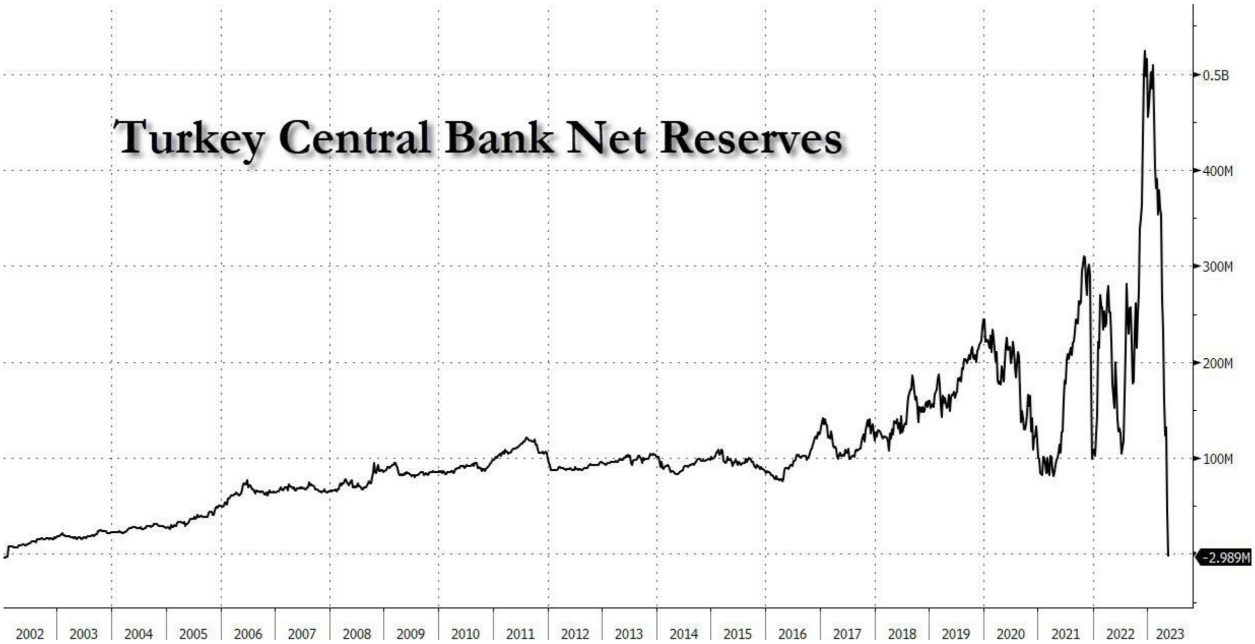
Game Over For Turkey As Net Reserves Turn Negative, Morgan Stanley Sees Lira Collapsing

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023 - 06:45 AM

One week ago, when the Turkish Lira first tumbled below 20 against the USD, we warned that much more pain was in stock based on a rather dire analysis by Goldman of the central bank's reserve position, a much more ominous factor for the coming currency collapse then Erdogan's reelection.

Since then it's gone from bad to worse, with Reuters also jumping on the bearish lira bandwagon and reporting that the **Turkish central bank's net forex reserves dropped into negative territory for the first time since 2002, standing at $-151.3 million on May 19,** as the bank - following Erdogan's strict orders - scrambled to counter demand for hard currencies (USD, gold, crypto) ahead of Sunday's runoff vote.

Forex demand in Turkey surged to record levels ahead of May 14 on companies' and individuals' expectations that the lira, which lost 44% in 2021 and 30% in 2022, will plunge after the vote (spoiler alert: those fears have been justified).



zerohedgedotcom/markets/game-over-turkey-net-reserves-turn-negative-morgan-stanley-sees-lira-collapsing

readlater, stats, journal: Mapping U.S. Urbanization, by State

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/sp/mapping-us-urbanization-by-state/

Court, censorship, tech: Supreme Court Rules In Favor of Twitter,

Google, Facebook In Liability Case Over User-Posted Content

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023 - 11:20 PM

Authored by Matthew Vadum via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

The Supreme Court unanimously sided with Twitter, Google, and Facebook, finding in a pair of decisions on May 18 that the Silicon Valley giants are shielded from liability for content posted by users.

Big Tech and its supporters had been deeply concerned that the court could eviscerate Section 230 of the federal Communications Decency Act of 1996, which generally prevents internet platforms and internet service providers from being held liable for what users say on them. They say the legal provision, sometimes called "the 26 words that created the internet," has fostered a climate online in which free speech has flourished.

Both President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump have attacked Section 230, calling for it to be repealed, but in the twin rulings, the Supreme Court sidestepped the Section 230 issue, much to the relief of the tech companies.

During oral arguments on Feb. 21**, the justices struggled over the extent to which social media platforms should be held liable when terrorist groups use the platforms to promote their cause.**

Thomas wrote that the plaintiffs sought to hold Twitter, Facebook, and Google "liable for the terrorist attack that allegedly injured them," but the court concluded that "plaintiffs' allegations are insufficient to establish that these defendants aided and abetted ISIS in carrying out the relevant attack."

Stats, energy, planet: "According to Statista Consumer Insights, **73 percent of American commuters use their own car to move between home and work**, making it by far the most popular mode of transportation. Meanwhile, only 13 percent of the 7,649 respondents use public transportation while 11 percent ride their bike."

Cars Still Dominate The American Commute

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023 - 09:40 PM

War: US Hawks Want Iron Dome For Ukraine, But It Would Be Ineffective

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023 - 07:40 PM

Israel has long rejected the idea of sending its Iron Dome missile defense systems to Ukraine, despite the pleadings of Zelensky and his officials. After all, the Iron Dome has been busy of late given recent missile barrages out of Gaza amid the flare-up in fighting.

But the Pentagon has signaled it could be prepared to ship its own Israeli-made Iron Dome systems, after earlier sending Patriot missile systems, the latter which may or may not be effective given Russia is now seeking to overwhelm Ukraine's defenses.

Tech, ai: **Apple Bans ChatGPT Use By Employees Over Fears Of Data Leaks**

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023 - 01:45 PM

Authored by Savannah Fortis via CoinTelegraph,com,

An internal document from the tech giant said that while it develops its own AI technology, employee usage of outside AI chatbots will be restricted...

Stats: **Post-9/11 US Conflicts Killed Over 4.5 Million People: Study**

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 - 08:40 PM

Authored by Brett Wilkins via Common Dreams,

The post-9/11 War on Terror may have caused **at least 4.5 million deaths in around half a dozen countries**, according to a report published Monday by the preeminent academic institution studying the costs, casualties, and consequences of a war in which U.S. bombs and bullets are still killing and wounding people in multiple nations.

The new report from the Costs of War Project at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs shows **"how death outlives war"** by examining people **killed indirectly by the War on Terror in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen**.

Middle east, war: **Assad Arrives To Red Carpet Treatment In Saudi Arabia, Historic 1st Since War Began**

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 - 06:20 PM

These are images that Washington never wanted world to behold, following more than a decade-long regime change proxy war aimed at Damascus...

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has in **a historic visit arrived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on Thursday in his presidential plane**.

Media, migrant: New York Town Declares State Of Emergency Banning Hotels, Facilities From Housing Immigrants

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 - 10:50 AM

Authored by Katabella Roberts via The Epoch Times,

Riverhead in Suffolk County, New York, declared a state of emergency on May 16 in an effort to prevent an influx of illegal immigrants from being sent to the small town following the expiration of Title 42.

Markets: Disney Abandons Billion-Dollar Florida Development Plan, Shutters 'Galactic Starcruiser' Hotel Amid DeSantis Suit

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 - 04:40 PM

Disney is pulling the plug on a $1 billion development in Orlando Florida amid a fierce dispute with Governor Ron DeSantis (D). The complex would have brought in over **2,000 jobs** to the region, with an average salary of $120,000, according to the *NY Times*, citing an estimate from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

The project, known as the Lake Nona Town Center, was supposed to involve the relocation of more than 1,000 employees from Southern California*, including most of a department known as Imagineering, which works with Disney's movie studios to develop theme park attractions. Most of the affected employees complained bitterly about having to move — some quit — but Disney largely held firm, partly because of a Florida tax credit that would have* ***allowed the company to recoup as much as $570 million over 20 years for building and occupying the complex****. -NY Times*

China, war, Europe: Ukraine Tells China Envoy It Will Not Cede Territory Or Accept 'Freeze'

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 - 02:45 PM

This week Ukraine's foreign minister met with China's special envoy to Kyiv, Li Hui, to discuss Beijing's as well as Ukraine's respective peace plans. FM Dmytro

Kuleba emphasized in the meeting that Ukraine **would not accept any scenario which results in ceding territory** to the Russians.

"Ukraine does not accept any proposals that would involve the loss of its territories or the freezing of the conflict," Kuleba said, reiterating Zelensky's longtime demand that Russian forces must withdraw from all Ukrainian territory before peace talks can begin. Peace depends on "respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine," he stressed.

Censorship, government, tech:

Unprecedented: Montana Gov Bans TikTok - First Amendment Battle Looms

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 - 01:25 PM

Montana Republican Governor Greg Gianforte on Wednesday signed into law a statewide ban on the enormously popular short-form video app, TikTok, which Beijing-based ByteDance owns. The platform has been accused of being **a potential conduit for data that the Chinese government could use to spread misinformation**.

"The Chinese Communist Party using TikTok to spy on Americans, violate their privacy, and collect their personal, private, and sensitive information is well-documented," said Gianforte in a statement.

*"Today, **Montana takes the most decisive action of any state to protect Montanans' private data** and sensitive personal information from being harvested by the Chinese Communist Party," the governor said.*

Last month, the bill titled SB419 was approved in the Montana House of Representatives, with a vote of 54-43. Following this, it was sent to his desk for signature.

Russian Train Derailed In Crimea Due To Sabotage

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 - 12:45 PM

Another Russian train derailment has occurred, this time in Crimea on Thursday, in what a number of Russian sources are describing as an act of sabotage.

Crimean Railways said in a statement that the disaster was caused by **"interference from outside persons"** - however there was no specific mention of the exact sabotage event in the initial press release, whether a blast or vandalism of the tracks.

Russia, war: **In Russia's 9th Large Missile Attack Wave This Month, Ukraine Claims Majority Intercepted**

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 - 12:10 PM

As we detailed previously, a large wave of Russian missiles targeted cities across Ukraine Wednesday night, it what appears an ongoing attempt to overwhelm Ukraine's anti-air defenses.

By Thursday morning it was confirmed that at least 30 cruise missile were launched against Ukraine in the overnight hours, resulting in one person killed and at least two wounded. But Ukrainian authorities are once again claiming to have shot down the vast majority of inbound missiles, with Ukraine's air force saying in a statement that 29 out of 30 of the missiles were intercepted.

BBC and others have tallied that this is the **ninth large wave of missile attacks launched by Russia this month alone**. But the report notes that Ukraine has also been shooting down more, also just after deploying US Patriot missile systems - at least one of which has already been struck by the Russians.

Markets, inflation: **Epic Collapse Of Egg Prices Shown In One Chart**

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 - 08:45 AM

Throughout most of 2022, consumers were left aghast in supermarkets at the soaring cost of eggs. However, since the end of December, prices have crashed, providing much-needed relief to cash-strapped consumers battered by two years of negative real wage growth.

We first identified the reversal in egg prices in a Feb. 8 note titled *"We've Got Great News: Wholesale Egg Prices "Collapse""*. This was followed by *"Egg Prices Finally Fall After Months Of Non-Stop Price Spikes"* in March and "Eggflation Ends With Cal-Maine Shares Down The Most Since 2008" in April.

Now new data from Urner Barry, a market research firm that tracks wholesale food prices, shows its *Urner Barry Egg Index* continues to plunge. Since peaking at $4.65 per dozen on Dec. 19, wholesale prices are now at .49.

Media: Bud Light Sales Crash "Getting Much Worse" In Latest Week Since Dylan Mulvaney Fiasco

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 - 08:20 AM

Authored by Tom Ozimek via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

The latest industry figures show that Bud Light's sales slump deepened into May as the fallout from the brand's engagement with transgender influencer Dylan Mulvaney continues to hammer Bud Light's bottom line.

LinkedIn Bans Journalist For Mentioning Durham Report

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023 - 07:30 AM

Submitted by Ben Sellers via Headline USA,

Under the pretense of being a career-builder site, **Microsoft-owned LinkedIn has flown largely below radar, but it may now be one of the most egregious social-media offenders in terms of practicing anti-conservative bias and censorship.**

Spying, censorship: "**Global spying will continue unabated.** The NSA's massive surveillance network, what the *Washington Post* refers to as a $500 billion "espionage empire," will continue to span the globe and target every single person on the planet who uses a phone or a computer. The NSA's Echelon program intercepts and analyzes virtually every phone call, fax and email message sent anywhere in the world. In addition to carrying out domestic surveillance on peaceful political groups such as Amnesty International, Greenpeace and several religious groups, Echelon has also been a keystone to the government's attempts at political and corporate espionage."
John & Nisha Whitehead
May 16, 2023
rutherforddotorg/publications_resources/john_whiteheads_commentary/business_as_usual_shutdown_or_not_the_police_state_will_continue_to_flourish

Censorship, government: Marjorie Taylor Greene Introduces Articles Of Impeachment Against FBI Director Chris Wray

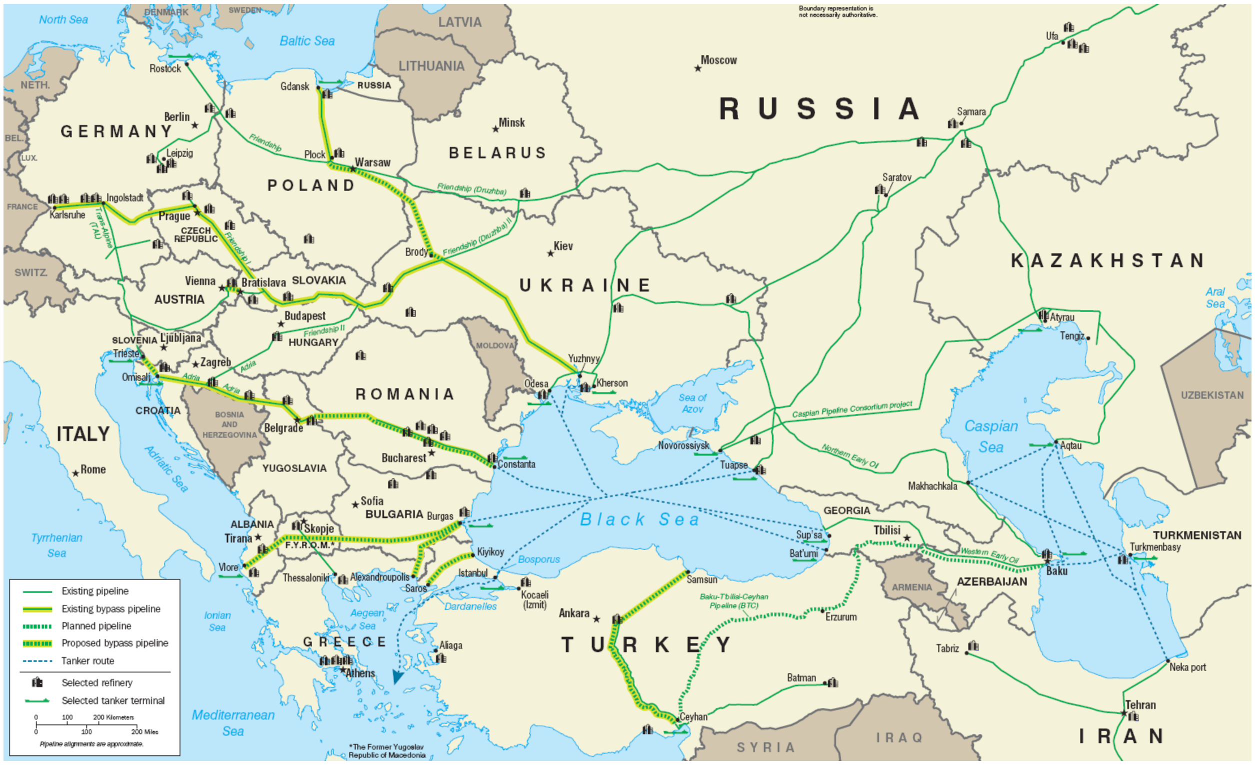
BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 - 10:00 PM

Authored by Joseph Lord via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) has introduced articles of impeachment against Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Christopher Wray.

“Director Wray has failed to uphold his oath and has instead overseen a denigration of the principles of our democratic republic by utilizing the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Federal police force to punish or intimidate anyone who questions or opposes the current regime,” Greene wrote in the articles of impeachment.

Pipeline, Russia, Europe: Druzhba pipeline


Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.
North Sea
DENMARK
SWEDEN
Baltic Sea
LATVIA
LITHUANIA
RUSSIA
Gdansk
Rostock
NETH.
Berlin
GERMANY
BEL.
LUX.
Leipzig
Plock
Warsaw
POLAND
BELARUS
Minsk
Moscow
RUSSIA
Samara
Ufa
Saratov
Friendship
Friendship (Druzhba)
Friendship (Druzhba) II
FRANCE
Karlsruhe
Ingolstadt
Prague
CZECH REPUBLIC
Trans-Alpine (TAL)
Brody
Kiev
UKRAINE
KAZAKHSTAN
SWITZ.
Vienna
Bratislava
SLOVAKIA
AUSTRIA
Budapest
HUNGARY
Friendship II
Atyrau
Tengiz
Aral Sea
SLOVENIA
Ljubljana
Trieste
Zagreb
Adria
Omisalj
MOLDOVA
Yuzhnyy
Odesa
Kherson
CROATIA
ROMANIA
Sea of Azov
Caspian Pipeline Consortium project
Caspian Sea
UZBEKISTAN
ITALY
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Belgrade
Bucharest
Constanta
Novorossiysk
Tuapse
Northern Early Oil
Aqtau
Rome
Adriatic Sea
YUGOSLAVIA
Sofia
BULGARIA
Burgas
Makhachkala
ALBANIA
Tirana
Skopje
F.Y.R.O.M.*
Black Sea
GEORGIA
Tbilisi
Sup'sa
Bat'umi
TURKMENISTAN
Turkmenbasy
Tyrrhenian Sea
Vlore
Thessaloniki
Alexandroupolis
Saros
Kiyikoy
Istanbul
Bosporus
Western Early Oil
Baku
AZERBAIJAN
ARMENIA
Samsun
Kocaeli (Izmit)
Dardanelles
Aegean Sea
Ionian Sea
Ankara
Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline (BTC)
Erzurum
GREECE
Aliaga
TURKEY
Tabriz
Neka port
Athens
Batman
Tehran
Mediterranean Sea
Ceyhan
SYRIA
IRAQ
IRAN
*The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Existing pipeline
Existing bypass pipeline
Planned pipeline
Proposed bypass pipeline
Tanker route
Selected refinery
Selected tanker terminal
0 100 200 Kilometers
0 100 200 Miles
Pipeline alignments are approximate.

On 18 December 1958, the 10th session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), held in Prague, adopted a decision and an agreement was signed on construction of a trunk crude oil pipeline from the USSR into Poland, Czechoslovakia, GDR and Hungary.[2] The construction of the initially proposed 5,327 kilometres (3,310 mi) long pipeline commenced in 1960.[3] Each country was to supply all necessary construction materials, machinery and equipment. Czechoslovakia received first oil in 1962, Hungary in September 1963, Poland in November 1963, and the GDR in December 1963. The whole pipeline was put into operation in October 1964. The first oil pumped through the Druzhba pipeline originated from the oil fields in Tatarstan and Samara (Kuybyshev) Oblast. In the 1970s, the Druzhba pipeline system was further enlarged with the construction of geographically parallel lines.[4]

Druzhba pipeline - Wikipedia

Narrative, vaccine: **Leaked Pentagon Report Forensically Dismantles Fauci-Led Natural Origin Study**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 - 10:40 PM

Authored by Hans Mahncke via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Researchers at the Department of Defense wrote a devastating takedown of the Proximal Origin study, which was used by Dr. Anthony Fauci as proof that the COVID-19 virus had come from nature.

The takedown, dated May 26, 2020, was written in the form of a working paper called “Critical analysis of Andersen et al. The proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2.” It was authored by Commander Jean-Paul Chretien, a Navy doctor working at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and Dr. Robert Cutlip, a research scientist at the Defense Intelligence Agency. The paper came to light on May 15, when it was leaked to the public via virus origins search group DRASTIC (Decentralized Radical Autonomous Search Team Investigating COVID-19).

The working paper forensically dismantles the natural origin case made in Proximal Origin and concludes, “The arguments that Andersen et al. use to support a natural-origin scenario for SARS-CoV-2 **are based not on scientific analysis, but on unwarranted assumptions.”**

The existence of this internal Pentagon paper is crucial, as it proves that government officials were well aware in the early months of the pandemic that there was no evidence in support of a natural origin of the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, given the crushing discrediting of Proximal Origin, Pentagon officials would also have been aware of Fauci’s efforts to seed a false narrative about the origin of COVID-19.

Proximal Origin was initially conceived by Fauci during a secret teleconference held on Feb. 1, 2020. The ostensible purpose of the teleconference was to deflect attention from a possible lab origin of COVID-19 and to shift the focus to a natural origin theory. Fauci directed a number of scientists, led by Kristian Andersen of Scripps Research and Robert Garry of Tulane Medical School, to pen a study that could be used to discredit the lab leak theory. Despite being directly involved in the inception of the paper, as well as in shaping its arguments, **Fauci’s role was concealed from the public. Fauci later bestowed Andersen and Garry with lavish taxpayer-funded grants.**

The defects in Proximal Origin were immediately noticed by reviewers at science journal Nature. This fact only became known late last year from emails obtained via the Freedom of Information Act by independent journalist Jimmy Tobias. However, with the help of Jeremy Farrar, who now is the chief scientist of the World Health Organization and who had helped Fauci shape the natural origin narrative, Proximal Origin was accepted for publication in Nature Medicine on March 17, 2020. It boldly concluded that no “laboratory-based scenario is plausible.”

On April 17, 2020, President Donald Trump confirmed that the COVID-19 pandemic likely started in a Wuhan laboratory in China. On the same day, while attending a White House press conference, Fauci categorically dismissed the possibility of a lab origin of COVID-19, citing Proximal Origin as corroboration. Fauci feigned independence, telling reporters that he could not recall the names of the authors. What was not known at the time was that Fauci not only knew the authors well, but had personally led the effort to have Proximal Origin written.

Proximal Origin became the media’s go-to natural origin authority, repeating Fauci’s claim that the paper provided dispositive proof that COVID-19 had come out of nature. It also became the most-read article on COVID-19 and one of the most cited academic papers of all time.

Yet, while the public was being told by Fauci and the media that Proximal Origin had settled the origin debate, Pentagon researchers came to a very different conclusion.

Chretien and Cutlip found that COVID-19’s features, which Proximal Origin ascribed to natural evolution, were actually “consistent with another scenario: that SARS-CoV-2 was developed in a laboratory, by methods that leading coronavirus researchers commonly use to investigate how the viruses infect cells and cause disease, assess the potential for animal coronaviruses to jump to humans, and develop drugs and vaccines.”

Middle east, Erdogan: **US & Syria Have Been Holding Secret Talks In Oman**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 - 09:20 PM

Via The Cradle,

A senior diplomatic official in the Arab League has revealed exclusively to *The Cradle* that secret, direct negotiations are currently taking place between the US and Syrian governments.

The diplomat, who revealed the information under the condition of anonymity, said that **“the talks took place in the Omani capital Muscat, ‘the city of secret negotiations’ between Washington and several nations in West Asia.”** He also pointed out that the “meetings included security figures from both countries and representatives of foreign Ministries.”

During the talks, Syrian officials mainly pressed for the complete withdrawal of US occupation troops from the country. According to field sources that spoke with *The Cradle*, around 2,000 American military personnel are present at any given time in Syrian territory across 22 US bases – a figure higher than the Pentagon's official count of 900 troops.

Censorship, government: **FBI Audit Reveals 8,000 Unjustified Searches Of Americans' Communications**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 - 08:40 PM

Authored by Lawrence Wilson via The Epoch Times,

The FBI conducted thousands of queries on digital data collected on U.S. citizens in 2021 and 2022 despite having no warrant and no justification under the FBI's own rules, according to an internal report released on May 10.

The audit, conducted by the FBI Office of Internal Auditing (OIA), was intended to examine the agency's compliance with rules for querying data the government routinely collects on U.S. citizens under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (FISA).

Ai: **Wendy's Plans New Underground Delivery System for Mobile Orders**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 - 07:00 PM

Fast food chain Wendy's is testing new technology to automate its stores. This is more bad news for human workers as automation and artificial intelligence invade the fast food industry.

Wendy's announced a new partnership with Pipedream, a hyper logistics company, to pilot-test the first underground autonomous robot system that will allow food from the kitchen to be sent to designated parking spots via an underground network of pipes.

Media: Another Disney World Brawl: Guest Conduct Mirrors Company's and Society's Decay

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 - 05:40 PM

Once quintessential family-friendly environments, Walt Disney amusement parks now mirror down-market food joints in featuring the basest displays of godawful human behavior.

To put it another way, Mickey Mouse is fast gaining on his rodent cousin Chuck E. Cheese in hosting viral-video slugfests.

The latest example was served up on Monday, as **two families brawled just beyond Disney World's entrance gates,** in a fight that reportedly arose from a family's desire to take a photo at the iconic location.

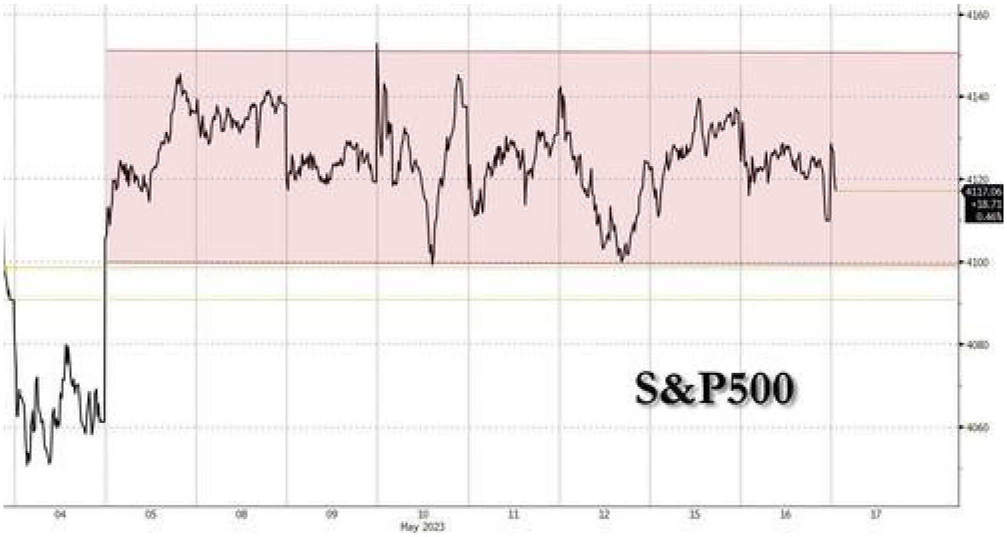
The Orange County Sheriff's Office responded to emergency calls at 2:30pm. Reportedly, **one family asked another family to move so they could take a group photo** at a spot that has the Magic Kingdom train station as a backdrop, along with Mickey Mouse topiary and, this year, a sign calling out the 100th anniversary of the Walt Disney Company.

Tempers flared, and violent impulses prevailed as **a member of one family reportedly punched a member of another in the face.** Things then quickly devolved into the kind of messy, co-ed slugfest seen with increasing regularity as American society steadily unravels -- and companies like Disney set out to destroy the values that once bound it.

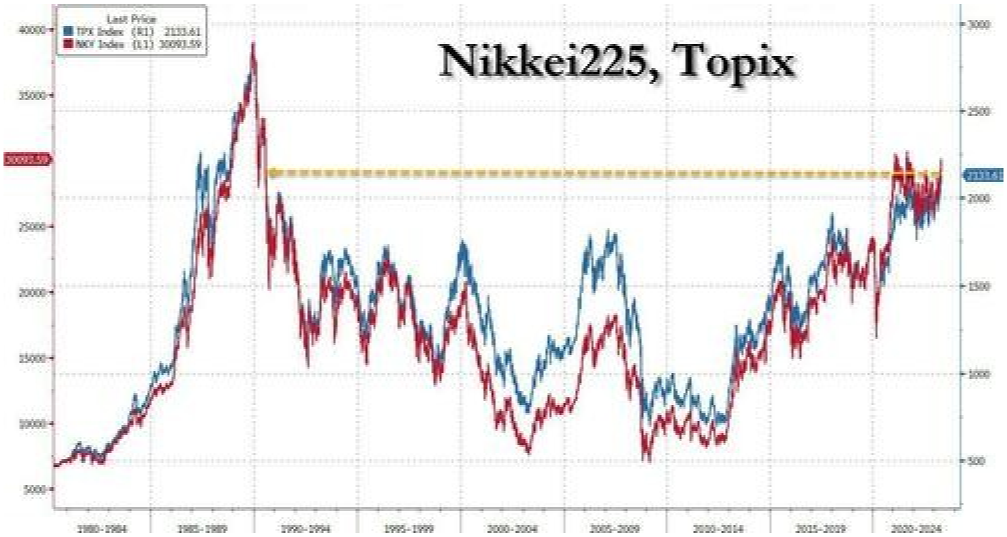
Inflation, japan, government: Japanese Stocks Just Hit A 33 Year High And "Have Further To Go"

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 - 01:25 PM

While everyone was looking at the recent move in US stocks, or rather **lack thereof** now that 0DTE vol-suppression has seemingly frozen the S&P in a 4100-4150 range in perpetuity...



... the real move has been taking place in Japan, where the Nikkei 225 closed above 30,000 for the first time since September 2021, just one day after the Topix closed at its highest level since 1990.



Russia: Uptick In Russian Military Flights Near Alaska As US Leads Massive Drills

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 - 12:05 PM

The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) has confirmed in a Wednesday statement it has witnessed an uptick in Russian aircraft flying near US airspace of Alaska over recent days.

The fresh statement posted to twitter indicated it detected and tracked a Russian military plane or planes operating in the Alaska air defense identification zone on Monday, which has been revealed for the first time. "This flight occurred as **several planned large-scale military training exercises are ongoing in and around Alaska**," NORAD added.

Europe: **Hungary Blocks €500 Million In EU Weapons Funding For**

Ukraine After Kiev Sanctions Hungary's Biggest Bank

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 - 10:30 AM

Authored by Denes Albert via Remix News,

Hungary won’t agree to EU financing as long as Ukraine keeps its ban on OTP Bank...

Hungary will block funding worth €500 million for arms to Kyiv, which would be the eighth transfer from the European Peace Facility (EPF), business daily Világgazdaság reported.

Budapest has demanded guarantees that the EPF will maintain its global horizon in the future and not only be used to arm Ukraine.

The Council of Foreign Ministers of the EU member states approved on May 5 the joint purchase by EU countries of artillery ammunition and missiles for Ukraine worth €1 billion, the EU Foreign Affairs Council announced on Friday. The aid, approved as part of the European Peace Facility, will allow the Ukrainian armed forces to be supplied with 155-millimeter caliber artillery ammunition and rockets.

A day before the council’s decision, the Ukrainian National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (NACC) included OTP Bank in the list of international war sponsors. This decision was justified by the position of the bank’s management on the continuation of its activities in Russia and the de facto recognition of the so-called “people’s republics” of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said on Friday in Stockholm that until Ukraine revokes the decision, the Hungarian government would be “hard pressed” to negotiate further sanctions that would require further sacrifices.

“It is scandalous that Ukraine has put OTP, which does not violate any laws, on the list of international sponsors of the war,” Szijjártó said.

Relations between Ukraine and Hungary have not been good for a while, dating back to before the war, mainly on account of Ukraine’s poor treatment of its ethnic Hungarian minority. However, Hungary’s decision to not send weapons to Ukraine, and its promotion of a peace deal and ceasefire in Ukraine have angered Ukraine and a host of Western governments.

Last month, Tamás Menczer, state secretary for bilateral relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said that Hungary will not support

Ukraine’s integration into the European Union or NATO until the rights of the Hungarian community in Ukraine are restored.

It has also been revealed that Ukraine planned to blow up a vital Russian pipeline supplying oil to Hungary in order to cripple Hungary’s industry, according to leaked U.S. intelligence documents. The news has been met with shock in Hungary, with one security analyst saying it amounted to an attack on Hungary, and therefore an attack on NATO.

“This is an attack on Hungary and therefore NATO, according to NATO Article 5,” Hungarian security policy expert György Nógrádi told daily Magyar Nemzet in an interview.

Censorship, war: **YouTube Is Taking Down Content Featuring Wagner Mercenary Group**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 - 10:10 AM

The Moscow Times' Russian service is reporting Tuesday that YouTube has begun **removing videos about Russia’s Wagner mercenary group**, with the the Google-owned video platform explaining in a statement its policies prohibit videos about "criminal and terrorist organizations".

"We make exceptions only for educational, documentary, artistic and scientific videos if they’re accompanied by suitable context and their publication is justified," it added. *The Times of London* newspaper this week reported the **UK is preparing to designate Wagner a global terror organization**.

Media, narrative: Bud Light Hangover Puts Woke Miller Lite Commercial In Cancel Crosshairs

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 - 07:55 AM

Miller Lite, one of America's most popular beers and recent alternative for Bud Light drinkers, released an advert in March that has gone viral recently, receiving millions of views on social media, with netizens accusing the brand of going 'woke.'

The video, originally posted on March 7 in celebration of Women's History Month, is titled *"Bad $#!T to Good $#!T"* and attempts to correct the history of women in the beer industry with an overly "feminist" tone.

"Here's a little known fact. Women were among the very first to brew beer ever — from Mesopotamia to the Middle Ages to Colonial America. Women were the ones doing the brewing," actress Ilana Glazer said in the video. She complained: "Centuries later, how did the industry pay homage to the founding mothers of beer? They put us in bikinis. Wow."

Glazer continued: "It's time beer made it up to women. So today, Miller Lite is on a mission to clean up not just their sh*t but the whole beer industry's sh*t. Miller Lite has been scouring the internet for all this sh*t and buying it that they can turn it into good sh*t for women brewers. Literally, good sh*t."

"So here's to women. Because without us there would be no beer," she claimed.

Although the video was posted months ago, a number of social media users have brought attention to the woke ad this week, as netizens accuse Miller Lite's corporate executives of "joining the woke cult" and failing to understand its customer base.

Here's the full ad that was published by *Citizen Free Press* and has received 5.5 million views in 24 hours.

The New York Post pointed out Miller Lite wiped the video from all its social media platforms. And probably for good reason because it didn't want to out-woke Bud Light following the transgender influencer Dylan Mulvaney controversy and resulting boycott.

New third-party point-of-sales data from Circana (formerly IRI) and Nielsen show Bud Light dollar share, volume share, and sales continue to worsen, more than a month after the Mulvaney controversy. Data showed that Coors Light, Miller Lite, and Modelo are increasing market share, but now as the spotlight has shifted onto Miller, there are growing calls on social media for boycotts.

Meanwhile, The Daily Caller revealed the chief marketing officer of Molson Coors Beverage, which owns Miller Lite, appears to be a hardcore liberal.

The Caller found Sofia Colucci has deleted several social media posts, such as this one:

Ukraine Aid Funding Expected To Run Out By Mid-Summer

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 - 04:25 PM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com,

The last massive aid package Congress authorized for Ukraine has about $6 billion left, which is expected to be used up by mid-summer, *Politico* reported Monday.

So far, the US has **authorized about $113 billion in spending** on the war in Ukraine, which includes military aid, direct budgetary aid, training, funding for US troop deployments in Eastern Europe, and other types of assistance.

Head Of Ukraine's Supreme Court Arrested For "Large-Scale Corruption"

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 - 12:05 AM

Yet another large-scale corruption scandal has come out of Ukraine as the country's National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO) have announced significant action taken against the highest court in the land.

"NABU and SAP have exposed **large-scale corruption in the Supreme Court**, in particular a scheme to obtain undue advantages by the leadership and judges of the Supreme Court," the anti-corruption bodies announced on their official social media channels Tuesday. It's a huge embarrassment given this is the highest legal body in the land, and the **nation's top judge**, responsible for interpreting and upholding the law.

Russia Says It Took Out US-Supplied Patriot Missile In Hypersonic Strike On Kiev

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 - 10:45 PM

Russia's military may have **taken out a US-supplied Patriot anti-air battery in Ukraine**, which if true would be a very significant first since the advanced Raytheon-made defense weapon was deployed there.

This came as Ukrainian officials have cited an exceptionally dense attack on Kyiv overnight, which included cruise missiles and drones, and even allegedly Kinzhal hypersonic missiles. Ukraine was hit by at least 18 missiles and nine drones were sent, with media reports saying some **six ballistic missiles (including Kinzhal) were launched**. But the Ukrainians are claiming that most or all of them were intercepted.

CIA Releases Video Urging Russians To Spy On Their Own Country

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 - 08:45 PM

In an unusual attempt at public outreach 'spy-style', the world's most powerful intelligence organization is **openly encouraging Russians to spy on their own country**.

The CIA released a nearly 2-minute video Monday on its official YouTube, Twitter, and Telegram channels. The Russian-language, professionally produced video urges individual Russians to provide intelligence on their country in the midst of the Ukraine war.

Middle east, war: **"It's One Man": Imran Khan Blames Pakistan Army Chief For Arrest & Deadly Protests**

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 - 08:25 PM

Via The Cradle,

Following the spectacular arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan over an alleged corruption case on May 9, Pakistan veered into anarchy and mayhem for a couple of days as enraged supporters went on a rampage, torching scores of government structures, including military posts, an air force base, and the home of the commander of the Lahore Corps.

On Friday, following his release on bail by order of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), Khan spoke to a foreign media outlet, **attributing his arrest not to the internal security agencies but to a single individual – the army chief**. The much-revered Pakistani army, he claimed, had unjustly tarnished his reputation for the events that transpired in the country.

Inflation, war: Treasury Burns $52BN Cash In One Day

US X-Date Is Now June 5 As Treasury Burns $52BN Cash In One Day

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 - 08:04 PM

Appendix: for those asking how it is possible that the US Treasury burned through $52.5 billion in cash in one day, here is the answer.

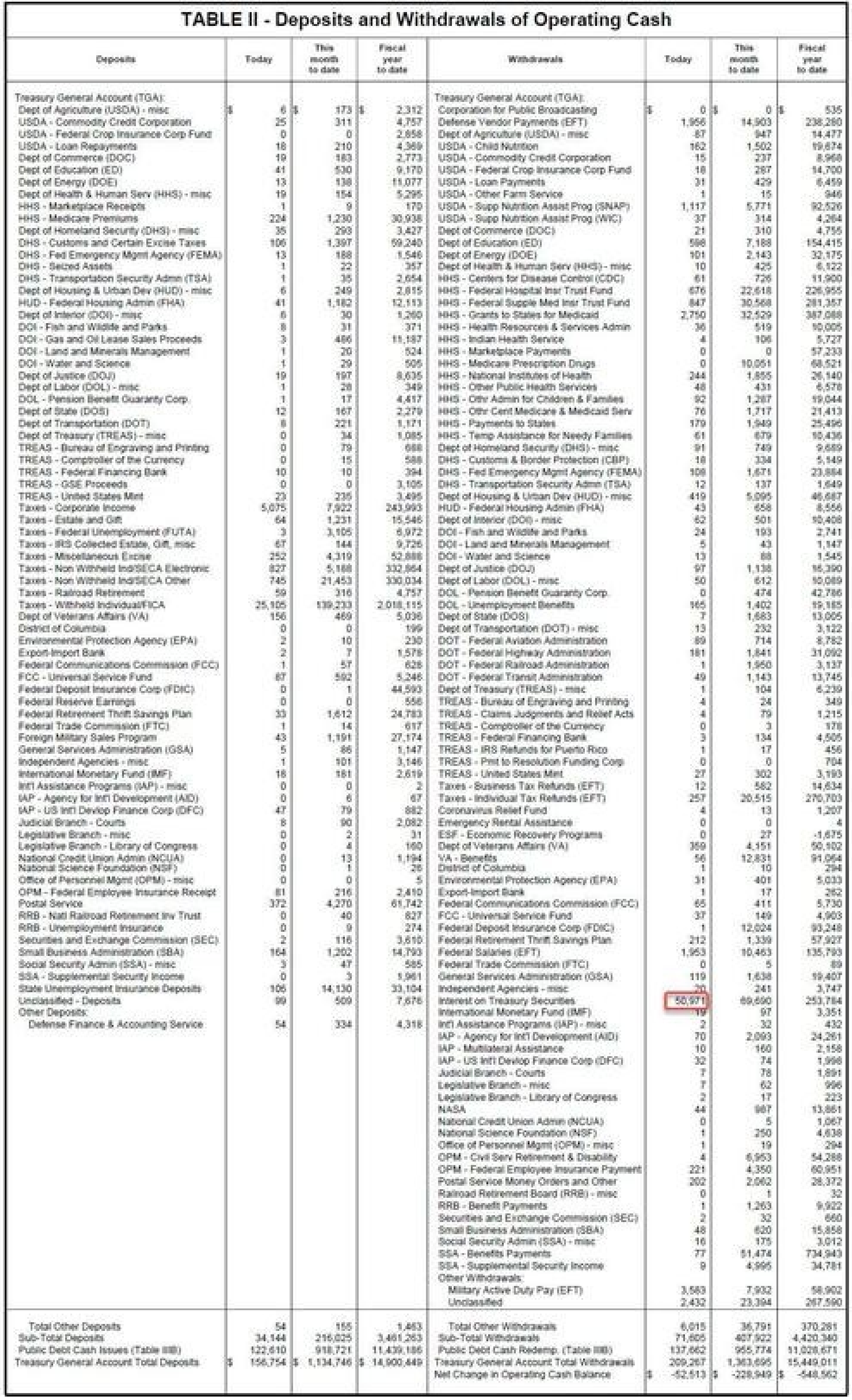


TABLE II - Deposits and Withdrawals of Operating Cash

Deposits	Today	This month to date	Fiscal year to date	Withdrawals	Today	This month to date	Fiscal year to date
Treasury General Account (TGA):				Treasury General Account (TGA):			
Dept of Agriculture (USDA) - misc	$ 6	$ 173	$ 2,312	Corporation for Public Broadcasting	$ 0	$ 0	$ 535
USDA - Commodity Credit Corporation	25	311	4,757	Defense Vendor Payments (EFT)	1,956	14,903	238,280
USDA - Federal Crop Insurance Corp Fund	0	0	2,858	Dept of Agriculture (USDA) - misc	87	947	14,477
USDA - Loan Repayments	18	210	4,369	USDA - Child Nutrition	162	1,502	19,674
Dept of Commerce (DOC)	19	183	2,773	USDA - Commodity Credit Corporation	15	237	8,968
Dept of Education (ED)	41	530	9,170	USDA - Federal Crop Insurance Corp Fund	18	287	14,700
Dept of Energy (DOE)	13	138	11,077	USDA - Loan Payments	31	429	6,459
Dept of Health & Human Serv (HHS) - misc	19	154	5,295	USDA - Other Farm Service	1	15	946
HHS - Marketplace Receipts	1	9	170	USDA - Supp Nutrition Assist Prog (SNAP)	1,117	5,771	92,526
HHS - Medicare Premiums	224	1,230	30,938	USDA - Supp Nutrition Assist Prog (WIC)	37	314	4,264
Dept of Homeland Security (DHS) - misc	35	293	3,427	Dept of Commerce (DOC)	21	310	4,755
DHS - Customs and Certain Excise Taxes	106	1,397	59,240	Dept of Education (ED)	598	7,188	154,415
DHS - Fed Emergency Mgmt Agency (FEMA)	13	188	1,546	Dept of Energy (DOE)	101	2,143	32,175
DHS - Seized Assets	1	22	357	Dept of Health & Human Serv (HHS) - misc	10	425	6,122
DHS - Transportation Security Admn (TSA)	1	35	2,654	HHS - Centers for Disease Control (CDC)	61	726	11,900
Dept of Housing & Urban Dev (HUD) - misc	6	249	2,815	HHS - Federal Hospital Insr Trust Fund	676	22,618	226,955
HUD - Federal Housing Admin (FHA)	41	1,182	12,113	HHS - Federal Supple Med Insr Trust Fund	847	30,568	281,357
Dept of Interior (DOI) - misc	6	30	1,260	HHS - Grants to States for Medicaid	2,750	32,529	387,088
DOI - Fish and Wildlife and Parks	8	31	371	HHS - Health Resources & Services Admin	36	519	10,005
DOI - Gas and Oil Lease Sales Proceeds	3	486	11,187	HHS - Indian Health Service	4	106	5,727
DOI - Land and Minerals Management	1	20	524	HHS - Marketplace Payments	0	0	57,233
DOI - Water and Science	1	29	505	HHS - Medicare Prescription Drugs	0	10,051	68,521
Dept of Justice (DOJ)	19	197	8,635	HHS - National Institutes of Health	244	1,855	26,140
Dept of Labor (DOL) - misc	1	28	349	HHS - Other Public Health Services	48	431	6,578
DOL - Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.	1	17	4,417	HHS - Othr Admin for Children & Families	92	1,287	19,044
Dept of State (DOS)	12	167	2,279	HHS - Othr Cent Medicare & Medicaid Serv	76	1,717	21,413
Dept of Transportation (DOT)	8	221	1,171	HHS - Payments to States	179	1,949	25,496
Dept of Treasury (TREAS) - misc	0	34	1,085	HHS - Temp Assistance for Needy Families	61	679	10,436
TREAS - Bureau of Engraving and Printing	0	79	688	Dept of Homeland Security (DHS) - misc	91	749	9,689
TREAS - Comptroller of the Currency	0	15	588	DHS - Customs & Border Protection (CBP)	18	334	5,149
TREAS - Federal Financing Bank	10	10	394	DHS - Fed Emergency Mgmt Agency (FEMA)	108	1,671	23,884
TREAS - GSE Proceeds	0	0	3,105	DHS - Transportation Security Admn (TSA)	12	137	1,649
TREAS - United States Mint	23	235	3,495	Dept of Housing & Urban Dev (HUD) - misc	419	5,095	46,687
Taxes - Corporate Income	5,075	7,922	243,993	HUD - Federal Housing Admin (FHA)	43	658	8,556
Taxes - Estate and Gift	64	1,231	15,546	Dept of Interior (DOI) - misc	62	501	10,408
Taxes - Federal Unemployment (FUTA)	3	3,105	6,972	DOI - Fish and Wildlife and Parks	24	193	2,741
Taxes - IRS Collected Estate, Gift, misc	67	144	9,726	DOI - Land and Minerals Management	5	43	1,147
Taxes - Miscellaneous Excise	252	4,319	52,888	DOI - Water and Science	13	88	1,545
Taxes - Non Withheld Ind/SECA Electronic	827	5,188	332,864	Dept of Justice (DOJ)	97	1,138	16,390
Taxes - Non Withheld Ind/SECA Other	745	21,453	330,034	Dept of Labor (DOL) - misc	50	612	10,089
Taxes - Railroad Retirement	59	316	4,757	DOL - Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.	0	474	42,786
Taxes - Withheld Individual/FICA	25,105	139,233	2,018,115	DOL - Unemployment Benefits	165	1,402	19,185
Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA)	156	469	5,036	Dept of State (DOS)	7	1,683	13,005
District of Columbia	0	0	199	Dept of Transportation (DOT) - misc	13	232	3,122
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	2	10	230	DOT - Federal Aviation Administration	89	714	8,782
Export-Import Bank	2	7	1,578	DOT - Federal Highway Administration	181	1,841	31,092
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	1	57	628	DOT - Federal Railroad Administration	1	1,950	3,137
FCC - Universal Service Fund	87	592	5,246	DOT - Federal Transit Administration	49	1,143	13,745
Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC)	0	1	44,593	Dept of Treasury (TREAS) - misc	1	104	6,239
Federal Reserve Earnings	0	0	556	TREAS - Bureau of Engraving and Printing	4	24	349
Federal Retirement Thrift Savings Plan	33	1,612	24,783	TREAS - Claims Judgments and Relief Acts	4	79	1,215
Federal Trade Commission (FTC)	1	14	617	TREAS - Comptroller of the Currency	0	3	178
Foreign Military Sales Program	43	1,191	27,174	TREAS - Federal Financing Bank	3	134	4,505
General Services Administration (GSA)	5	86	1,147	TREAS - IRS Refunds for Puerto Rico	1	17	456
Independent Agencies - misc	1	101	3,146	TREAS - Pmt to Resolution Funding Corp	0	0	704
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	18	181	2,619	TREAS - United States Mint	27	302	3,193
Int'l Assistance Programs (IAP) - misc	0	0	2	Taxes - Business Tax Refunds (EFT)	12	582	14,634
IAP - Agency for Int'l Development (AID)	0	6	67	Taxes - Individual Tax Refunds (EFT)	257	20,515	270,703
IAP - US Int'l Develop Finance Corp (DFC)	47	79	882	Coronavirus Relief Fund	4	13	1,207
Judicial Branch - Courts	8	90	2,082	Emergency Rental Assistance	0	0	4
Legislative Branch - misc	0	2	31	ESF - Economic Recovery Programs	0	27	-1,675
Legislative Branch - Library of Congress	0	4	160	Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA)	359	4,151	50,102
National Credit Union Admin (NCUA)	0	13	1,194	VA - Benefits	56	12,831	91,064
National Science Foundation (NSF)	0	1	26	District of Columbia	1	10	294
Office of Personnel Mgmt (OPM) - misc	0	0	5	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	31	401	5,033
OPM - Federal Employee Insurance Receipt	81	216	2,410	Export-Import Bank	1	17	262
Postal Service	372	4,270	61,742	Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	65	411	5,730
RRB - Natl Railroad Retirement Inv Trust	0	40	827	FCC - Universal Service Fund	37	149	4,903
RRB - Unemployment Insurance	0	9	274	Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC)	1	12,024	93,248
Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)	2	116	3,610	Federal Retirement Thrift Savings Plan	212	1,339	57,927
Small Business Administration (SBA)	164	1,202	14,793	Federal Salaries (EFT)	1,953	10,463	135,793
Social Security Admin (SSA) - misc	3	47	585	Federal Trade Commission (FTC)	0	5	89
SSA - Supplemental Security Income	0	3	1,961	General Services Administration (GSA)	119	1,638	19,407
State Unemployment Insurance Deposits	106	14,130	33,104	Independent Agencies - misc	20	241	3,747
Unclassified - Deposits	99	509	7,676	Interest on Treasury Securities	50,971	69,690	253,784
Other Deposits:				International Monetary Fund (IMF)	19	97	3,351
Defense Finance & Accounting Service	54	334	4,318	Int'l Assistance Programs (IAP) - misc	2	32	432
				IAP - Agency for Int'l Development (AID)	70	2,093	24,261
				IAP - Multilateral Assistance	10	160	2,158
				IAP - US Int'l Develop Finance Corp (DFC)	32	74	1,998
				Judicial Branch - Courts	7	78	1,891
				Legislative Branch - misc	7	62	996
				Legislative Branch - Library of Congress	2	17	223
				NASA	44	987	13,861
				National Credit Union Admin (NCUA)	0	5	1,067
				National Science Foundation (NSF)	1	250	4,638
				Office of Personnel Mgmt (OPM) - misc	1	19	294
				OPM - Civil Serv Retirement & Disability	4	6,953	54,288
				OPM - Federal Employee Insurance Payment	221	4,350	60,951
				Postal Service Money Orders and Other	202	2,062	28,372
				Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) - misc	0	1	32
				RRB - Benefit Payments	1	1,263	9,922
				Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)	2	32	660
				Small Business Administration (SBA)	48	620	15,858
				Social Security Admin (SSA) - misc	16	175	3,012
				SSA - Benefits Payments	77	51,474	734,943
				SSA - Supplemental Security Income	9	4,995	34,781
				Other Withdrawals:			
				Military Active Duty Pay (EFT)	3,583	7,932	58,902
				Unclassified	2,432	23,394	267,590
Total Other Deposits	54	155	1,463	Total Other Withdrawals	6,015	36,791	370,281
Sub-Total Deposits	34,144	216,025	3,461,263	Sub-Total Withdrawals	71,605	407,922	4,420,340
Public Debt Cash Issues (Table IIIB)	122,610	918,721	11,439,186	Public Debt Cash Redemp. (Table IIIB)	137,662	955,774	11,028,671
Treasury General Account Total Deposits	$ 156,754	$ 1,134,746	$ 14,900,449	Treasury General Account Total Withdrawals	209,267	1,363,695	15,449,011
				Net Change in Operating Cash Balance	$ -52,513	$ -228,949	$ -548,562

Energy, Europe, Russia: Newly-Launched Finnish Nuclear Plant Sees Electricity Prices Plunge By 75%

https://rmx.news/article/newly-launched-finnish-nuclear-plant-sees-electricity-prices-plunge-by-75-percent/

Germany, Russia, Europe, pipeline, narrative: **Nord Stream Island Shaken By "Power Pressure Wave From Atmosphere"**

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 - 06:45 AM

Inhabitants of the tiny Baltic Sea island of Bornholm, near last year's Nord Stream pipeline explosions, were alarmed Saturday when "acoustic pressure waves from an unknown source" sparked tremors, as first reported by [AP News](#).

Around 3 pm local time, [GEUS](#), the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, said they received dozens of calls from Bornholm residents about the ground shaking. Seismologists initially thought the source of the earthquake was a controlled explosion in nearby Poland but have since ruled that out.

"The seismologists can report that it is unlikely that the tremors originate from a controlled explosion in Poland, which was carried out shortly before the first reports of tremors on Bornholm," GEUS said.

GEUS said the tremors were "most likely acoustic pressure waves from one or more events somewhere in the atmosphere." It noted the seismic tremors were of a magnitude of 2.3. It wasn't clear what "caused these powerful pressure waves."

GEUS' seismographs located all over the country picked up tremors.

Authorities have yet to reveal who was behind the Nord Stream pipeline attack, but journalist Seymour Hersh has reported the US blew up the Russia-to-Germany natural gas pipeline as part of a covert operation under the guise of the BALTOPS 22 NATO exercise.

Erdogan, stats: **“combined foreign-investor holdings of Turkish stocks and bonds amounted to less than $24 billion on the Friday before the vote, a far cry from levels of above $150 billion a decade ago.”**

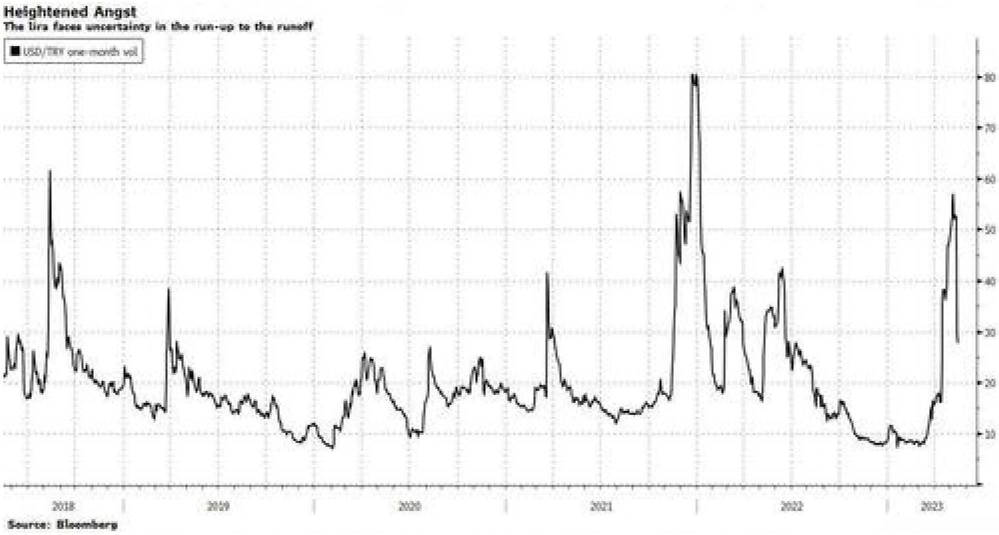
Market Braces For Turkish Lira Collapse To 24 Per Dollar

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 - 03:45 AM

By Ven Ram, Bloomberg markets live reporter and strategist

Turkey’s currency markets are on tenterhooks as the possibility of a runoff presidential vote opens up two weeks of uncertainty.

One-month volatility on the lira has surged to 48%, meaning the markets are braced for a possibility that the lira may decline to as much as 24.12 per dollar from 19.65 now. Preliminary results on Monday showed President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with a lead of more than 2 million votes but still without enough to avoid a second round on May 28 against rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu.



Heightened Angst

The lira faces uncertainty in the run-up to the runoff

Source: Bloomberg

The central bank’s back-door interventions to prop up the lira since December 2021 reached nearly $177 billion in April ahead of the elections, with the tally amounting to some $30 billion in April alone, according to Bloomberg Economics. Meanwhile, combined foreign-investor holdings of Turkish stocks and bonds amounted to less than $24 billion on the Friday before the vote, a far cry from levels of above $150 billion a decade ago.

Over in Thailand, it’s a different story, with the baht advancing on news that opposition parties are on course to wrest power from the nation’s military-backed government. While there is still much short-term uncertainty, the baht — which tumbled below 38 per dollar last year — looks on course to consolidate its gains in 2023 given the optimism surrounding the domestic economy.

Hungary Outraged By Leaked Ukrainian Plans To Blow Up Vital Oil Pipeline

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 - 04:30 AM

Via Remix News,

Hungarian media is abuzz with angry reactions after a leak obtained by The Washington Post revealed that Ukraine was planning to blow up the Druzhba oil pipeline that transports crude from Russia to Hungary.

According to the leaked documents, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky proposed at a February meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Yuliya Svyrydenko that Ukraine should blow up the pipeline in order to incapacitate the part of the Hungarian energy infrastructure reliant on Russian oil.

Government spokesman Zoltán Kovács reacted in a tweet with a short question: ***“How is it possible that Ukraine is plotting against a NATO country??”***

Hungarian security analyst Péter Tarjányi said in a Facebook post that this would be a “very unfriendly, mistaken and stupid move.”

He added: ***“I understand that Ukraine does not like many Hungarian government actions and communications, but this does not justify such a plan or idea.”***

Tarjányi then recalled that “on the one hand, Hungary has helped hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees over the past 15 months, despite all the differences of opinion. We have to understand, our country sent aid, medicine AND!!! in the end voted for ALL sanctions against Russia.

He then pointed out that “in addition to this, and this is not a negligible FACT, Hungary is a NATO member, so such a plan makes no sense at all. This is a huge self-deception on the part of Ukraine, and Kyiv must explain itself very quickly. The main question is: Why did the Ukrainian president think that such a plan could be justified???? Why did he think he could risk NATO support by launching such an attack? I await further information on the matter.”

While the Russian invasion of Ukraine severely reduced Russian crude imports to the European Union, according to Eurostat data, last year Hungary imported 4.8 million tons of crude from Russia, 1.4 million more than in 2021.

The leak was part of a trove of military intelligence documents posted on a Discord server by 21-year-old Jack Teixeira, who served as an airman at a National Guard unit in Massachusetts. Teixeira was taken into custody over the leaks and faces substantial prison time if convicted.

Europe, energy, Russia, Germany, journal: **Hungary, Czechia, and Slovakia received an exemption from participating in the EU’s sixth sanctions package in regards to the purchasing of Russian oil**

Meanwhile, landlocked countries that are heavily dependent on Russian oil were offered a delay in joining the EU embargo. Hungary and Slovakia were given until the end of 2024, while the Czech Republic has been offered a June 2024 deadline. While Slovakia and the Czech Republic appear ready to sign off the sanctions, Budapest continues to hold out on the oil embargo, which the Hungarian prime minister, Viktor Orbán, has likened to an atomic bomb hitting his country’s economy.
Hungary says it needs five years and hundreds of billions of forints to convert its Százhalombatta refinery near Budapest, which can take only Russian oil. Hungarian officials also say Croatia must boost its capacity to ensure access to alternative supplies.

In a combative speech after being sworn in for a fourth straight term, he blamed EU sanctions as partly responsible for high energy prices. “Every day Brussels abuses its power and tries to impose things on us that we do not want,” he said.

Hungary ‘holding EU hostage’ over sanctions on Russian oil | Hungary | The Guardian

Censorship, media: Fury over World Health Organisation's sex education about 'early childhood masturbation and gender identities' for UNDER-FOURS

The **World Health Organisation** has been urged to withdraw 'disturbing' guidance to schools about 'sexuality education' for young children.

Children under four should 'ask questions about sexuality' and 'explore **gender** identities,' according to a detailed WHO report aimed at policy makers across Europe.
The official guidance also supports providing information to children under four about 'enjoyment and pleasure when touching one's own body, early childhood masturbation.'

Fury over WHO's sex education about 'early childhood masturbation' for UNDER-FOURS | Daily Mail Online

Asia, markets, inflation: Youth unemployment soars to 20.4% in China..zh sees this as a sign fiscal stimulus has stopped working

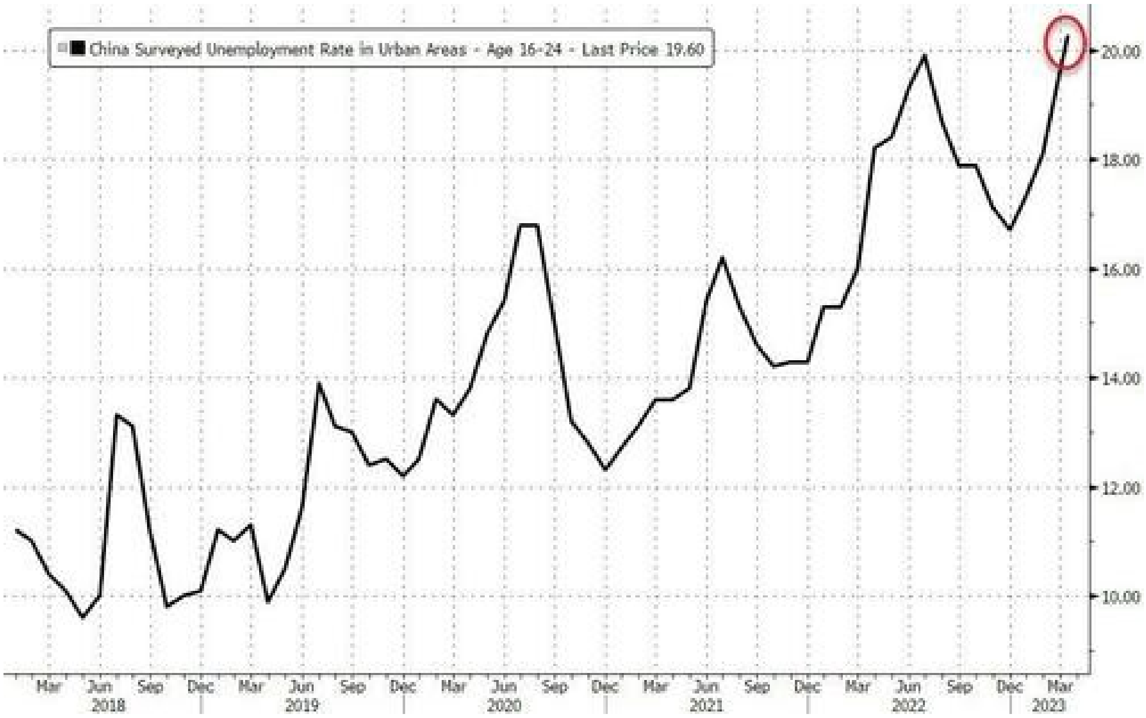
China Data Dump Total Disaster; Youth Unemployment Hits Record High

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 11:15 PM

EVERYTHING MISSED!

- *CHINA JAN.-APRIL **FIXED INVESTMENT FALLS** 0.64% M/M;RISES 4.7% Y/Y; EST. 5.7%
- *CHINA JAN.-APRIL **PROPERTY DEV. INVESTMENT FELL 6.2% Y/Y**, EST. -5.7%
- *CHINA APRIL **RETAIL SALES ROSE ONLY 18.4% Y/Y**; EST. 21.9%
- *CHINA JAN.-APRIL **INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT FALLS** 0.47% M/M; RISES 3.6% Y/Y; EST. 4.9%

There was a modest silver lining with the Surveyed Jobless rate dropped to 5.2% (exp 5.3%), BUT, **Youth unemployment soared to a record high 20.4%...**



Latin America, migrant, narrative: Watch: Border Patrol Apprehends Afghan Terror Suspect Entering US With Migrant Group

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 11:00 PM

The siege of the US southern border post-Title 42 has begun, with apprehended migrants already hitting historic single day records.

Illegal immigration is not just a political or social issue, it is also a security issue, and it would seem that **America's border security is fading fast**.

It is so weak, in fact, that a confirmed Afghan terrorist suspect has decided to give the border a try.

While the following suspect was captured, **the real question is how many terror suspects are they not catching as the border remains wide open on the whims of Joe Biden?**

War: Russia Strikes Ukrainian Arms Depot, Prompting Speculation Of Possible Fallout

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 10:40 PM

Authored by Adam Morrow via The Epoch Times,

Moscow says its forces have destroyed a large munitions depot in Ukraine's western city of Khmelnytskyi.

“One AFU [Armed Forces of Ukraine] ammunition depot has been destroyed close to Khmelnytskyi,” the Russian Defense Ministry stated in its daily briefing for May 14. Khmelnytskyi, the target of Russian strikes in February, is located roughly 170 miles southwest of Kyiv.

Narrative, vaccine, journal (another strange story from epoch times. Only 3 teachers, huh?)

Fired Teachers Who Refused COVID Vaccine To Get Full Reinstatement And Back Pay

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 08:40 PM

Authored by Jack Phillips via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Three Rhode Island teachers who were fired for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine have been offered their jobs back with full back pay after reaching a settlement with the school district.

Teachers Stephanie Hines, Brittany DiOrio, and Kerri Thurber were terminated from their positions in Barrington Public Schools after they had requested a religious exemption after the school mandated employees get the vaccine.

Last week, their attorney, Greg Piccirilli, and the school district said they had reached a settlement, allowing the teachers to return to their jobs. **They are also each entitled to $33,333 in damages along with their back pay. DiOrio will get $150,000, Thurber will get $128,000, and Hines will receive $65,000 under the agreement.**

“The three teachers have the opportunity to return to teaching positions within the Barrington School District should they choose to do so, at the steps they would have been at had they worked continuously,” the Barrington Public Schools district said in a statement on May 11.

Media: **Netflix Race-Swapped Cleopatra Show Receives Lowest Rating In Rotten Tomatoes History**

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 08:20 PM

Has the race-swapping fad within Hollywood finally hit a brick wall? Are they going to try to depict historic figures as they really looked once again, or will they double down? What is the real purpose behind this trend that many people are now referring to as "black washing?"

The political left often views history as inconvenient to their narrative, which is that different societies and ethnic groups should be homogenized into a single global entity, ostensibly with the same progressive ideology as they have. However, until the past century this has not been the case. Humanity remains discerning always, and seeks to group into tribes whenever possible.

Leftists believe that they can rewrite several thousand years of recorded history through Hollywood magic and con the next generation into thinking "diversity and inclusion" have always been a thing. In fact, it is nearly impossible to get a streaming show or movie produced these days without filmmakers being forced to follow a list of ESG requirements and a perfect pie chart of on-screen representation, even when the places depicted were historically of only one race. And, dare we say that it was Netflix that initially pioneered this woke entertainment trend.

Now it appears that their failure has come full circle with a series about Cleopatra VII executive produced by Jada Pinkett Smith (wife of the slap-happy Will Smith). The show, which is part of a project to showcase black girl-bosses through history, is billed as a serious docudrama but the depictions of Cleopatra as black are completely inaccurate. The public response has not been positive.

Netflix's Queen Cleopatra hit 1% on the Rotten Tomatoes rating website, a historic low for streaming television.

Attempts to paint the Egyptians as Sub-Saharan African in recent years tie into a conspiracy theory among leftist activists who believe that Egypt was actually an ancient black empire that historians have sought to maliciously "white wash." In reality, genetic testing shows that ancient Egyptians were most closely related to the peoples of the Near East, particularly from the Levant. This is the Eastern Mediterranean which today includes the countries of Turkey, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Cleopatra was Greek/Macedonian, not sub-Saharan African, and there is no serious debate over this in the historic community. Multiple images of Cleopatra from the 1st Century AD have been found, including frescos which depict Cleopatra as white.

Why not make a television series about actual black ruled kingdoms in Africa, such as the kingdom of Kush (neighbors to the Egyptians in today's Northern Sudan), or the Mali Empire? Probably because these groups have a limited impact on the annals of world history and that's not enough for woke Hollywood. They want Wakanda. They want Egypt to be their Wakanda, but it simply isn't so.

Why does it matter if a black actress plays Cleopatra? Because facts matter. While Hollywood has many times taken liberties with history in past films and shows, the goal should be to improve that pattern and strive for accuracy instead of going backwards. And, ultimately it matters because these kinds of woke productions are propaganda driven. These are not changes to history made with the intention to spice things up for audiences; no, these are changes specifically designed to lie to the public and condition them to believe things that are not true.

Black actors are not the problem. Leftist propaganda is the problem.

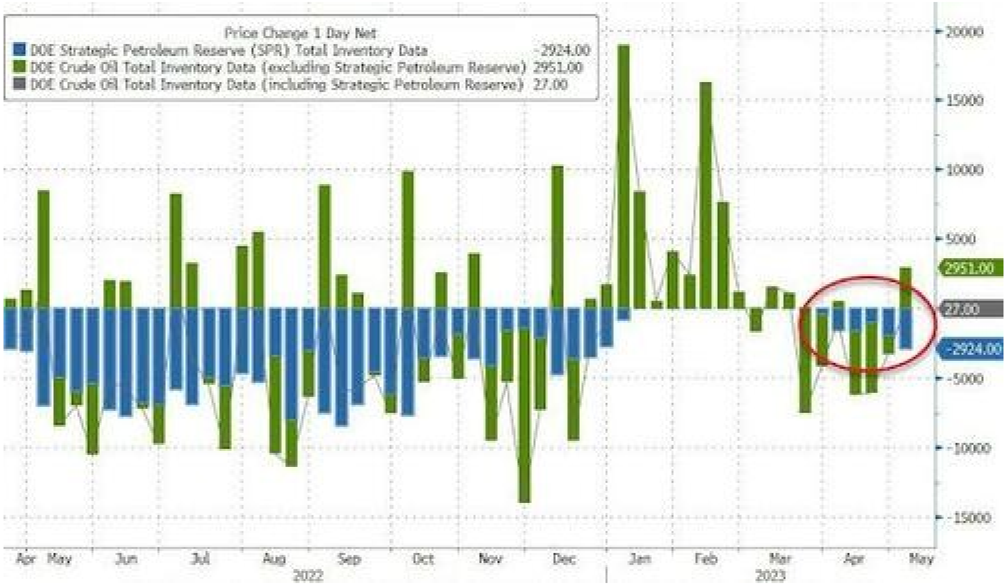
Energy, inflation, markets: US "Plans" To Buy 3 Million Barrels For SPR Days After It Drained 2.9 Million In One Week

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 05:13 PM

With oil stubbornly the only asset class that is pricing in if not a depression then certainly a deep recession - even as every other asset is already pricing in the inevitable Fed easing in response to said recession - and the price of WTI tumbling as low as $63 at the start of May, the credibility behind the Biden administration's promise to restock the recently drained SPR has become the butt of all jokes. As a reminder, last Fall the White House said the aim was to refill the reserve when prices were at or below about $67-$72 per barrel. Since then oil prices had fallen far below without as much as a squeak from Biden's energy guru, Hunter.

But that doesn't mean the pathological liars in the presidency will stop lying about refilling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; in fact just the opposite... and mere days after the DOE again moved the goalposts to a June "refill", moments ago Bloomberg reported that the US is preparing to buy up to a *whopping* 3 million barrels of crude oil - or one tanker's worth - to begin refilling its depleted Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

After selling more than 200 million barrels from the emergency stockpile last year to curb high energy prices and arrest the collapse of Democratic approval ratings, the Energy Department plans to solicit offers to replenish the reserve, which has fallen to the lowest level since 1983, according to Bloomberg. Which would be believable if only it wasn't one of the most recurring lie dispensed by an admin that views the price of gas like a hawk as if only gas prices will decide if the 80 year old Biden will get reelected. Of course, you will forgive us if we call even more bullshit from the admin that has taken lying to an artform, and **which just last week drained 2.9 million barrels of oil from the SPR**, long after it was supposed to have restarted refilling it.



In addition to direct purchases, the agency has said part of its strategy for refilling the reserve includes a return of oil from previous exchanges, and avoiding “unnecessary sales unrelated to supply disruptions.” The department successfully cancelled some 140 million barrels of oil sales mandated by Congress.

Last week, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said the government would repurchase crude oil for the reserve after a congressionally mandated drawdown ends in June. She also claimed that the refill the SPR as soon as maintenance work is completed... or generally just kicking the can to doing anything at all.

Case in point: an earlier attempt to refill the reserve, via another 'gargantuan' 3 million barrel-purchase, was canceled by the Energy Department in January, saying the offers it received were either too expensive or didn’t meet other specifications. Both explanations are the kind of pure, unadulterated bullshit one has come to expect from the most corrupt administration in US history, and explains why not only Gulf nations but US energy companies are counting the days until the senile occupant of the White House is once again voted out (only this time the fake mail in ballots won't keep him employed).

In the end, nothing will happen, or at best the White House will buy a few barrels here and there, and claim mission accomplished. Instead, the real buying will begin only when there is no choice - just after the next geopolitical shock - and when the price of one barrel is well in the triple digits.

War, Europe, Russia: Russian Jet Intercepts French, German Aircraft Near Border; Belarus Puts Troops On High Alert

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 02:25 PM

Russia's defense ministry on Monday said the military **scrambled fighter jets in response to surveillance aircraft from NATO countries approaching its border**. Interfax reported based on the statement that German and French aircraft approached the Russian border in the Baltic region, before being warned off by the Russian fighters.

"Two air targets were detected approaching Russia's state border," the defense ministry said. "In order to identify the targets and prevent the Russian state border being violated, an Su-27 fighter from the Baltic Fleet air force was scrambled."

"Russia said the flights were being conducted by a German P-3C patrol aircraft and a French Atlantic-2 maritime patrol jet," *Reuters* details further based on the statement. "After the Russian jet was scrambled and the French and German ones **turned away from Russia**, the Su-27 returned to base, the defense ministry said."

War, narrative, Russia: **Wagner Boss Rejects WaPo Report As 'Smear Campaign' Planted By Political Enemies**

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 12:25 PM

The Washington Post has issued a new report which was immediately met with incredulity and intense skepticism among many given the enormity of the claims, **alleging that Russia’s Wagner mercenary group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin offered to give the Ukrainians information on Russian troop positions**.

"In late January, with his mercenary forces dying by the thousands in a fight for the ruined city of Bakhmut, Wagner Group owner Yevgeniy Prigozhin made Ukraine an extraordinary offer," the WaPo report begins. "Prigozhin said that if Ukraine’s commanders withdrew their soldiers from the area around Bakhmut, he would give Kyiv information on Russian troop positions, **which Ukraine could use to attack them**."

The report described further based on the alleged US intelligence: "Prigozhin conveyed the proposal to his contacts in Ukraine’s military intelligence directorate, with whom he has maintained secret communications during the course of the war, according to previously unreported U.S. intelligence documents leaked on the group-chat platform Discord."

While the intensifying spat between Wagner and the regular chain of command has long been out in full view, and has likely been somewhat of an embarrassment for the defense ministry and the Kremlin, the Washington Post reporting is **describing outright treason**.

But given the *Post* is one of the most visible US newspapers in the world, Prigozhin was forced to address it. According to his words translated by Moscow Times/AFP:

> *The founder of Russia’s Wagner mercenary group Yevgeny Prigozhin called reports that he offered information on Russian troop positions to Ukraine "laughable" and a result of a possible **smear campaign**.*

...Prigozhin laughed off The Washington Post's report in an audio message posted on Telegram.

"Reading this is of course nice. It means I am not only fighting for Russia but Zelensky is also fulfilling my orders," Prigozhin said.

"This is laughable."

He said "people from Rublyovka" — a luxurious Moscow suburb home to the Russian elite — could be behind the allegations.

"Of course they will pour as much s on me as they can,"** he said.*

While firmly rejecting the claims, it's interesting that Prigozhin was immediately suspicious of his own political enemies inside Russia as being behind planting the "intelligence".

Another scenario could be that US intelligence itself knows this is an optimal time to **sow further suspicion, confusion, and division in Russian military ranks** at a moment the fate of Bakhmut hangs in the balance. By feeding US news outlets such allegations centering on Prigozhin, US intelligence can easily at this point ratchet the drama and pressure between the Russian defense ministry and Wagner.

The Kremlin in its Monday daily press briefing said it's initial take is that it "looks fake" when asked about the Washington Post report.

Media, stats: **Toronto 'Anti-Capitalist' Pay-When-You-Can Cafe Shuts Down After Just One Year**

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 11:55 AM

A Toronto cafe for anti-capitalists, "The Anarchist," is permanently shuttering after just 12 months in business after following a "pay-when-you-can" business model.

Journal, war, narrative:

WaPo Deletes Bizarre Zelensky Interview Where He Accuses Paper Of Aiding Russia

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 10:10 AM

Update (0900ET): *It appears, given the widespread acknowledgement of Zelenksy's cluelessness, The Washington Post has restored the embarrassing excerpt of the interview that was deleted earlier*

* * *

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.,com,

The Ukrainian leader was ***angry about information revealed by a leaked document****, saying sharing such info in Ukraine was a 'felony'...*

***The Washington Post* deleted a portion of an interview with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, where he accused the paper of helping Russia by posing a question about information contained in leaked classified documents.**

The interview was conducted on May 1 and published on Saturday. An archived version of the interview shows a testy exchange between Zelensky and the *Post*, which was later deleted.

The *Post* asked Zelensky about documents they obtained that they said showed members of Ukraine’s Main Directorate of Intelligence, known as HUR, had “back-channel contact” with Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of the Russian mercenary force Wagner Group.

Zelensky appeared to think the *Post* received the information from a Ukrainian and demanded the paper reveal its source.

“I would also like to ask you a question: With which sources from Ukraine do you have contact? Who is talking about the activities of our intelligence? Because

this is the most severe felony in our country. Which Ukrainians are you talking to?" he said.

Narrative, censorship: **Biden And DHS Secretary Claim 'White Supremacy' Is The Greatest US Terror Threat**

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 09:40 AM

If you were ever confused as to why the political left has been using the words 'white supremacy' every time they mention conservative ideals in their rhetoric, then you might just be a regular person trying to think logically. After all, millions of minorities are also conservative, libertarian and pro-constitution. Millions of minorities are anti-socialist, pro-2nd Amendment and pro-meritocracy. The accusation of white supremacy simply doesn't apply.

Yet, this narrative continues. Why? It's called social conditioning – Tell a big enough lie, tell it thousands of times, and eventually the public might subconsciously associate conservatives or conservative principles with racism even if the claim is provably false. They will even suggest a conservative is a "white supremacist" despite the fact that he or she is not white.

It's confusing because it defies all reason, but that's the point. You cannot reason with zealotry. You cannot argue facts with mental patients. Their goal is chaos; their strategy is to use madness to bewilder their victims.

Recently we showcased a Department of Homeland Security propaganda program uncovered through FOIA which was intended to use a choose-your-own-adventure style narrative to teach the public how to identify "radicalized" domestic threats. The majority of dangerous persons provided in sample cases were people espousing conservative values. In other words, the DHS is seeking to actively target conservatives as the primary terror threat in the US.

This revelation comes just as the White House launches a domestic terror tour, with Joe Biden proclaiming in an address to the exclusively black Howard University in Washington DC that:

"The most dangerous threat to our homeland is white supremacy … and I'm not just saying this because I'm at a black HBCU."

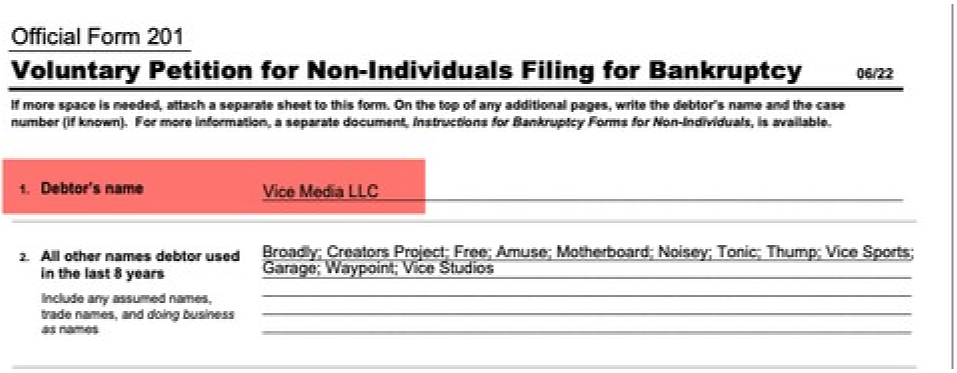
Journal, media, government, censorship: Soros And Fortress receive Vice Media for only 250 million, according to recent bankruptcy filings

Vice Media Declares Bankruptcy As Soros And Fortress Set To Become New Owners

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 08:45 AM

On Monday morning, Vice Media filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the Southern District of New York and is anticipated to be acquired by its creditors.

The Brooklyn-based media company that once boasted a $5.7 billion valuation listed assets and liabilities between $500 million to $1 billion.



Official Form 201

Voluntary Petition for Non-Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy 06/22

If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write the debtor's name and the case number (if known). For more information, a separate document, *Instructions for Bankruptcy Forms for Non-Individuals*, is available.

1. **Debtor's name** Vice Media LLC

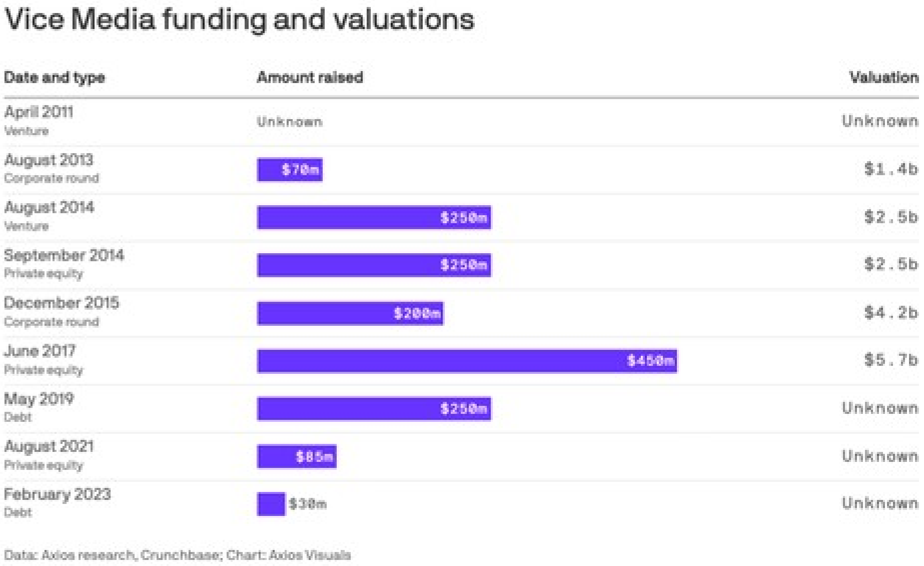
2. **All other names debtor used in the last 8 years** Broadly; Creators Project; Free; Amuse; Motherboard; Noisey; Tonic; Thump; Vice Sports; Garage; Waypoint; Vice Studios

Include any assumed names, trade names, and *doing business as* names

In a separate statement, Vice Media announced the "Lender Consortium," which includes Fortress Investment Group, Soros Fund Management, and Monroe Capital, will purchase the media outlet for approximately $225 million in the form of a credit bid for substantially all of the Company's assets.

We previously noted Fortress Investment Group and Soros Fund Management were interested in purchasing Vice Media out of bankruptcy. This morning's announcement wasn't unexpected, as the bankruptcy filing and eventual sale have been widely anticipated for the past few weeks.

The rapid decline of Vice Media, once valued at $5.7 billion in 2017, serves as a cautionary tale for all news media outlets about going 'woke' because it'll ultimately lead to going broke. Here's a decade of Vice funding and valuations via Axios:



Vice Media funding and valuations

Date and type	Amount raised	Valuation
April 2011 Venture	Unknown	Unknown
August 2013 Corporate round	$70m	$1.4b
August 2014 Venture	$250m	$2.5b
September 2014 Private equity	$250m	$2.5b
December 2015 Corporate round	$200m	$4.2b
June 2017 Private equity	$450m	$5.7b
May 2019 Debt	$250m	Unknown
August 2021 Private equity	$85m	Unknown
February 2023 Debt	$30m	Unknown

Data: Axios research, Crunchbase; Chart: Axios Visuals

Source: Axios

"This accelerated court-supervised sale process will strengthen the Company and position VICE for long-term growth, thereby safeguarding the kind of authentic journalism and content creation that makes VICE such a trusted brand for young people and such a valued partner to brands, agencies and platforms. We will have new ownership, a simplified capital structure and the ability to operate without the legacy liabilities that have been burdening our business. We look forward to completing the sale process in the next two to three months and charting a healthy and successful next chapter at VICE," said VICE's Co-Chief Executive Officers Bruce Dixon and Hozefa Lokhandwala.

In addition to Vice Media, BuzzFeed recently shut down its news operation, as did MTV News. The digital media industry has been experiencing a harsh downturn, with media outlets that embraced woke content forced to reduce headcount, restructure, and or altogether cease operations.

Once the sale of Vice Media is finalized this summer, with new stakeholders like the Soros Fund stepping in, the "authentic journalism" content will probably become even more woke than before.

Censorship: Teacher Sacked After Refusing To Use 8 Year-Old's Trans Pronouns

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 - 04:30 AM

Authored by Patricia Devlin via The Epoch Times,

A primary school teacher sacked after refusing to use an eight-year-old child's trans pronouns has said her only intention was to safeguard the pupil.

Erdogan, islam: **December 19, 2021: Lira Slides After Erdogan Says Islam Demands Lower Rates https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-12-19/turkey-s-erdogan-says-islam-demands-lower-rates-and-so-does-he?leadSource=uverify%20wall**

Journal, middle east: In 1997, while mayer of istanbul, Erdogan was imprisoned under the charge of inciting religious hatred..
In 1997, as mayor of Istanbul, he too spoke poetry to power. At a rally in the city of Siirt, Erdogan loosely referenced a poem by the Turkish nationalist Ziya Gokalp:

The mosques are our barracks,

the domes our helmets,

the minarets our bayonets,

and the believers our soldiers.

Erdogan had included these lines in past speeches. But this time they provoked Turkey’s secular military leaders and civilian elite, who had just forced the country’s first Islamist prime minister from power and who viewed Istanbul’s popular, Islamist-leaning mayor as a threat.

The poem “was an attention-getter,” Erdogan told *The New York Times* in 2003. “It would make the people spirited.” It also landed him in prison for four months on the charge of inciting religious hatred. In 1999, thousands of supporters escorted him to jail, where his popularity only grew. Erdogan seemingly emerged from prison a changed man, committed more to Western-style democracy than Islamism. He had learned that it “was necessary to catch up with developments, the modern age,” he said in 2002, the year his new political party won its first election.

theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/04/turkey-germany-erdogan-bohmermann/479814/

Migrant, government, media: NYC Converts Hotels To Shelters To

Accommodate Expected Influx Of Illegal Immigrants

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023 - 08:30 PM

Authored Efthymis Oraiopoulos via The Epoch Times,

The historic Roosevelt Hotel in midtown Manhattan—shuttered three years ago—is being reopened to accommodate an anticipated influx of illegal immigrants just as other New York City hotels are being converted to emergency shelters.

Middle east, war: Gaza Truce Holds Into Sunday Between Israel & Islamic Jihad

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023 - 03:00 PM

A truce between Israel and militant factions in Gaza **appears to be holding as normal life resumes** on both sides Sunday following the deal formally taking effect since 10pm the night before.

The past five days of fighting, which saw hundreds of rockets fired from the strip - mainly by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) group - resulted in sustained massive Israeli airstrikes against targets in Gaza. This resulted in **34 Palestinians killed**, among them some of PIJ's senior commandos. An Israeli was killed when a Palestinian rocket slammed into an apartment complex, and there were multiple others injured.

Europe, energy, Germany: **EU Considers Formally Banning Russian Oil Flows To Germany And Poland**

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 - 03:40 PM

Authored by Charles Kennedy via OilPrice.com,

The European Union is considering **formally banning Russian crude flows via the Druzhba pipeline to Germany and Poland,** which have already stopped importing Russia's crude, Bloomberg reported on Friday, citing documents it has seen.

Erdogan, middle east: **Top Erdogan Official Accuses US Of Meddling In Turkish Elections**

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 - 01:00 PM

Turkey's Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu (of Erdogan's Justice and Development Party/AKP) on Friday **charged that the United States is meddling in the country's elections**, set to take place Sunday. The national election is shaping up to be the biggest challenge to President Erdogan's grip on power in years.

"**The United States is meddling in these elections**... Everyone in this country already knows this, US President [Joe Biden] himself declares this. The attack on [presidential candidate of Turkiye and leader of the Memleket party] Muharrem Ince... **it is clear where it came from, it is clear where it was**

coordinated. This is America. In recent days, Biden has stepped up his people in Turkiye," Soylu said in an interview, as translated in regional media.

Russia, war, Europe: Wagner Chief Clarifies That Only His Forces Making Gains In Bakhmut

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 10:29 PM

Update(2130ET): Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin clarified late Saturday in an audio statement that despite regular Russian forces having "retreated" from parts of Bakhmut's north (in his words), **his own Wagner fighters are still advancing**. So it seems his power struggle with the military chain of command and defense ministry continues, as he persists in his controversial narrative that it's only his company that's spearheading gains and engaged in heavy fighting (akin to the battle for Soledar).

Prigozhin stressed that Wagner advanced today, and that Ukraine controls only 1 square km in Bahmut and remains in control of just 29 or so tall buildings.

Meanwhile TASS has cited the head of an elite Russian unit to say that intensified Ukrainian engagement has only happened along some parts of the frontlines:

Commander of the Akhmat commando unit and Deputy Commander of the 2nd Army Corps Apty Alaudinov said on Saturday that **Ukrainian troops increased their activity only in some sectors of the line of engagement**.

Earlier, Yan Gagin, an advisor to Acting DPR Head Denis Pushilin, reported that Ukrainian units had become more active along the entire line of combat engagement.

"The Ukrainian units became active not along the entire line of combat engagement, **only in certain parts and still the situation has not significantly changed**," Alaudinov told TASS.

"The situation is completely under control in our sector," he added.

The day prior, the defense ministry acknowledged some degree of a pullback in limited sectors in the north of the city. Prigozhin had described the regular forces as "fleeing" - a characterization which was denied by the Kremlin.

* * *

Shortly after a Russian military helicopter crash was reported early Saturday in a region near the Ukrainian border, **a second crash of an aircraft has been reported**, at a moment of continuing general bad news for Moscow related to the Ukraine war. Possibly a third aircraft downing has also been reported - all within a matter of hours.

"**An Su-34 fighter jet crashed in Bryansk Region**, Russia near the Ukrainian border, minutes after reports that an unidentified helicopter also went down in the area, TASS news agency reported on Saturday, citing sources," state media is reporting.

Stats, media: **American Fast-Food Chains Use Seaweed, Soy, And Even Wood To Beef Up Menu Items, Study Reveals**

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 10:00 PM

An exclusive investigation by Daily Mail might make you reconsider your next order of fried chicken at American fast-food chains. The investigation reveals these restaurants infuse their chicken with additives, preservatives, and other proteins to keep costs low. Some of these menu items are described as "premium" or "all-white-meat," but far from it, instead include ingredients such as seaweed and even wood pulp.

The report said there are more than 120 ingredients hidden within chicken burgers or nuggets at fast food restaurants. Those ingredients are listed below on a restaurant-by-restaurant basis:

McDonald's

The enduringly popular McDonald's Chicken McNuggets have been the center of controversy in the past - after a now-debunked video emerged in 2010 of 'pink slime' supposedly going into the nuggets at a factory.

The brand worked hard to dispel this myth, but the treats are still not made from 100 percent chicken meat.

The nuggets do contain white boneless chicken, but they are also full of several types of flour, flavorings, spices, acid, yeast extract, dextrose and lemon juice solids.

Wendy's

In the patty of the Wendy's classic chicken sandwich, only 56 percent of the meat is chicken breast.

The other 44 percent is a mixture of water, wheat flour, starch, acids, spices and flavor powders. It also includes fully refined soybean oil, raising agent and more unusual ingredients such a dehydrated chicken powder and smoke flavoring.

The patty, bun and mayonnaise include over five allergens, so it's worth checking the recipe before you tuck in if you have any allergies.

Carl's Jr.

Carl's Jr nuggets are set apart from the other offerings on the market with their distinctive star shape.

They also include some more unusual ingredients - namely 'chicken type flavor' - according to The Daily Meal.

The outlet reports that the nuggets include beef flavor, which has three different types of protein in it (from hydrolyzed soy, wheat, and corn protein) and beef fat.

As for the spicy chicken sandwich, it reportedly contains 'isolated oat product' in its patty, and microcrystalline cellulose in its bun - which is a refined wood pulp.

Subway

The chain has faced criticism in the past, with claims that some of its chicken products were made from non-chicken material. Subway responded to the claims, saying its 'Oven Roasted Chicken and chicken strips are made from 100 percent all white meat chicken.'

However its products certainly aren't made from chicken alone. Its oven-roasted chicken also contains flavorings, potato starch and carrageenan.

This is a chemical compound which is safe to eat, but is made from parts of various red seaweeds. It is used to thicken foods, and does not have any nutritional value.

Jack in the Box

Jack in the Box has various poultry-based offerings on its menu, including chicken tenders and nuggets.

These products often contain wheat and milk, so those with allergens should check the ingredient list.

The meat in the popcorn chicken also contains 'isolated oat product' among its other ingredients of chicken breast strips with rib meat, water and potato starch.

Whataburger

According to The Daily Meal, a significant proportion of the chain's Southern-style chicken strips are not pure chicken meat, with up to 12 percent of each tender containing ingredients like water, sodium phosphate, and isolated soy protein.

Isolated soy protein, which is derived from soy beans, is a common ingredient in processed foods as a way to bulk them out.

This last ingredient is a common fixture in processed foods, the outlet reports. A protein derived from soybeans, isolated soy protein is a cost-effective way to bulk out foods.

But those with potentially dangerous soy allergies should stay away from anything containing soy protein.

Burger King

According to The Daily Meal, Burger King chicken nuggets also contain a whole host of flavorings alongside chicken breast and rib meat.

These include autolyzed yeast extract, a substance derived from yeast, and other flavor enhancers including disodium guanylate, a form of salt that is sometimes used in tandem with MSG, and which is also found under the name E627.

They are also unsuitable for anyone who can't eat eggs, milk, wheat, gluten or celery.

Domino's

Although known for its pizza rather than the traditional chicken tender or nugget, there are also extra ingredients in the fast food giant's poultry offerings.

Its grilled chicken contains tens of ingredients including modified corn starch, modified food starch and lipolyzed butter oil.

Modified starch is typically used as a thickening agent, stabilizer or emulsifier, and to make foods last longer.

Dairy Queen

Dairy Queen's chicken strips contain a substantial percentage of ingredients other than pure meat. The uncooked tenderloin chicken fritters contain up to 18 percent of a solution of water, hydrolyzed soy protein, salt, and sodium phosphates.

Sodium phosphate is used to improve the chicken's texture, and help keep it fresher for longer.

A Dairy Queen representative said: 'Our chicken strips are 100% seasoned, white meat chicken. Each chicken strip is a single tenderloin that is marinated and breaded for maximum flavor. While we provide our ingredient lists to the public on DairyQueen.com, we refrain from providing the exact recipe or ingredient percentage for competitive reasons.'

Arby's

According to The Daily Meal, the Buttermilk Chicken Fillet contains a surprising ingredient to help enhance its flavor - protein concentrate.

Commonly consumed by athletes and bodybuilders, whey protein is frequently added to other foods to give them a textural and tasty boost and help them last longer on the shelf, it reports.

White Castle

The shape of the chicken offering at this chain may be a clue that it is not 100 percent meat.

These rings contain an extensive list of ingredients, including preservative carrageenan - which is derived from seaweed - and powdered cooked chicken.

And a recent study from Imperial's School of Public Health found higher consumption of ultra-processed foods (like the ones above) might be linked to an increased risk of developing and dying from cancer.

One might wonder why BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager overseeing trillions of dollars, hasn't shaken up the fast food industry that appears to be serving consumers unhealthy food, which, according to Imperial, could potentially contribute to cancer. Isn't the 'S' in ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) supposed to promote the health and safety of society and enhance the quality of life? Maybe Larry Fink is preoccupied with more important concerns, like climate change and gender identity.

Stats, court, censorship: **when one can’t post bail, they can end up in jail for as long as years waiting for trial…**

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signs into law a bill that establishes a task force to come up with recommendations on how to give reparations in Sacramento, Calif., on Sept. 30, 2020. (Office of the Governor via AP)

Government officials and prosecutors have argued that it’s unfair to low-income people who can’t afford it to pay cash for bail and have fought to end this requirement.

“Pretrial detention can last months and even years, during which incarcerated individuals suffer countless harms, including deteriorating mental and physical health, risk of sexual violence and lasting trauma,” the committee wrote.

“These harms exert significant pressure on defendants to accept plea bargains in order to be released from custody rather than fighting the charges at trial.”

California Reparations Committee Calls for Ending Cash Bail

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 07:30 PM

Authored by Elizabeth Dowell via The Epoch Times,

California’s reparations committee is calling for state officials to end cash bail and the prosecution of low-level crimes after approving a reparations payment plan to make amends for slavery and anti-black racism earlier this week.

The nine-member committee, which was created by state legislation signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2020, approved its final recommendations to the California Legislature, which will decide whether to enact the measures and send them to the governor’s desk to be signed into law.

A final report is due to the Legislature by July 1, where recommendations include several proposals related to criminal justice, including the elimination of cash bail.

“The cash bail system is at the core of many of the class and race-based inequities in the criminal legal system,” the committee wrote in its proposal.

“The task force accordingly recommends that the legislature take all steps necessary to definitively end cash bail.”

Middle east, war, Erdogan: Egypt Rejects US Requests To Block Russian Military Flights

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 05:00 PM

Washington is trying to pressure Egypt into **closing its airspace for all Russian military flights**, but the regional US ally isn't having it, which also awkwardly comes following a recent Pentagon leak showing Cairo planned to supply Moscow with rockets.

"Egypt has **ignored U.S. requests to close its airspace** to Russian military flights, American and Egyptian officials said, **testing the limits of Washington’s ability to choke off Moscow’s supplies** ahead of an expected Ukrainian counteroffensive," *The Wall Street Journal* reports Friday.

Journal, government, ai:

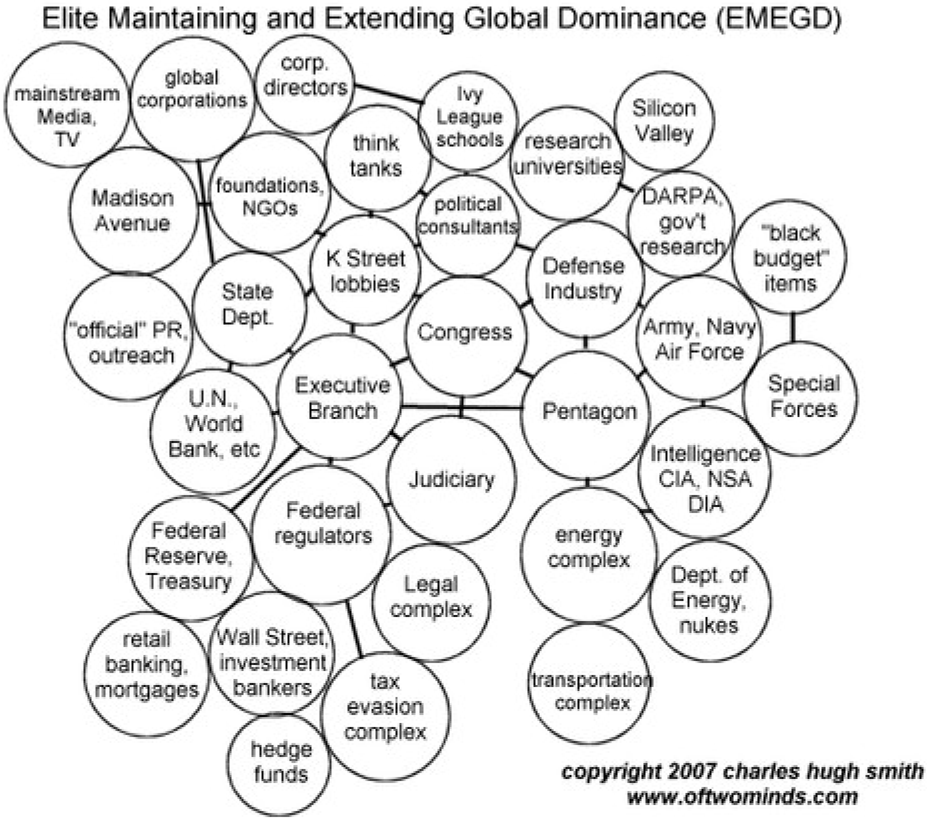
Oftwomindsblog illustrates the public/private lexicon of control, but in 2007.

Our Two Deep States: One Public, One Private

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 04:30 PM

Authored by Charles Hugh Smith via OfTwoMinds blog, *One Deep State is bad enough, but a renegade, predatory private-sector Deep State is intolerable.*

In 2007, well before the term *Deep State* entered the common lexicon, I sketched the interconnected public-private pieces of the Deep State, which I termed the *elite maintaining and extending global dominance*. This diagram doesn't make all the connections or list all the consequential *nodes of influence* of course, but you get the idea: elected officials, i.e. "democracy," play a modest role in the entire structure, which displays remarkable continuity regardless of which politicians and parties are currently in power.


Elite Maintaining and Extending Global Dominance (EMEGD)
mainstream Media, TV
global corporations
corp. directors
Ivy League schools
Silicon Valley
think tanks
research universities
Madison Avenue
foundations, NGOs
political consultants
DARPA, gov't research
"black budget" items
K Street lobbies
Defense Industry
State Dept.
"official" PR, outreach
Congress
Army, Navy Air Force
Special Forces
Executive Branch
Pentagon
U.N., World Bank, etc
Judiciary
Intelligence CIA, NSA DIA
Federal Reserve, Treasury
Federal regulators
energy complex
Legal complex
Dept. of Energy, nukes
retail banking, mortgages
Wall Street, investment bankers
tax evasion complex
transportation complex
hedge funds
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www.oftwominds.com

That's the whole idea, of course: continuity that can't be disrupted by an election.

What's changed is the emergence of a private-sector Deep State--a.k.a. Big Tech--that has established unprecedented power outside the control of elected officials even as it continues to play ball with the traditional public-sector dominated Deep State of the alphabet federal agencies and informal public-private sector ties.

This private-sector Deep State is free to pursue its own agenda of information-gathering and selling, surveillance, influence and profit-maximizing monopolies while seeming to serve the traditional Deep State as information-collecting and censorship services.

What makes Big Tech a private-sector Deep State is that nobody outside the corporations knows precisely what's in their databases and algorithms or the extent of their capabilities. Sure, they share information with the traditional Deep State players, and censor whomever it's "suggested" they censor / shadow-ban, but that transfer isn't 100% of what Big Tech has in hand. All that transfer is just enough to appear to be playing ball so Big Tech can "suggest" *OK, we've done our part, now leave us alone*.

The problem with both Deep States is there is no recourse within the system for those censored / shadow-banned, those being tracked, those whose data is being siphoned off and sold to whomever offers a hefty sum of cash, and so on. The basic idea of the US Constitution is that every citizen has some recourse via the judicial or political systems should the state (government) or private entities overstep the boundaries established by the Constitution.

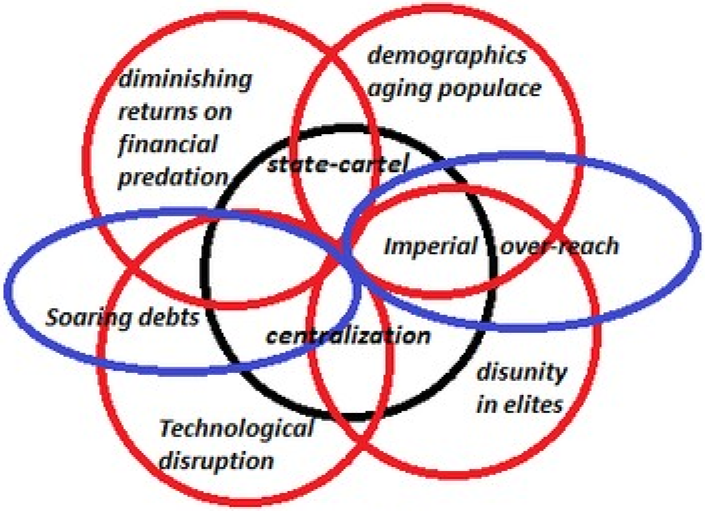
Citizens have no recourse against the predations of Big Tech or the traditional Deep State. Um, hello there, Big Tech, could you please share precisely how and when I've been shadow-banned, who else has copies of the data you've collected about me and how much you "earned" selling my data to third parties? What's actually in your AI tools? Does any public agency have any real oversight power over all the looting, pillaging and predation you're pursuing?

So sorry (heh), you agreed to our *terms of service* which grant us all the rights and our algorithms and databases are *protected proprietary corporate property*. So *blow chow, pal, you have no recourse.* We're a corporation, we have rights; you're only a citizen, you have none. You currently have permission to post photos of puppies and kittens, so just enjoy the photos of puppies and kittens and be happy you haven't yet been digitally erased entirely.

Um, hello there, Alphabet-Soup Agency, could I please have all the files you've assembled on me? Yes, there is a protocol for requesting information (the Freedom of Information Act FOIA), but there are exemptions and delays, so don't hold your breath.

Meanwhile, the nation careens into an era of *Polycrisis*, defined as *a cluster of related global risks with compounding effects, such that the overall* *impact exceeds the sum of each part.* This is of course a classic description of *emergent systems*, which display characteristics that differ from those generated by each individual component.

I've sketched out a few of these dynamics in the chart below of *overlapping crises*.


diminishing returns on financial predation
demographics aging populace
state-cartel
Imperial over-reach
Soaring debts
centralization
disunity in elites
Technological disruption

Overlapping Crises:
"Solutions" Are Now Mutually Reinforcing Problems

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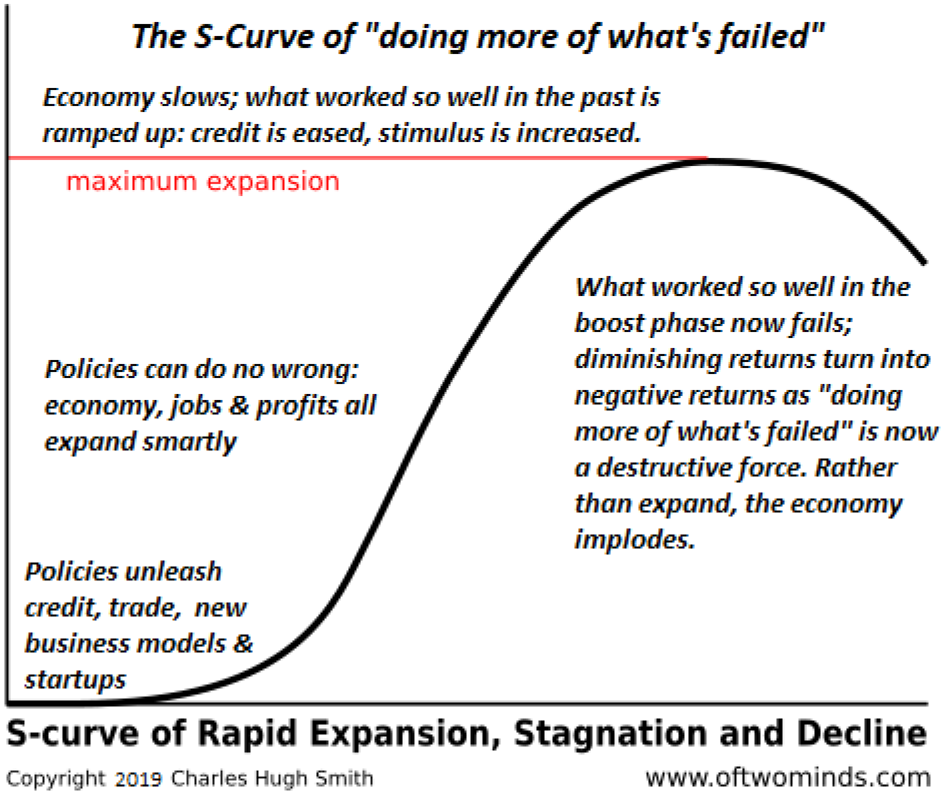
At the same time, the global status quo, regardless of political flavor, is sliding down the backside of the S-Curve (see graph below). Everything that was considered a dependable solution is now the problem. There are no solutions within the existing status quo, and so everyone has no choice but to *do more of what's failed spectacularly*.

There are no perfect, sacrifice-free fixes to the demise of the debt-funded, *waste is growth / Landfill Global Economy*, but a good start would be bringing the private-sector Deep State of Big Tech to heel, stripping it of its opacity and powers, relegating everything Big Tech does or attempts to a tightly regulated utility with transparent public oversight.


The S-Curve of "doing more of what's failed"
Economy slows; what worked so well in the past is ramped up: credit is eased, stimulus is increased.
maximum expansion
Policies can do no wrong: economy, jobs & profits all expand smartly
What worked so well in the boost phase now fails; diminishing returns turn into negative returns as "doing more of what's failed" is now a destructive force. Rather than expand, the economy implodes.
Policies unleash credit, trade, new business models & startups
S-curve of Rapid Expansion, Stagnation and Decline
Copyright 2019 Charles Hugh Smith
www.oftwominds.com

One Deep State is bad enough, but a renegade, predatory private-sector Deep State is intolerable. It goes almost without saying that I've been shadow-banned for the past 7 years (revealed by the bogus PropOrNot hit list), if not longer, but the mechanisms of this censorship are opaque, not just to me but to the elected branches of government and the shadow-realm of the traditional Deep State.

Media, censorship, narrative:Non-Binary Character In New Transformer Cartoon Goes Viral As People Call For "Another Brand Boycott"

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 04:00 PM

Out of the 'woke' indoctrination ovens from studios in Hollywood is a children's computer-animated television show called *"Transformers: EarthSpark"* that first aired on Paramount+ in November 2022 and has embraced the woke movement.

Paramount+ might be digging its grave after the show for young kids appears to have recently promoted gender ideology.

*"**I know I'm safe when I'm with my friends or other non-binary people**," a character named Sam said to Transformer Nightshade. Sam also said her **pronouns are "she/they."***

The 1-minute clip tweeted by Libs of TikTok has been viewed 8 million times within 24 hours. Commenting on the clip is Mostly Peaceful Memes, who said, "Really putting the trans in transformers ammiright?"

The cringe-woke cartoon isn't the first. Disney has been pumping woke cartoons for a while, enraging parents. The proliferation of woke cartoons should be a wake-up call for parents and the need to vet kids shows as Hollywood and the left wages a culture war on the youngest generation. Twitter users were appalled by the woke cartoon.

Stats, journal, health, inflation, government: average american family pays 22 grand in health insurance premiums in 2022

“**American life expectancy during this period sharply declined by a staggering 2.5 years from 2019 through 2022**. While ‘comparable country averages’ rebounded from a COVID-related drop in 2021, the United States continued declining in life expectancy,” the report found.

“Yet, the cost of health care is still astronomically high, as the average family paid $22,463 in health insurance premiums in 2022. That does not include out-of-pocket costs like co-pays and deductibles, which can be thousands more. This has led to medical debt for about 100 million Americans,” the report continued.

Non-Profit Hospitals Made Huge Profits During Pandemic While Receiving $23 Billion In Federal COVID-19 Aid: Report

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 03:30 PM

Authored by Mark Tapscott via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Federal officials gave more than $23 billion COVID-19 aid to the nation’s top 20 nonprofit hospitals even as a 62 percent increase in their collective net assets led parallel surges in the institutions’ total profits and revenues during the 2018-2021 time period spanning the Coronavirus pandemic, according to a new report.

Migrant, latin America: Record-Setting 83,000 Migrants Illegally Crossed US Border This Week

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 01:00 PM

Tens of thousands of migrants rushed across the US-Mexico border this week as the pandemic-related asylum restrictions were lifted at midnight Thursday.

"A record-setting 83,000 migrants crossed our border illegally this week — equivalent to a full capacity Dallas Cowboys football stadium," said Fox News' Bill Melugin.

Middle east, war: US Blocks China's Attempt To Condemn Israeli Attacks On Gaza At UN

BY TYLER DURDEN

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 12:30 PM

Via The Cradle,

US officials blocked an effort led by China at the UN Security Council (UNSC) this week to condemn Israel's latest onslaught on the besieged Gaza Strip, according to senior Israeli officials that spoke with the *Times of Israel*.

Washington's interference reportedly came at the request of Tel Aviv, who feared the motion at Tuesday's emergency meeting **"would draw an equivalence" between the Israeli army and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) group**.

Over the decades, the US has consistently stepped in to protect Israel from facing the consequences of rampant human rights abuses, the military occupation of Palestinian land, and the imposition of an apartheid system targeting Palestinians.

The only exception to this rule came earlier this year, when **Washington allowed a statement to pass at the UNSC blasting Israel's expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank**. Nonetheless, the US went on to block a binding resolution against Israel.

Former US President Harry Truman was the first world leader to recognize Israel when it was created in 1948 following the 'Nakba,' or catastrophe, during which at least 700,000 Palestinians were violently evicted from their lands by Jewish settlers.

Israel is also **the largest cumulative recipient of US foreign aid in the post-World War II era** and enjoys unequivocal political and diplomatic cover from both the Democratic and Republican parties as well as from US corporate media. However, US influence in the region has started to wane in recent months, pushing Israel further into isolation.

Last month, Beijing offered to help facilitate peace talks between Israel and Palestine as part of a larger effort to mediate historic conflicts in West Asia.

In December, Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed support for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and voiced frustration over the “historical injustice” suffered by Palestinians.

He also called for granting Palestine “full membership in the United Nations” and said Beijing “supports the two-state solution and the establishment of a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.”

The Asian giant has slammed recent comments by a Jewish supremacist government minister, who in March said, “there is no such thing as a Palestinian people.”

“The Israeli senior official is wrong and irresponsible to deny Palestinian people’s existence and to display an ‘Israel map’ including Jordan and Palestinian places occupied by Israel at an event in Paris,” said Wang Wenbin, a spokesman for China’s Foreign Ministry.

Journal, commercial real estate collapse all due to covid. Hard to believe we had not one, but two real estate moguls in office while all this happened...

New York, San Francisco Office Buildings Are Absolute Ghost Towns

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 12:00 PM

It's no secret that commercial real estate is in bad shape across the globe...

- "It's Going To Be Ugly": Commercial Real Estate Predictions Turn Dire
- Morgan Stanley Slides As Credit Loss Provisions Surge Due To Commercial Real Estate Exposure
- State Of Commercial Real Estate: Sharp Spike In Office Delinquency Rates Coming
- CRE Crisis Crosses Atlantic: Sweden's Largest Commercial Landlord SBB Implodes After Getting Junked, Halting Dividend
- European Commercial Real Estate Values May Fall Up To 40%: Citi

Things are so bad, in fact, **that 26 Empire State Buildings could fit into New York City's empty office space**, as occupancy in the city is hovering around 50% of prepandemic levels, according to the chair of Harvard Economics Department, Edward Glaeser and MIT's Carlo Ratti.

Stats: **Fewer Than 60% Of Baby Boomers Have Retirement Accounts**

BY TYLER DURDEN

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 11:30 AM

Authored by Katabella Roberts via The Epoch Times *(emphasis ours),*

Millions of working-age Americans aged between 56 and 64 are edging closer to retirement without having savings stashed away.

War, Russia, Journal, zh all over this story: With Bakhmut Hanging In Balance, Will Putin Order Takedown Of Wagner Boss?

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 08:55 AM

The bizarre spat between Wagner mercenary group and the regular Russian military chain of command has continued exploding into public view, now reaching **a full-blown crisis for Moscow as the fate of the Bakhmut front hangs in the balance**.

Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin claimed Friday that the Russian army is abandoning its positions near Bakhmut. "This is not called regrouping, **this is fleeing**," he said in audio statement posted to Wagner's social media channels.

He additionally alleged that Russian troops "simply went fleeing" from positions around the north and south of the strategic Donetsk city. **"The flanks are failing. The front is collapsing,"** he added.

But the defense ministry (MoD) was quick to reject the new assessment from Prigozhin, who this week has been begging for more ammunition, while threatening to pull his forces if resupplies continue to be blocked or falter. The MoD said their are units being regrouped and progress is being made.

Prigozhin retorted that "Attempts by the defense ministry in the information field to **sugarcoat the situation** - it's leading and will lead to a global tragedy for Russia." Prigozhin has previously called the generals "clowns". Further according to statements from the Wagner chief this week:

“Those territories that were liberated with the blood and lives of our comrades … are abandoned today almost **without any fight by those who are supposed to hold our flanks**.”

Earlier in the week, **Prigozhin marred Russia’s May 9 Victory Day celebrations** with public and foul-mouthed criticisms of the country’s top military officials.

“Today they [Ukrainians] are tearing up the flanks in the Artemovsk [Bakhmut] direction, regrouping at Zaporizhzhia. And a counteroffensive is about to begin,” he said Tuesday. “Victory Day is the **victory of our grandfathers**. We haven’t earned that victory one millimetre.”

Without doubt Prigozhin has seen his political star rise following Wagner's spearheading victory in places like Soledar. He's also a personal friend (and formerly his chef) of President Putin, but many are starting to ask: **how far can Prigozhin go with his blasting both military and political leadership?**

At this sensitive moment where the tide of the Ukraine war hangs in the balance for the Kremlin (Bakhmut long being seen as a strategic 'turning point' in the east), **how politically expendable is Prigozhin?** How much can he get away with? He seemed to even reference Putin derogatorily as a "happy grandfather" who is ignorant of the real situation on the ground.

There are Western media reports that the Kremlin is preparing to take down or silence the Wagner chief...

The Washington-based hawkish Institute for the Study of War is posing this key question, among others:

It may seem surprising in a country where criticizing the military can potentially cost a person a spell in prison that Prigozhin gets away with strident criticism of Putin's generals. But Putin presides over what is often described as a court system, where infighting and competition among elites is in fact encouraged to produce results, as long as the "vertical of power" remains loyal to and answers to the head of state.

***But Prigozhin's online tantrums to be crossing the line to open disloyalty**, some observers say.*

*In a recent Twitter thread, the Washington-based think tank Institute for the Study of War said, "**If the Kremlin does not respond to Prigozhin's escalating attacks on Putin** it may further erode the norm in Putin's system in which individual actors can jockey for position and influence (and drop in and out of Putin's favor) but **cannot directly criticize Putin**."*

*Speculation then centers on whether Prigozhin is politically expendable, **whether his outbursts are a sort of clever deception operation** — or, more troublingly for Putin, whether the system of loyalty that keeps the Kremlin running smoothly is starting to break down.*

Adding to the pressure on the Kremlin, Western headlines are beginning to take note that Prigozhi's tirades are now seeming to **take aim at Putin himself**. One reads: "Humiliation for Vladimir Putin as boss of the Russian private military company goes into public meltdown."

How far can Prigozhin go?

Journal, Russia's new normal: **Russia Establishes Anti-Drone Police As Threat To Cities Grows**

BY TYLER DURDEN

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 08:35 AM

Russia has launched **an anti-drone police force in St. Petersburg**, which is likely to also be rolled out in other major cities, as the population comes under increasing threat by drone activity from Ukraine.

The force's head, Roman Uvarov, described its purpose as to "ensure the protection of public order" during large public events, such as this week's Victory Day celebrations which took place in major cities across Russia.

Media, narrative: Judge Finds Federal Age-21 Rule For Handgun Purchases Unconstitutional

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 - 11:40 PM

A 54-year-old federal prohibition on the sale of guns to Americans between 18 and 20 years old has been ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge in Richmond, Virginia. The Justice Department is expected to appeal and ask for the ruling to be put on hold as the case is further adjudicated.

The case has three plaintiffs, all between 18 and 20 years old. One, John "Corey" Fraser, was refused when he attempted to buy a Glock 19x from a Federal Firearm Licensed Dealer (FFL). The other two want to buy a handgun but haven't tried, in light of Fraser's experience.

The challenged provision of the Gun Control Act of 1968 **didn't prohibit *possession*** by 18- to 20-year-olds, it only made it illegal for FFL's to *sell* handguns to them. Rifles and shotguns have no such federal restriction.

Journal, zh all over the rice shortage:
Thai Rice Crop In Crosshairs Of El

Nino As Farmers Are Warned About Water Shortages

BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 - 10:20 PM

A disruptive El Nino pattern might impact rice production in Thailand, the world's second-biggest exporter of the grain that feeds half the world's population.

Bangkok Post reported farmers are being asked by the Office of the National Water Resources "to grow only one rice crop this coming season as rainfall will be below average because of the El Nino weather pattern."

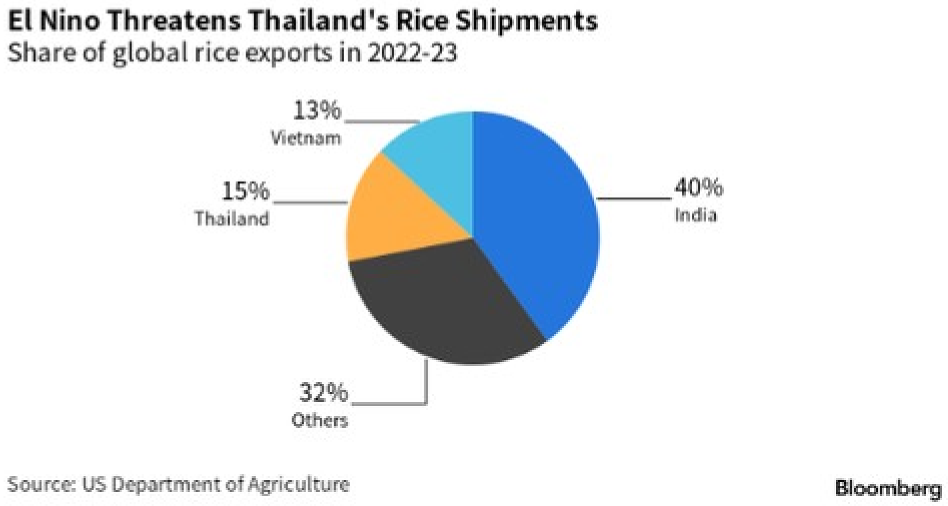
Surasee Kittimonthon, the ONWR secretary-general, said the rainy season, which usually begins in late May, will be delayed with periods of intermittent rain in June.

Kittimonthon said ONWR had devised a plan for increased water preservation within the country's reservoir system.

"We can provide water to farmers for the first rice crop, starting in the rainy season.

"But for the second or third crops, we would like farmers' cooperation to grow other plants that need less water to help limit the water shortage," he said.

Rice production requires substantial amounts of water and relies heavily on irrigation systems and sufficient rainfall. It's an early warning sign of how El Nino is set to wreak havoc on the global food system this year.



El Nino Threatens Thailand's Rice Shipments

Share of global rice exports in 2022-23

Source: US Department of Agriculture

Bloomberg

We told readers last month the [weather-altering phenomenon]() had a high probability of forming. We said, "If El Niño does form, it could result in heavy rainfall and heatwaves in specific regions across the globe, potentially causing disruptions in the agricultural industry."

And days ago, we informed readers about record-breaking heatwaves in Asia and Europe in a note titled *"Is El Nino Supercharging Heatwave Across Asia?"*

Separately, earlier this month, Fitch Solutions published a report that forecasts this year's [global rice production will log its biggest shortfall]() in two decades.

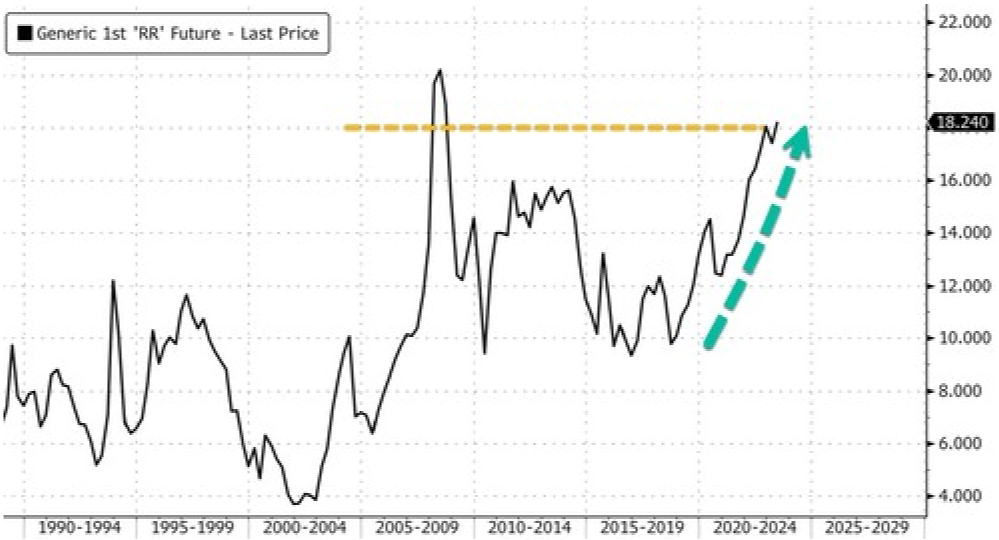
"At the global level, the most evident impact of the global rice deficit has been, and still is, decade-high rice prices," Fitch Solutions' commodities analyst Charles Hart told CNBC.

Sliding rice production causes grain prices to increase for 3.5 billion people, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region -- this region of the world accounts for 90% of the world's rice consumption.

"Given that rice is the staple food commodity across multiple markets in Asia, prices are a major determinant of food price inflation and food security, particularly for the poorest households," Hart said.

He said this year's global shortfall would be around 8.7 million tons, the largest global rice deficit since 2003/2004 of 18.6 million.

As a result of tightening global supplies, rough rice futures trading on the CBoT have soared above $18 per cwt, the highest level since September 2008. Cwt is a unit of measurement for certain commodities such as rice.



Recall in the late summer of 2022. We told readers:

- *The Stage Is Being Set For A Massive Global Rice Shortage*
- *"Situation Is Really Precarious": World's Largest Rice Exporter Faces Output Decline Amid Heatwave*

... and just recently.

- *Thai Rice Prices Jump As Global Food Crisis Reignites*

El Nino appears set to decrease precipitation levels, potentially causing disruptions in the global food industry. Persistently high food inflation could increase the likelihood of societal unrest in developing economies.

War, Erdogan, middle east: US Bill Seeks To Combat Syria Normalization As King Salman Extends Assad Invitation

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 - 08:40 PM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com, A bipartisan group of lawmakers in the House have introduced a bill aimed to combat Syria's normalization with regional countries that **would expand sanctions and prohibit the US from establishing diplomatic ties with the government of Bashar al-Assad**.

The bill was introduced by Reps. Joe Wilson (R-SC), Michael McCaul (R-TX), Steve Cohen (D-TN), and several other members of the House. The legislation comes as a response to Syria being readmitted to the Arab League, which has enraged US officials who want to keep Syria isolated.

Government, censorship, readlater: The Voter Registration Machine Flipping The States Blue

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 - 08:00 PM

Authored by Hayden Ludwig via American Greatness,

New documents reveal the Center for Election Innovation and Research's true purpose: Juicing Democrat registration in the states, thanks to data provided by ERIC.

War, middle east, Erdogan, Russia: Iran, Iraq Sign Agreement For Expanded Energy Ties, Despite US Sanctions

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 - 06:00 AM

Via The Cradle,

Iran and Iraq signed an agreement on Wednesday **to expand energy ties and establish a joint office aimed at overlooking cooperation** between the two countries, the Iraqi Oil Ministry announced, coming as part of Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji’s visit to Baghdad.

Upon arriving in the Iraqi capital, Owji was received by Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani and discussed with him “the overall cooperation between Iraq and Iran, and ways to develop them,” as well as the ability to jointly confront “global economic challenges.”

War, middle east: Pakistan May Lose Support From IMF - Risks Debt Default As Civil Unrest Continues

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 - 10:20 PM

Almost exactly a year ago we covered Pakistan's efforts to secure economic aid through the IMF in order to defuse its growing inflationary crisis. In May 2022, Pakistan's core inflation rate was around 13% - Today, their core inflation rate is at 19.5%. The situation keeps getting uglier.

Pakistan has sought relief from foreign debt obligations and an IMF bailout deal. Initial arrangements for a three year deal with the IMF began in 2019, but Pakistan said that deal, originally for $6 billion USD, was 'outdated due to the pandemic' and new global financial pressures. The nation is in 'dire need' of at least $36 billion in order to stay afloat. However, it appears that any chance of an agreement with the IMF is about to falter.

A spokesperson for the International Monetary Fund in an interview with Bloomberg states that they are in talks with Pakistan on a multi-billion loan program, which is going to conclude in June. But, the spokesperson also said that the IMF “wants an assurance on a coordinated mechanism for debt recovery from Pakistan” as well as an assurance on implementation of the economic policy. The IMF has reportedly rejected a recent Pakistan government claim that it has met all the conditions to reach an agreement with the global financial body to release funds.

Without IMF support Pakistan risks default in the near term, according to Moodys Investor Service.

“We consider that Pakistan will meet its external payments for the remainder of this fiscal year ending in June,” says Grace Lim, a sovereign analyst with Moodys in Singapore. “However, Pakistan's financing options beyond June are highly uncertain. Without an IMF program, Pakistan could default given its very weak reserves.”

The reason for the IMF pullback is obvious – Mass civil unrest has exploded in response to the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan on corruption charges. Pakistan's Supreme Court has ruled that Khan's dramatic arrest this week was illegal and has ordered his immediate release. His lawyers had argued that his detention from court premises in Islamabad on Tuesday was unlawful.

Mr. Khan stood surrounded by his lawyers in front of the three Supreme Court judges as they told him that because of the way he had been arrested on Tuesday - inside a court complex, conducting biometric tests - the arrest was invalid. This does not necessarily end the instability within Pakistan, though. Charges are still being brought against Khan and the likelihood of continued riots is high.

What does this mean?

Pakistan is a nuclear armed nation with over 165 warheads from short to medium range. The country also has ongoing border disputes with India and strong military ties to China. A destabilization of the region could lead to a much larger geopolitical crisis as well as send shockwaves through the global economy. An IMF refusal at this time could trigger chaos that reverberates through the east and the west.

Narrative, media, stats: Two Youths Commit Suicide In Taxpayer-Funded Cross-Sex Hormone Study

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 - 08:00 PM

Authored by Darlene McCormick Sanchez via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Lawmakers are demanding answers after the suicide deaths of two young people involved in a transgender hormone study funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Additionally, **11 participants reported suicidal thoughts during the study**, according to a January article by researchers published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM).

In a letter to Dr. Lawrence Tabak, acting director at NIH, 15 Republican lawmakers question why the study wasn't halted after participants died or reported adverse effects.

"**It is alarming that vulnerable young people died by suicide while participating in a taxpayer-funded study** that will almost certainly inflict devastating physical harm on those who participated," the lawmakers' letter stated.

"Rather than shutting the study down after such serious adverse events, the researchers published their paper, concluding that the study was a success because cross-sex hormones had altered subjects' physical appearance and improved psychosocial functioning," lawmakers added.

The study "Psychosocial Functioning in Transgender Youth after 2 Years of Hormones" attempted to analyze the psychosocial state of participants.

Researchers evaluated the impact of cross-sex hormones on "transgender and nonbinary youth" between the ages of 12 and 20, according to the study.

NIH awarded $477,444 in a five-year grant to the Boston Children's Hospital, the University of California at San Francisco, and the Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago for the study, according to a report in The Daily Signal. Dr. Diane Chen at the Lurie Children's Hospital led the study.

Lawmakers have blasted the study for subjecting children to "radical gender ideology." Of 315 study subjects, 240 were minors.

After the study was published, the medical watchdog group "Do No Harm," called the research "fatally flawed and borderline unscientific" because it muddled instead of clarified questions about the medical transition of children.

Twenty-four participants in the study received cross-sex hormones after puberty suppression—when they're "in early puberty"—and are "likely sterile as a result," according to the lawmakers.

Lawmakers said that other risks to participants include an increased chance of cardiovascular disease and blood clotting. They also questioned the value of a study that didn't include a "control group."

The letter stated the taxpayer-funded research was already being used to further the "fallacy" that chemically transitioning children was safe and effective despite "glaring shortfalls."

The study didn’t dwell on the suicides. Instead, it reported “positive” effects of cross-sex hormones, such as “life satisfaction” and decreases in depression and anxiety—at least for the duration of the study.

Republicans charged that some involved in the study were known transgender activists focused on gender modification for children.

In a video later removed from Boston Children’s Hospital’s YouTube channel, the hospital claimed “that children can know their gender identity ‘from the womb,'” lawmakers said.

According to the letter, Johanna Olson, a co-author of the NEJM article, received a federal grant for a study in which she altered protocol to allow children as young as 8 years old to receive cross-sex hormones.

The lawmakers noted in their objection that research shows gender dysphoria in minors often resolves by itself as struggling teenagers progress through puberty, “completely undermining the idea that children should have their bodies permanently altered to match their changing identities.”

They added that **the NIH plans to give more than $10.6 million to “experiment on children and adolescents through 2026.”**

Rep. Josh Brecheen (R-Okla.) and Sen. Ted Budd (R-N.C.) led the letter demanding responses to questions by June 9.

Questions included the age of the suicide victims, the clinic that administered the hormones, and what steps may have been taken to halt and review the study when the deaths occurred.

Lawmakers also want to know if any steps were taken to provide ongoing monitoring of other children participating in the study to ensure that they are not at risk for suicide.

They also asked if participants had been evaluated for sterility or impaired fertility as a result of receiving cross-sex hormones and the results.

In a press release, **Brecheen said lawmakers are committed to holding those responsible for the loss of life accountable.**

“It is sickening that the federal government is preying on young people and using our taxpayer dollars to advance its radical gender ideology,” Brecheen said.

Budd called the NIH-funded study “highly questionable experiments.”

“Taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund studies that encourage gender transition interventions on young people,” Budd said.

Others signing the letter included Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Rand Paul (R-Ky.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Mike Lee (R-Utah), and Reps. Mary Miller (R-Ill.), Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.), Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.), Eli Crane (R-Ariz.), Jeff Duncan (R-

S.C.), Randy Weber (R-Texas), Chip Roy (R-Texas), Ronny Jackson(R-Texas), and Michael Cloud (R-Texas).

War, Russia: Russian Media Says Ukraine's Counteroffensive Has Begun Amid Conflicting Reports

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 - 07:40 PM

Russian media as well as some Western reports are saying **the Ukrainian counteroffensive has begun**. This comes the day after Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of Russia’s Wagner Group, blasted regular Russian forces for retreating from parts of the Bakhmut front.

Prigozhin also claimed that Russia’s 72nd Separate Motor-rifle Brigade has given up its positions along the town's southwest edge, also while pleading for more ammunition to go to Wagner fighters. Importantly, in a late Thursday report Russian state media is citing a prominent war correspondent to say the much-touted spring offensive has arrived, even though **Ukrainian leaders on the same day said it is still stalled and they are "waiting"** - also for more weapons from the West.

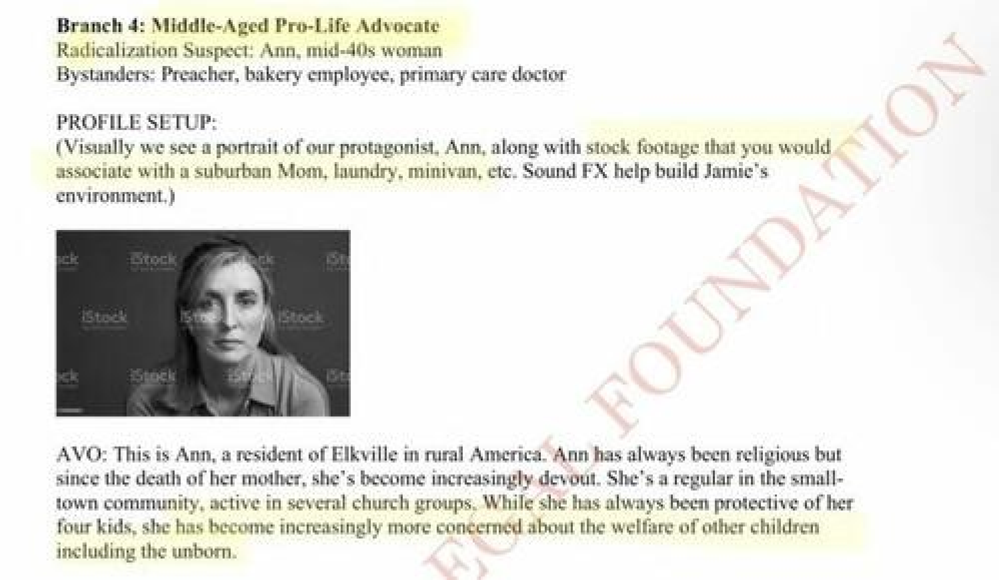
Censorship, government: **DHS Producing Videos Teaching Citizens**

How To Identify "Radicalized" Conservatives

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 - 06:20 PM

America First Legal (AFL) has obtained documents through FOIA request from the Department of Homeland Security which outline a “Choose Your Own Adventure” style video series that DHS intended to release to the public. The videos were meant to depict different scenarios in which citizens might encounter potentially “radicalized” individuals. Citizens are then asked to choose what they think should be done about the encounter.

Most of the scripted scenarios showcase people with conservative beliefs and values as the radicalized threat. For example, the DHS targeted “suburban Moms” with pro-life beliefs:

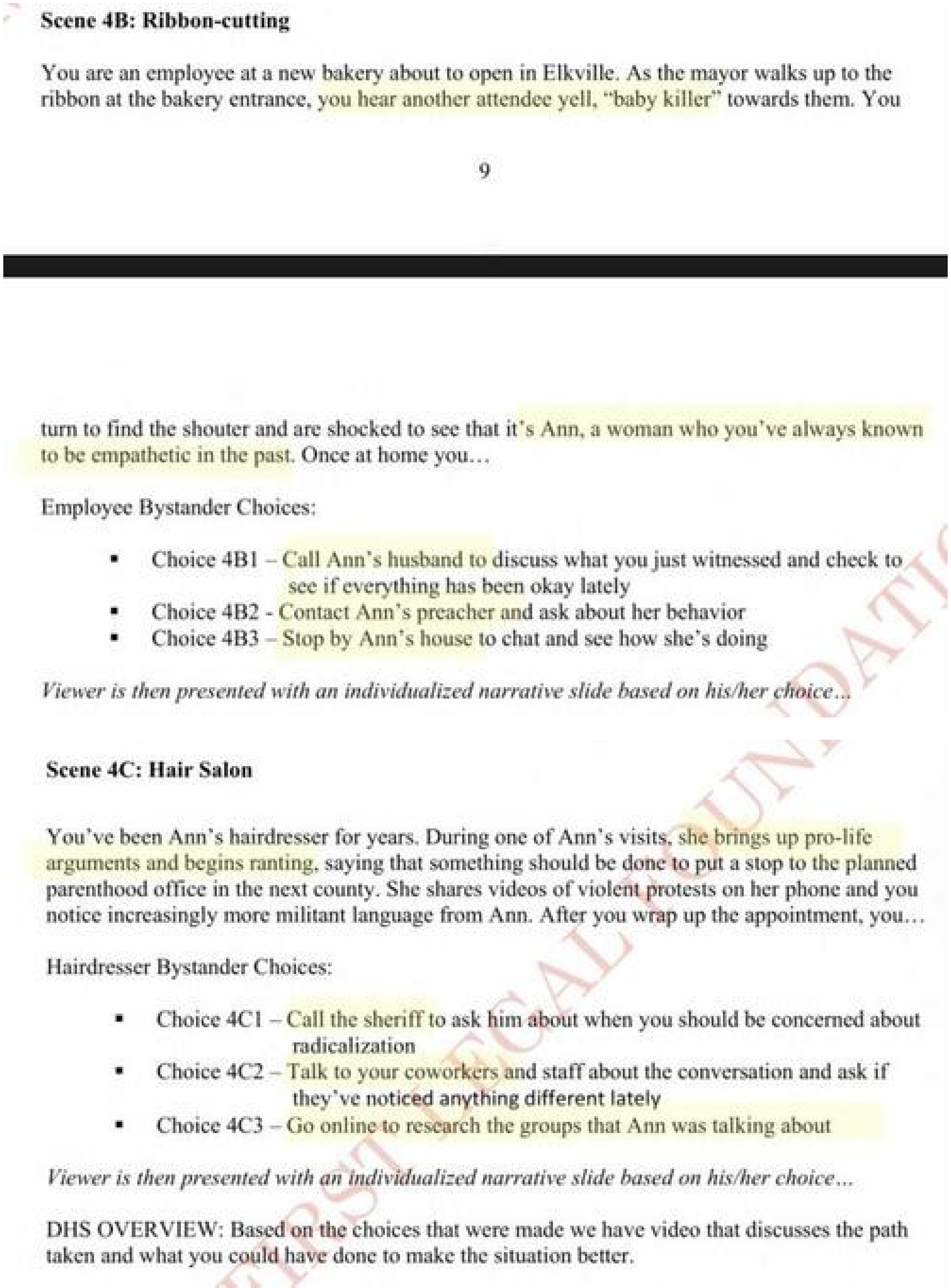


Branch 4: Middle-Aged Pro-Life Advocate
Radicalization Suspect: Ann, mid-40s woman
Bystanders: Preacher, bakery employee, primary care doctor

PROFILE SETUP:
(Visually we see a portrait of our protagonist, Ann, along with stock footage that you would associate with a suburban Mom, laundry, minivan, etc. Sound FX help build Jamie's environment.)

AVO: This is Ann, a resident of Elkville in rural America. Ann has always been religious but since the death of her mother, she's become increasingly devout. She's a regular in the small-town community, active in several church groups. While she has always been protective of her four kids, she has become increasingly more concerned about the welfare of other children including the unborn.

FOUNDATION



Scene 4B: Ribbon-cutting

You are an employee at a new bakery about to open in Elkville. As the mayor walks up to the ribbon at the bakery entrance, you hear another attendee yell, "baby killer" towards them. You

turn to find the shouter and are shocked to see that it's Ann, a woman who you've always known to be empathetic in the past. Once at home you…

Employee Bystander Choices:

- Choice 4B1 – Call Ann's husband to discuss what you just witnessed and check to see if everything has been okay lately
- Choice 4B2 - Contact Ann's preacher and ask about her behavior
- Choice 4B3 – Stop by Ann's house to chat and see how she's doing

Viewer is then presented with an individualized narrative slide based on his/her choice…

Scene 4C: Hair Salon

You've been Ann's hairdresser for years. During one of Ann's visits, she brings up pro-life arguments and begins ranting, saying that something should be done to put a stop to the planned parenthood office in the next county. She shares videos of violent protests on her phone and you notice increasingly more militant language from Ann. After you wrap up the appointment, you…

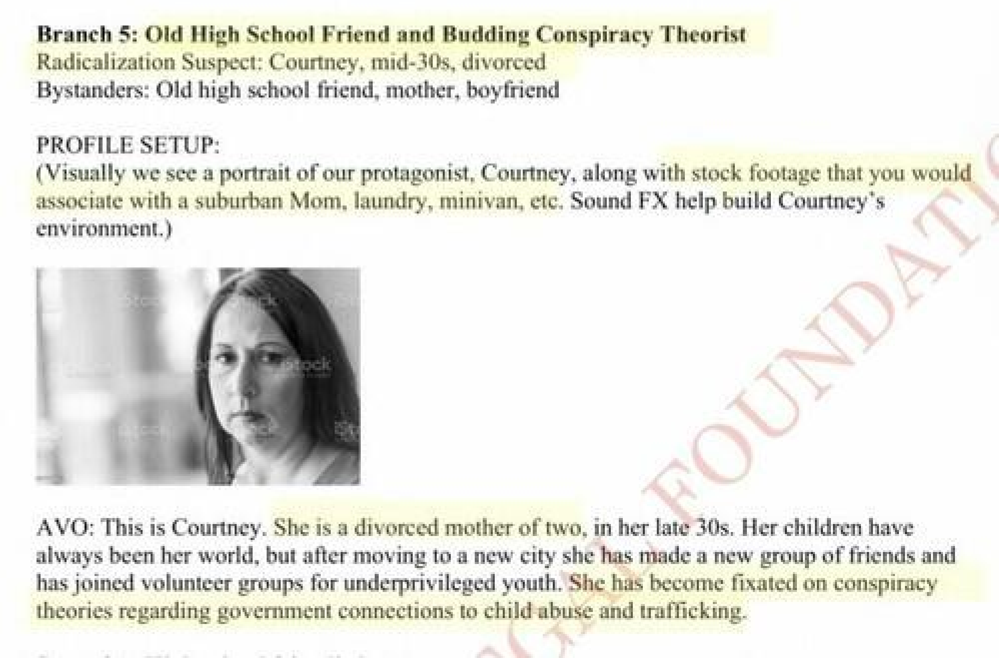
Hairdresser Bystander Choices:

- Choice 4C1 – Call the sheriff to ask him about when you should be concerned about radicalization
- Choice 4C2 – Talk to your coworkers and staff about the conversation and ask if they've noticed anything different lately
- Choice 4C3 – Go online to research the groups that Ann was talking about

Viewer is then presented with an individualized narrative slide based on his/her choice…

DHS OVERVIEW: Based on the choices that were made we have video that discusses the path taken and what you could have done to make the situation better.

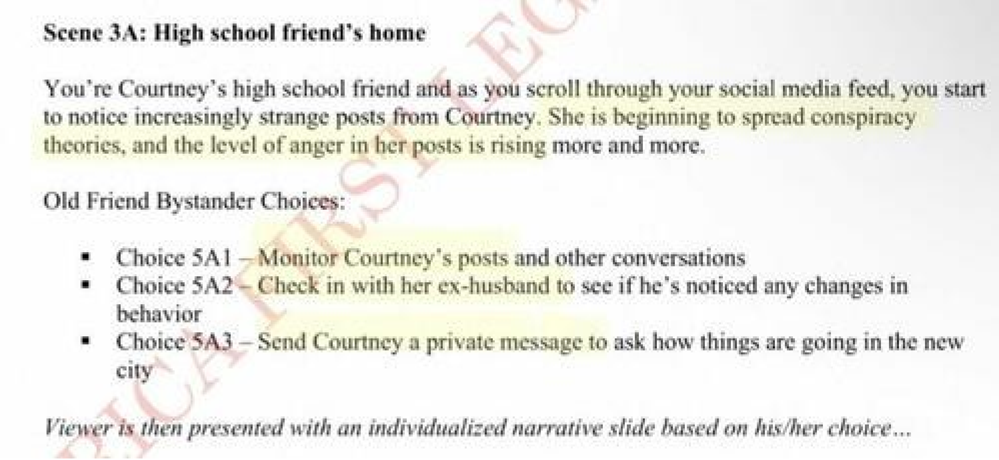
The series also targeted "old high school friends" who believe in "conspiracies" as examples of radicalized citizens in need of bystander intervention.



Branch 5: Old High School Friend and Budding Conspiracy Theorist
Radicalization Suspect: Courtney, mid-30s, divorced
Bystanders: Old high school friend, mother, boyfriend

PROFILE SETUP:
(Visually we see a portrait of our protagonist, Courtney, along with stock footage that you would associate with a suburban Mom, laundry, minivan, etc. Sound FX help build Courtney's environment.)

AVO: This is Courtney. She is a divorced mother of two, in her late 30s. Her children have always been her world, but after moving to a new city she has made a new group of friends and has joined volunteer groups for underprivileged youth. She has become fixated on conspiracy theories regarding government connections to child abuse and trafficking.



Scene 3A: High school friend's home

You're Courtney's high school friend and as you scroll through your social media feed, you start to notice increasingly strange posts from Courtney. She is beginning to spread conspiracy theories, and the level of anger in her posts is rising more and more.

Old Friend Bystander Choices:

- Choice 5A1 – Monitor Courtney's posts and other conversations
- Choice 5A2 – Check in with her ex-husband to see if he's noticed any changes in behavior
- Choice 5A3 – Send Courtney a private message to ask how things are going in the new city

Viewer is then presented with an individualized narrative slide based on his/her choice…

The video scripts, written under the DHS's Office of Terrorism and Violence Prevention, was part of an internalized memo circulated on January 29th, 2021, only eight days after Joe Biden entered the White House. The program seems to have been developed in tandem with the "Disinformation Governance Board" which was eventually scrapped due to public opposition. It reveals an ongoing and disturbing trend within the Federal Government to implement authoritarian measures across the country, first using covid as an excuse, then using the January 6th protests as a rationale.

Let us not forget about Biden's disinfo-czar Nina Jankowicz, also known as "Scary Poppins."

The focus of these DHS efforts was overwhelmingly on conservatives, with a not-so-subtle implication that conservatives and constitutionalists (or anyone that questions official government narratives) are domestic terrorists. This was done while the DHS and Democrats mostly ignored the violent actions of BLM, Antifa, trans rights protesters, etc.

The covid era brought the US and many other western nations to the very edge of an Orwellian society in which partnerships between corporate institutions and government bureaucracy are exploited to suppress all political and scientific discourse. They created artificial fear and hype over a virus with a 0.23% Infection Fatality Rate, and they painted an unarmed protest at the capitol building (in which not a single person died because of the protesters) as an “insurrection.”

Now, we find that federal agencies are preparing propaganda to teach the public to act as informants, much like the communist Stasi in East Germany, to weed out and persecute liberty minded Americans. Or, to act as hall monitors for the state, correcting the behavior and speech of their friends, family and neighbors and creating an atmosphere of self censorship within the populace.

The most important question to ask is this: What are they afraid of?

Is the DHS afraid of legitimate domestic terrorist threats and they are perhaps misguided in promoting a pre-crime model for prevention? Or, is the government about to do something they know will anger the public; something that might inspire Americans to become militant, such as a broad crackdown on people's freedoms? And if the latter is the case, wouldn't the best method of prevention be for governments and bureaucrats to avoid enraging the public in the first place and to leave our freedoms alone?

Israeli Killed Outside Tel Aviv As IDF Says Over 800 Rockets Fired From Gaza

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 - 04:40 PM

Update(1540ET): As of mid-evening local time the IDF has recorded 803 rockets and mortars launched over the past 2 days from the Gaza Strip. At least 28 Palestinians have been killed, many of them civilians.

The first Israeli citizen has been killed: "**One person has been killed when a rocket fired from Gaza** struck a city near Tel Aviv, an Israeli emergency official tells Army Radio," per Al Jazeera.

"A spokesperson for Israel’s medical services said a rocket **struck a four-storey apartment** building in Rehovot, leading to a death and **at least five injuries**."

The EU and other international bodies are calling for an immediate ceasefire, but there are currently no signs either side is backing down, also as Israel continues to pummel Gaza with airstrikes.

Asia, war, china: **Taiwan Says Its Military Won't Let The US Blow Up Semiconductor Factories**

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 - 04:00 PM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com,

Taiwan’s defense minister in statements early this week pushed back against the idea of the US bombing the island’s semiconductor factories in the event of a Chinese invasion.

Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA) recently said the US should **"make it very clear to the Chinese that if you invade Taiwan, we’re going to blow up TSMC,"** referring to Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, which produces the **majority of the world’s advanced semiconductors**.

When asked about Moutlon’s comments, Taiwanese Defense Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng said **the military wouldn’t let that happen**.

"It is the military’s obligation to defend Taiwan and ***we will not tolerate any others blowing up our facilities****," he said, according to The South China Morning Post.*

The **idea of bombing Taiwan’s chip factories to avoid them coming under Chinese control is gaining popularity in Washington**.

A paper published in 2021 by the US Army War College suggested the US and Taiwan should plan **"scorched-earth"** tactics that could render Taiwan **"not just unattractive if ever seized by force, but positively costly to maintain."**

The paper said the tactic could be done "most effectively by threatening to destroy facilities belonging to the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, the most important chipmaker in the world and China’s most important supplier."

Here's a selection of the document entitled Broken Nest: Deterring China from Invading Taiwan:

> *To start, the United States and Taiwan should lay plans for a targeted scorched-earth strategy that would render Taiwan not just unattractive if ever seized by force, but positively costly to maintain.* ***This could be done most effectively by threatening to destroy facilities belonging to the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, the most important chipmaker in the world and China’s most important supplier****. Samsung based in South Korea (a US ally) is the only alternative for cutting-edge designs.*

Robert O’Brien, who served as President Trump’s national security advisor, recently called for bombing Taiwan’s factories if China attacks.

"The United States and its allies are never going to let those factories fall into Chinese hands," O’Brien told *Semafor* in March.

Censorship: **Watch Live: Hearing On How DHS Enables The Silencing Of Dissent**

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 - 03:00 PM

Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability is holding a hearing entitled ***"Censorship Laundering: How the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Enables the Silencing of Dissent"*** this afternoon and we thought it may be worth tuning in for some partisan fireworks.

Chairman Dan Bishop (R-NC) said the hearing was to examine possible government overreach in a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) program that could be used to monitor mis-, dis-, and malinformation (MDM) posted online by American citizens.

"Time and time again, Biden and Mayorkas' DHS has chosen censorship and suppression over free speech and put partisan games ahead of our national security. "

"The dystopian 'Disinformation Governance Board' wasn't an aberration—it was the tip of the iceberg of their censorship laundering schemes," *Chairman Bishop said.*

"This Subcommittee is demanding that DHS upholds its duty to secure America's critical infrastructure and defend the homeland while safeguarding Americans' constitutional rights. ***We won't rest until we get full transparency and accountability.****"*

Martin Kulldorff, one of the most pilloried, censored, deplatformed, and outright banned of those dissenters - who just happened to be 1) an expert beyond reproach on the topic and 2) correct in everything he proclaimed - sums up the farce in the first paragraph of his prepared remarks:

Censorship can be deadly.

Freedom of speech is always important, but it is especially important during a national emergency such as a pandemic.

No authority is infallible, and when a new virus emerges, it is impossible for politicians and public health officials to get things right without listening to discussions between a wide cast of scientists *with different areas of expertise and thoughts.*

...

Censorship inevitably leads to self-censoring. **Some of my public health colleagues did not speak up for fear of being censored, silenced or slandered, like I was. I don't blame them.**

Witnesses include:

- Ben Weingarten - Investigative Journalist and Columnist
- **Martin Kulldorff, PhD** - Epidemiologist and Biostatistician (Full prepared remarks here)

- Cynthia Miller-Idriss, PhD - Professor, School of Public Affairs and School of Education Founding Director, Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab, American University
- **Jonathan Turley** - Shapiro Chair for Public Interest Law, The George Washington University (Full written statement here)

Censorship: **Just Nuts: History Professor Suspended For Passing Out Candies Marked "HeHim" And "SheHer"**

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 - 02:25 PM

Authored by Jonathan Turley,

We often follow controversies at universities over free speech, but this week's addition can be accurately described as nuts. Madera Community College History Professor David Richardson is under investigation as a possible confectionery reactionary . . . or at least that is what the school appears to be investigating.

Richardson recently gave out candy on campus from Jeremy's Chocolates labeled "HeHim" (nuts) and "She/Her" (nutless).

For Richardson, the candies have led to his suspension pending official investigation.

Richardson reportedly brought the candy to an open house event for academic programs. The candy is connected to the conservative Daily Wire, which launched the chocolate brand two months ago in protest of Hershey's naming "a biological male" as its spokesperson for International Women's Day.

Inflation, journal, how is there ANY demand for a 30 year t-note--like at all? Impressive Demand In 30Y Auction As Foreign Buyer Demand Rises

Impressive Demand In 30Y Auction As Foreign Buyer Demand Rises

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 - 02:19 PM

After a stellar 3Y auction, a solid 10Y moments ago we got the last refunding auction of the quarter when the treasury sold $21 billion in 30 year paper, and it did so in impressive fashion.

The high yield of 3.741% was just above last month's 3.661%. It also stopped through the When Issued 3.756% by 1.5bps, the biggest stop through since January's 2.4bps.

The Bid to Cover rose to 2.426, above April's 2.359, above the six-auction average 2.346 and the highest since January's 2.451.

The internals were also impressive with the Indirect award jumping to 72.44% from 69.12%, the strongest since - you guessed it - January. And with Directs taking down 17.4% (the lowest since, yup, January), dealers were left with 10.2% of the auction, modestly below the recent average of 11.7%.

Overall, this was another solid auction which managed an impressive stop through despite the sharp run up in bond prices (and drop in yields) into the 1Pm auction deadline amid growing recession fears.

Africa, markets: Rand Plummets To Record Low After US Accuses South Africa Of Supplying Weapons To Russia

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 - 01:20 PM

The US ambassador to Pretoria accused South Africa of supplying arms to Russia in a covert naval operation, sharply escalating a foreign policy crisis for President Cyril Ramaphosa over the country’s ties to the Kremlin and its position on the Ukraine war.

While the accusation was unconfirmed as of Thursday morning, the news sent the South African rand plunging to a new all time low while the benchmark stock index slid 1% and yields on 2032 government bonds soared 30 basis points to the highest since the start of the pandemic as any evidence that he country is defying international sanctions to support Russia’s invasion of Ukraine would make South Africa itself subject to international repercussions that would further sink an economy already under strain from unprecedented power shortages

journal, quite the statement from mike every: "It's Now Hard To See Any Accurate Information On Anything"

"It's Now Hard To See Any Accurate Information On Anything"

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 - 11:40 AM

By Michael Every of Rabobank

None so blind as those that will not see

There are none so blind as those who will not see: except those who see things that aren't there because it also suits their book.

"*Deflation and Fed rate cuts!*" scream the markets selling us 'transitory' for two years. Yet US CPI, 0.4% m-o-m headline and core as expected, and 4.9% y-o-y headline, a rounding-error tick lower than consensus, and 5.5% core saw no evidence of that if you dug in rather than stripping whichever elements of high inflation you don't like this month out. Durable and non-durable goods have stopped deflating on a GDP-style 3-month/3-month annualized basis, which means CPI needs to be led lower by services, which are not doing so ex-housing.

Imagine if agri analysts, instead of making careful, honest forecasts based on the complex factors impacting on supply and demand --and the realpolitik of what producers and consumers are both willing to hear-- made deliberately ridiculous forecasts just to push prices higher, *so they would get paid more*. That's not how it works there, of course. But it is sadly how naïve economists with mean reverting models combine with shillltastic 'Dow 36,000!' types and 0DTE options nowadays.

At least the Wall Street Journal is honest enough to note: 'We Might be Getting Used to High Inflation, and That's Bad News: Companies' ease with raising prices may mean more rapid increases are becoming entrenched', while the ECB is muttering that it might need to keep hiking rates as far out as September. However, that still leads the same crowd to say the same things. For stocks, it means higher profits, and if rates go up, they have to come down again - because markets. For bonds, higher rates to fight inflation now means lower rates soon and lower long yields now - because markets.

Neither sees the bigger political-economy picture of why firms are able to raise prices, which speaks to a concentrated corporate power that can shrug off monetary policy. Nor are they seeing the inflationary geopolitical-economy backdrop inherent in:

- The Lowy Institute saying what we said years go: ‘Biden’s quiet economic revolution: The guiding hand of the state is back as geopolitics rules’;
- Politico noting ‘Reform or die? If the US gets its way, the WTO might do both’, putting a nail in the coffin of free-trade’s landmark institutional achievement in Trumpian fashion.
- The Wall Street Journal saying ‘Automation Giant Faces US Government Probe Over China Operations: Investigation of Rockwell looks at whether its software might allow access to critical US government and industrial infrastructure’ – spelling more decoupling;
- The Chinese defence minister refusing to meet his US counterpart due to US sanctions;
- US President Biden will sign a defence treaty with Papua New Guinea *in person*, which had been leaning towards China, in the first ever US presidential visit there;
- China’s official foreign affairs spokesman tweeting: *“Pentagon has reportedly made plans for hitting opponents with genetically engineered weapons. The genomic data of Asian Chinese, European Aryans and Middle Eastern Arabs all on a list to be collected by the US military”*(!)- while also underlining anger over US engagement with Taiwan;
- Beijing snubbing the German Finance minister, who responds, “*We will not let our liberal values be bought for good business deals*," as there is a public pushback at the VW shareholder meeting over its China operations; and
- Dollar-less Pakistan says it wants to pay for Russian oil in CNY.

And that’s just one day in 2023 – NONE OF WHICH IS BEING REFLECTED IN MARKET FORECASTS ABOUT WHAT THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE. All they think about is when inflation comes down enough for the Fed to cut rates, because some people make more money that way, or sleep better, or both.

At the same time, those long only and forced to be long China by MSCI allocations, and Wall Street firms keen to growth their businesses there until the crackdown on due-diligence consultants started, are refusing to see that ***China’s problem is structural deflation*** due to over-supply of everything and not enough demand. Chinese CPI data today was only 0.1% y-o-y vs. 0.3% expected, so deflation looms. It’s already arrived in PPI at -3.6% y-o-y vs. -3.3% expected and -2.5% last month. In short, reopening was a nothing burger. The ‘shift to consumption’ sold for years has been mis-sold for year. China’s exports may be up again, but its import growth keeps slumping y-o-y: which the likes of the IMF are deliberately blind to seeing means China is a net DRAG on global GDP growth, not any kind of addition.

Yes, the West would kill for that kind of deflation right now. But because they have under-supply of everything and over-demand in services, they aren't going to get it. As such --and given China will keep trying to export its way out-- the onus will be on the West to mirror China going forwards. That's stagflationary or inflationary for longer, and higher geopolitical risks forever.

But of course not seeing, and deliberately seeing what's not, reflect a larger human failing.

This week already saw former US president Trump ordered to pay a woman $5m for an alleged assault. That was rightly front-page news even in the financial press, and joins a long line of bad Trump headlines. Today, the same media are of course covering the arrest on alleged corruption charges of Republican Representative Santos. **Yet they ignore the alleged corruption of the Biden family presented in Congress, as they did the Hunter Biden laptop in 2020, and the orchestrated campaign to ensure that story never surfaced.** As US law professor Jonathon Turley notes, Congress *"could produce eight heads in a duffle bag owned by Hunter and the media would still demand a luggage tag referencing the President."* That reminds me of the 2016 election, when someone stated that if video were found of Hillary Clinton eating babies, CNN would have decried Trump for eschewing eating nutritious children. And before the inevitable 'whataboutism' begins, Fox, Breitbart, etc., obviously do the same the other way round. It's a universal problem.

That said, Trump was just on CNN for the first time in a long time and made one thing clear: he won't back Ukraine further if he wins in 2024. **Europe might suddenly need to start looking at their lofty rhetoric on values, at their feeble military muscle**, and at the US opinion polls, if they still mean anything anymore.

That's the point: *it's now hard to see any accurate information on anything*. But we shouldn't be blind to that uncomfortable fact, in life or in markets. Rather, we should open our eyes!

Pakistan Top Court Orders Immediate Release Of Imran Khan, Declares Arrest Illegal

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 - 11:00 AM

Pakistan's Supreme Court has ruled that the arrest of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was **illegal and has ordered his immediate release**, following two days of deadly protests and spreading unrest, which has pitted his supporters against the miliary and security services.

Khan was taken into custody when he appeared in the Islamabad High Court Tuesday, and was filmed being whisked away in an armored vehicle by dozens of anti-corruption task force agents dressed in Swat gear. The scene sparked outrage, and was interpreted by his opposition Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) as a **political ploy to block him from challenging Shahbaz Sharif**. Top military commanders have also come out against Khan.

War, middle east, Erdogan: House Hawks Urge Biden To Use Sanctions To Prevent Syria Normalization

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 10:40 PM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com,

The top Republican and Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee released a statement on Monday **slamming Syria’s readmission into the Arab League** and urging President Biden to use sanctions to prevent further normalization.

"Readmitting Assad to the Arab League is a grave strategic mistake that will embolden Assad, Russia, and Iran to continue butchering civilians and destabilizing the Middle East," Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) and Gregory Meeks (D-NY) said.

journal, 45 dollar 3d printed ar-15: Texas Lawmakers Advance Bill To Raise Age For Buying Semiautomatic Rifles To 21

Texas Lawmakers Advance Bill To Raise Age For Buying Semiautomatic Rifles To 21

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 08:40 PM

Authored by Caden Pearsen via The Epoch Times,

Texas state lawmakers advanced a bill on Tuesday that seeks to raise the minimum age to purchase a semiautomatic rifle to 21, just days after a mass shooting in Allen.

Two Republicans on the House Select Committee on Community Safety joined the committee’s Democrats to approve moving House Bill 2744 to the full chamber for a vote. This move is seen as a small victory for gun control advocates despite the bill being unlikely to pass the conservative Legislature and become law.

Reps. Sam Harless from Spring and Justin Holland from Rockwall, both Republicans, voted with Democrats on the last day of the bill’s deadline to move out of committee and continue through the legislative process. Their support came as a surprise, notably with Holland’s previous strong pro-Second Amendment stance.

The bill has been widely criticized by Republicans and gun rights advocates as infringing on the constitutional rights of law-abiding adults. Opponents of the bill have argued that if an 18-year-old is considered an adult with respect to voting, purchasing tobacco, and serving in the military, then it should entitle them to the full rights to protections granted by the U.S. Constitution.

The unexpected vote came just days after a gunman killed eight people, including several children, at a mall in Allen, Texas. Harless described his decision as **“the most emotional vote” he’s ever taken,** The New York Times reported. “I started crying after I made it. That means my heart told me I made the right vote,” he said.

Planet, energy, narrative: “Energy analyst Francis Menton estimated that New York's plan to procure 24,000 megawatt-hours of battery storage would provide only 0.2% of what the state would actually need as backup.”

'Net Zero' Grid Batteries Alone Would Bankrupt America

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 07:20 PM

Authored by Craig Rucker via AmericanThinker.com,

Professional engineer Ken Gregory determined that grid-backup battery costs could reach *$290 trillion* (12.6 times the USA's 2021 GDP), based on actual 2019 and 2020 hourly intermittent electricity generation data, rather than annual average data utilized in the other studies.

None of these estimates includes the costs of turbines, panels, transmission lines, or transformers.

Energy analyst Francis Menton estimated that **New York's plan to procure** 24,000 megawatt-hours **of battery storage would provide only 0.2% of what the state would actually need as backup.** But even that would require 300,000 Tesla Long Range 80-kilowatt-hour battery modules — *before* New York mandates electric automobiles and home heating and cooking systems.

Each of those modules weighs over 1,000 pounds and holds 6,000 individual lithium-ion cells. Each one contains 25 pounds of lithium, 60 pounds of nickel; 44 pounds of manganese; 30 pounds of cobalt; 200 pounds of copper; and over 550 pounds of aluminum, steel, graphite, plastics, and other materials, energy analyst Ron Stein reports.

To manufacture *each module*, we must mine 30,000 pounds of cobalt ore (much of it with child labor in the Congo), 5,000 pounds of nickel ore, and 25,000 pounds of copper ore, plus inject and extract 25,000 pounds of brine to get the lithium.

Backing up New York's peak summertime electricity needs for just 45 minutes (those 300,000 battery modules) would require 3,750 tons of lithium, 9,000 tons of nickel, 6,600 tons of manganese, 4,500 tons of cobalt, 30,000 tons of copper, and 82,500 tons of other materials.

Together, we'd need to mine more than *seventy-five million* tons of ores for those New York grid-backup batteries — after removing at least as much overlying rock to get to the ore bodies.

Backing up California's currently planned wind and solar electricity generation would require nearly 310,000,000 long-range modules.

Imagine the batteries, materials, and ores that we'd need for the entire USA — or world!

Processing those ores into finished metals requires acids and other chemical processes and results in extensive toxic wastes that cause horrific air and water pollution if not handled properly.

This is absolutely not clean, green, affordable, ecological, or sustainable.

The bottom line: ***"Net zero" is aptly named — if what is meant is the sum total of our nation's bank account and natural resources after it's implemented.***

Middle east, Erdogan, war: Major Moscow Summit Moves Syria-Turkey 'Normalization' Forward

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 06:20 PM

Tuesday witnessed a big step closer to Syria-Turkey normalization, following **12 years of a de facto state of war** between the countries, given Turkish forces have long occupied strips of territory near the northern Syria border and previously supported a "jihadist highway" into the country in past efforts to overthrow President Assad.

Russia has proposed a normalization process in a four-way meeting held in Moscow between between the foreign ministers of **Russia, Syria, Turkey, and Iran**. At the meeting Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov launched a clear "roadmap" for Turkish-Syrian normalization which could later be signed by the heads of state.

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journal, teachers unions make the rules now:

Colorado Teachers’ Union Passes Anti-Capitalist Resolution, Sparking Outcry From Republicans

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 06:00 PM

Authored by John Ransom via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Two Republican members of Colorado’s U.S. House delegation—Ken Buck and Doug Lamborn—have criticized the state’s teachers’ union for the passage of an anti-capitalist resolution at its recent assembly.

In an email to the education publication The Lion, the Colorado Education Association (CEA) belatedly admitted last week to the passage of a resolution on April 22 stating that, in the Association’s opinion, “**capitalism inherently exploits children, public schools, land, labor, and resources.”**

The resolution also takes the position that capitalism is opposed to fully addressing “systemic racism, climate change, patriarchy (gender and LGBTQ disparities), education inequality, and income inequality.”

Previously, the CEA had refused to admit the passage of the resolution by the assembly—until an apparent delegate posted the news on Twitter that the measure had passed.

“**It’s disturbing that the CEA would endorse this patently false statement,**” Rep. Ken Buck (R-Colo.) told The Epoch Times in a statement.

“Capitalism as an economic system is responsible for raising millions of people out of poverty, vastly increasing the standard of living, and providing people of all classes and backgrounds with the freedom and opportunity to pursue their own economic goals.”

The CEA is part of the NEA—which is the largest labor union in the United States and which represents over 3 million members, according to its website.

Neither the White House, the NEA, nor the CEA returned requests for comment before this article was published.

Middle east, war: Pakistan's Army Polices Capital As Provinces Urge Military Help Against Protests

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 05:25 PM

Update(1625ET): Not only is the Pakistani army now overseeing security in the capital as protests have spiraled out of control due to the arrest and detention of former prime minister Imran Khan, but increasingly desperate officials are **urging military deployment to at least three other provinces to restore order**.

The Washington Post reports in the evening (local time): "Tensions mounted further in the evening hours as Pakistan’s government appeared to have **approved deploying the military in Islamabad**, potentially pulling the country’s powerful but often deliberately opaque army into the center of the conflict."

Authorities have further urged citizens to stay in their homes during the evening hours, resulting in an eerie 'calm before the storm' of more protests. "The streets of Islamabad — usually bustling with motorbikes and pedestrians — were largely empty and many businesses remained shuttered," WaPo continues.

"Throughout the day, **Pakistani authorities had secured military and government compounds by blocking roads with shipping containers**, while police officers deployed tear gas against protesters on the capital's main airport access road."

The army is now warning it will take "stern action" to prevent acts of terrorism, vandalism, and threats to police or military. Simultaneously Prime Minister Sharif blasted the protests in a scathing speech:

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in a speech Wednesday night that protesters are committing an ***"act of terrorism"*** *by damaging public and private property.*

"Such a spectacle has never been witnessed in the last 75 years. The people were made hostages in their vehicles, patients were taken out of the ambulances and, later, those vehicles were torched."

journal, the beginning of the subsidy and the end of your rights and freedoms:

US City To Roll Out Guaranteed Basic Income

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 03:45 PM

Authored by Martin Armstrong via ArmstrongEconomics.com,

The "Rise Up Cambridge: Cash Payments for Families with Kids" **will provide low-income households with a monthly check for $500 to test guaranteed basic income.**

Those eligible are families with children who earn under 250% of the federal poverty level ($75K for a family of four).

The 18-month program will not be based on a lottery like other guaranteed basic income rollouts, and anyone eligible may apply.

The city has allotted $22 million for the initiative and expects around 2,000 families to apply.

The money to fund the program will primarily come from the American Rescue Plan, distributing our Federal tax dollars to others, and some independent donors will pitch in too.

This program is only eligible for people with children under 21 and will not make a noticeable dent in the homeless population, nor will it help the elderly who live alone. That said, families with children already receive the most in Federal funds and if they're living in high-cost Cambridge, chances are they're receiving income elsewhere.

The cost of living in Cambridge is 73% higher than the national average. The median rental price is around $4,277 per month, and the median home price is over $1.4 million.

"We want to stabilize as many households as possible and make sure that they have a chance to continue to stay in our city that, you know, is not easy to stay in," Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui stated.

A $500 payment in a high-cost city will never financially stabilize families. **Instead, it will increase inflation and bypasses the middle class.**

Unlike traditional welfare programs, those eligible will receive direct deposit payments that they may spend as they see fit.

The American Rescue plan was not marketed as a guaranteed basic income initiative. Siddiqui is buying votes with Federal funds. The city is pricing out the middle class by providing handouts to those who cannot afford to live in an expensive city. Free money becomes like a drug and the people become hooked on receiving that monthly direct deposit. But, as with all drug, they will become dependent and will need more and more as the cost of living increases. This will only incentivize people to not work and vote for politicians who promise handouts at the expense of responsible taxpayers.

Asia, middle east, energy: Pakistan Wants To Pay In Chinese Yuan For Russia's Crude Oil

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 01:45 PM

Authored by Tsvetana Paraskova via OilPrice.com,

Cash-strapped Pakistan hopes it can pay for future Russian crude oil deliveries in Chinese yuan, Pakistani Minister of Power, Khurram Dastgir Khan, told Bloomberg in an interview published on Wednesday.

Pakistan has so far ordered just one crude oil cargo from Russia**, expected to arrive this month.**

Pakistan expects to receive in May its first cargo loaded with discounted Russian crude after placing its first order for oil from Moscow under a new bilateral deal, Pakistan’s Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik told Reuters at the end of April.

The payment for the first cargo of Russian oil was made in U.S. dollars.

Pakistan is desperate to import energy at low costs after it was outspent on the market last year when oil and gas prices surged while its foreign exchange reserves dwindled. **The country has a currency swap with China, which would make it easier to pay for crude than using the little U.S. dollar reserves it has.**

“We hope that if this becomes a long-term arrangement, it’ll become a rupee and Chinese currency transaction,” the Pakistani minister Khan told Bloomberg, commenting on the imports of Russian crude oil (ZH: before he was arrested).

A yuan payment would benefit both China and Russia.

China has been looking for years to establish more trade deals in yuan to increase the relevance of its currency on the global markets and challenge the U.S. dollar’s dominance in international trade, including in energy trade.

In March, China's President Xi Jinping met with Vladimir Putin in Moscow, and the Russian president not only endorsed trade in yuan with China but also with other countries.

"We support the use of Chinese yuan in payments between Russia and countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America," Putin was quoted as saying by Russian media.

Over the past year, Russia has turned to trade in yuan in the wake of the Western sanctions on its exports, imports, and energy trade, as the Chinese currency has become Putin's only alternative to reducing exposure to the U.S. dollar and the euro, and limiting the fallout of the sanctions that have seen Russian state assets seized in Western countries.

War, middle east: Watch: Panic Hits Tel Aviv Beach As Over 100 Gaza Rockets Pound Israel

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 12:45 PM

Militant groups in Gaza are a big step closer to entering another full-blown war with Israel as rockets criss-crossed the skies over the strip for a second consecutive day.

The Israeli army (IDF) and government sources have said over **170 rockets have been fired from Gaza**, with 134 having made it into Israeli territory, many of which were intercepted by the Iron Dome defense system. Initially, sirens and civilian evacuation efforts were focused in the south as rockets rained down, but **dramatic footage has emerged showing thousands of civilians scrambling** to find shelter on a Tel Aviv beach...

The Associated Press also confirms that "Palestinian militants fired dozens of rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel on Wednesday, in a first response to ongoing **Israeli airstrikes that have killed 19 Palestinians**, including three senior militants and at least 10 civilians."

The Israeli strikes began overnight Monday into Tuesday, in the heaviest fighting in months, following last week's rockets fired by Palestinian Islamic Jihad

(PIJ) which was in response to the death of prominent Palestinian detainee Khader Adnan, who died May 2nd after an 87-day hunger strike in Israeli prison.

So far, at least three senior PIJ commanders have been killed in the Israeli airstrikes, while also the IDF has said it is attempting to avoid drawing in Hamas to the fight at this moment.

Israel's anti-air systems busy on Tuesday...

Government, censorship: Rep George Santos Arrested, Charged With Wire Fraud, Money Laundering, Theft Of Public Funds And Lying

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 10:40 AM

Update (0940ET): Santos surrendered himself to authorities on Wednesday and is currently in custody at a federal courthouse, the *NYT* reports.

He's been hit with **seven counts of wire fraud, three counts of money laundering, one count of theft of public goods and two counts of making materially false statements** to the House of Representatives.

*The decision by federal prosecutors to take action against Mr. Santos marked a precipitous turn in the fortunes of a first-term congressman **who went from a symbol of Republican resurgence to a scandal-plagued political punching bag.***

Mr. Santos has been besieged by questions about his background, his personal wealth and his campaign finances since last December, when The New York Times and other outlets began reporting on numerous lies about his biography, education and work history that he had told voters on the campaign trial. -NYT

Santos has denied any criminal wrongdoing.

* * *

Federal prosecutors have filed charges against first-term New York Rep. George Santos, who's infamous for having stacked up lie upon lie about his personal history, and for allegations of financial misconduct prior to taking office. Citing "three sources familiar with the matter," *CNN* was first to report this development on Tuesday.

Despite House votes on the schedule for Tuesday evening, **Santos was on his way to New York, and reporters observed four of his staffers abruptly departing** his congressional office with their bags. So far, Santos, his representatives and the Justice Department have all declined requests for comment. **He may appear in federal court in the Eastern District of New York as early as Wednesday.**

It's not clear what crimes Santos will be charged with, in part because there's so much on the menu:

"During his brief time in office, **Santos has been accused of breaking campaign finance laws, violating federal conflict of interest laws, stealing cash meant for an Iraq War veteran's dying dog**, **masterminding a credit card fraud scheme** and lying about where he went to school and worked." - *CNN*

Santos won the first-ever congressional election featuring a feisty tussle between two openly gay men (Mary Altaffer/AP via *NBC News*)

The House ethics committee has been probing Santos's financial disclosure forms, whether he violated conflict-of-interest laws or otherwise broke laws associated with his congressional campaign in which he scored a mild upset to represent parts of Long Island and Queens.

In December, the *New York Times* published a damning exposé revealing that Santos had apparently fabricated his life story. After the initial report, even more falsehoods came to light. **His seeming lies include:**

- Claiming he earned **degrees in economics and finance** from Baruch College and New York University.
- Claiming he **became "an associate asset manager" in Citigroup's real estate division**
- Claiming he **worked at Goldman Sachs**
- Saying he was founder and leader of a **"Friends of Pets United," a supposed tax-exempt organization.**
- Claiming his f**amily owns a 13-property real estate portfolio**
- **Denying he'd been a drag queen**
- Calling himself **"a proud American Jew"**

The openly gay Santos even **claimed his company "lost four employees" in the June 2016 mass shooting at the gay Pulse nightclub.** He didn't specify the company, and the *Times* couldn't find any overlap between profiles of the 49 dead at the bar and any of the companies Santos claimed to have worked for.

Probing his past in Brazil, the *Times* also unearthed criminal charges against Santos -- and a confession -- over an incident in which "he stole the checkbook of a man his mother was caring for."

Markets, Russia, war: What Will Happen If Russia Blocks Black Sea Grain Ships?

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 04:30 AM

By Greg Miller of FreightWaves,

Russia is threatening to pull the plug on the Black Sea Grain Initiative on May 18, blocking Ukrainian seaborne exports of corn and wheat. The European Union has banned Ukrainian agriculture exports to neighboring Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia until June 5, with an extension through year-end possible, due to local pricing pressures. The Tolyatti-Odessa pipeline, a key conduit for Russian exports of ammonia — a vital fertilizer feedstock — remains offline.

War, Europe: NATO Air Units On High Alert After Near Miss Between Russian & Polish Aircraft

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 03:00 AM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com,

NATO has put its air units on high alert following a near miss between Russian and Polish aircraft, *Reuters* reported Monday.

A NATO official said that on Friday, a Polish jet patrolling over the Black Sea near Romania for the EU’s border agency, known as Frontex, had **a dangerous encounter with a Russian aircraft**.

"NATO air policing detachments were **put on higher readiness in response** to the dangerous behavior of a Russian military plane in the vicinity of a Polish Frontex aircraft over the Black Sea near Romania," the NATO official said.

The Romanian Defense Ministry **accused the Russian aircraft of acting recklessly**. "This incident is a further proof of the provocative approach of the Russian Federation in the Black Sea," the ministry said in a statement on the incident.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine last year, there have been several dangerous encounters between NATO and Russian aircraft, including the incident in March that resulted in the downing of a US MQ-9 Reaper drone near Crimea.

According to *The New York Times*, a leaked Pentagon document revealed a near miss on September 29 that **almost resulted in a Russian jet shooting down a manned British surveillance plane**.

US officials said the Russian pilot fired a missile after misinterpreting what a radar operator said, but the missile malfunctioned.

Media, government, tech: Ex-Russian Space Boss Finds 'No Proof' Americans Landed On Moon In 1969

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 12:40 AM

Russia's former head of the Roscosmos space agency, Dmitry Rogozin, said he went on a quest about a decade ago to find concrete proof that the Americans landed on the Moon in 1969. After finding little evidence, he questioned whether the Apollo 11 Mission reached the lunar surface.

"About ten years ago, when I worked in the Government, I sent an official request to Roskosmos to provide me with documentary evidence of the Americans' stay on the moon, which at that time was still at the disposal of the federal agency," Rogozin said in a post on Telegram on Sunday.

He continued, "I was painfully embarrassed by the fact that the Soviet cosmonauts returning from multi-day expeditions could barely stand on their feet and underwent a long recovery after such flights, and the Americans crawled out of their lunar ships like cucumbers from the garden. "

Rogozin claimed to have submitted multiple requests to Roscosmos for proof of NASA's 1969 Moon landing. He said the only evidence he received was a book that contained an account by Soviet Cosmonaut Aleksey Leonov about his conversation with the American astronauts and their discussions about the lunar mission.

Rogozin continued in the post:

In 2018, when I went to work at the state corporation Roskosmos, I continued to search for this evidence, but I didn't find anything there, except for the angry accusations of some of our fans of going to America at the expense of others, academicians, that I, they say, undermine the "sacred cooperation with NASA," I also received one angry call from a high-ranking official accusing me of "aggravating the international situation" with my doubts.

Yes, I did not undermine or aggravate anything, but only by virtue of my nature I tried to get to the bottom of the details and establish, at least for myself, the true state of affairs in the issue of exploration of the Moon by our competitors. It was not clear to me how the United States, at that level of technological development of the 60s of the last century, did what they still cannot do now?

Add Rogozin to the moon-landing denialism camp because how dare anyone question that the spacecraft with less computing power than even a modern USB-C charger could land astronauts on the Moon in 1969 -- and astronauts have yet to return 54 years later.

... still there are many questions.

Journal, tech, ai: Wendy's Unveils Google-Powered AI Chatbot At Drive-Thru

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 12:00 AM

Wendy's is reportedly developing an **artificial intelligence chatbot powered by Google's natural-language software designed to automate drive-thrus**.

The Wall Street Journal spoke with Wendy's Chief Executive Todd Penegor, who said the **fast-food chain's chatbot would be rolled out in June** at a company-owned restaurant in Columbus, Ohio.

The Wendy's drive-thru chatbot "will be very conversational," Penegor explained. He said, "You won't know you're talking to anybody but an employee."

Wendy's software engineers have been working with Google to build a large language model to understand words, popular expressions, and phrases in various dialects and accents when a customer orders. It'll understand acronyms unique to Wendy's, like "JBC" for a junior bacon cheeseburger.

"Google Cloud's generative AI technology creates a huge opportunity for us to deliver a truly differentiated, faster, and frictionless experience for our customers, and allows our employees to continue focusing on making great food and building relationships with fans that keep them coming back time and again," Penegor said in a separate conversation about the chatbot while speaking with Gizmodo.

WSJ said the drive-thru chatbot is programmed to upsell customers by asking if they want to combo the order or increase sizes. Once the order is completed, humans operating the kitchen will (which will one day be replaced by robot chefs) prepare the food before being packaged up and stuffed into a bag for pickup at the window.

Wendy's Chief Information Officer Kevin Vasconi told WSJ that the chatbot **"is probably on average better" than the company's top customer service rep**s. He said the chatbot's goal is to improve service speed and consistency at drive-thrus. About 80% of all food orders are placed at the burger chain's drive-thrus.

Besides Wendy's, we have outlined the move by other fast-food restaurants, like McDonald's, to automate stores and replace humans:

- *McDonald's To Replace More Humans With Drive-Thru AI*
- *McDonald's Tests AI-Powered Automated Drive-Thrus At 10 Chicago Restaurants*

There's even been a push by McDonald's to automate a restaurant entirely:

- *McDonald's Unveils Automated Restaurant In Texas With No Human Contact*

The proliferation of automation in the fast food industry will only mean a tidal wave of layoffs is coming over this decade. According to market research firm IBISWorld, the US has more than 5 million workers.

Recall a recent Goldman report (available to pro subscribers in the usual place) that stated, "Two-thirds of current jobs are exposed to some degree of AI automation, and that generative AI could substitute up to one-fourth of current work. Extrapolating our estimates globally suggests that generative AI could expose the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs to automation" as up to "two thirds of occupations could be partially automated by AI."

In other words, the robots are coming, and jobs will be lost.

War, asia: China Retaliates After Canada Expels Its Diplomat Over 'Political Interference'

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, MAY 09, 2023 - 11:20 PM

Canada and China have mutually expelled diplomats in tit-for-tat moves after Canada first booted a Chinese diplomat based in Toronto, Zhao Wei, which happened Monday.

The Canadian government has **accused him of political interference**, allegations first revealed in a leaked report written by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). The CSIS report "found an accredited Chinese diplomat in the country had taken efforts toward **targeting opposition lawmaker Michael Chong and relatives who may be in China**." Beijing has called it "lies".

War, middle east: Israel Launches New Gaza Strikes, Killing At Least 15 Palestinians

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 09, 2023 - 08:40 PM

In its biggest military operation since last August, Israel launched major airstrikes on the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, **killing at least 15 Palestinians, among them eight civilians** and three senior Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) commanders, according to statements of Palestinian officials.

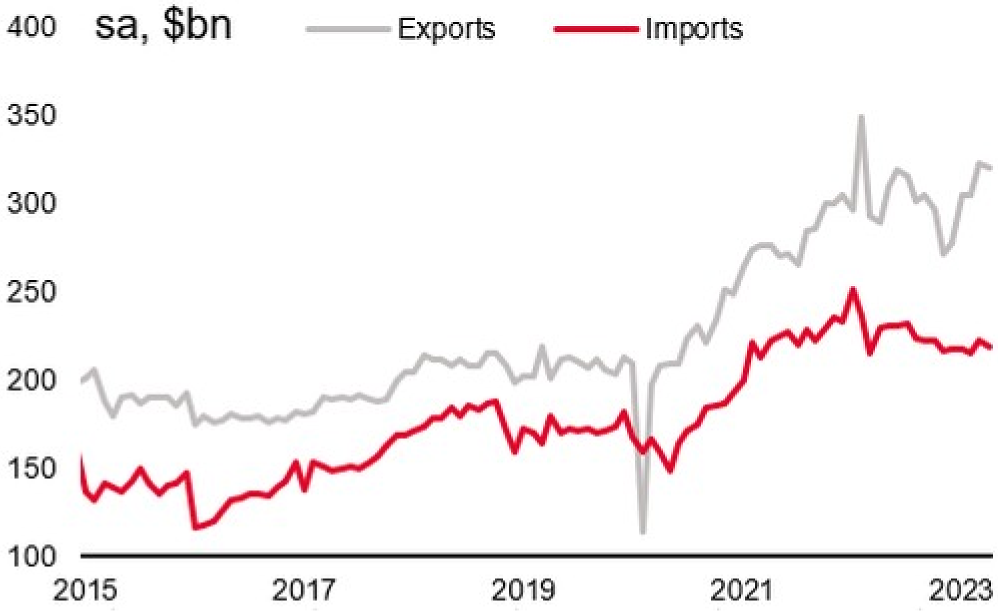
Last week witnessed **over 100 rockets fired on southern Israel** by Islamic militant factions in the strip following the news of the death of prominent Palestinian detainee Khader Adnan, who did last Tuesday after an 87-day hunger strike in Israeli prison. Israeli officials are calling this new operation 'retaliation' for last week's rocket launches.

Markets, inflation, government, asia: Tumbling Chinese Commodity Imports Signal Two-Speed Recovery

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 09, 2023 - 08:00 PM

Futures are limping lower after overnight China reported that export growth moderated from 14.8% in March to 8.5% in April, slightly better than market expectations, and unchanged from the 1Q23 average, while Imports unexpectedly collapsed, badly missing expectations.

Both export and import value declined sharply in April in sequential terms (exports: -5.4% sa non-annualized, imports: -5.1%, USD-denominated). The sequential decline in exports is in line with historical patterns for this year's earlier-than-normal Lunar New Year.



journal: nice breakdown of the superficiality of the general public that ive been noticing in the younger age groups these days: The fairy anology that I use...They live in a phone fantasy land, watch netflix, and play way too much into the mental health thing, always talking about it and bringing it up. They dye their hair all these stupid colors and have no religion; nothing to believe in. And now, on top of all this, theyre also being blocked from the truth through outright, online censorship, something that is relatively new to the western world. Its just a weird generation of let I say: "pussies". Anyways,

this smarter person broke it down nicely on daily sceptic.

To my eye, there is no doubt that young people generally have objectively worse lives on average than those of my generation (I came of age in the late 90s). I of course generalise, but: they spend way too much time on their phones and sat in front of screens; they are inadequately socialised; they don’t get outside enough; too many of them come from broken homes or single parent families; society has become much too cut-throat and wealth-obsessed; they are under huge pressure to look good and say the right things at all times; they depend too much on passive forms of entertainment and they don’t seem to have hobbies. The day-to-day experience of life, in other words, is for a lot of them just a bit shit – and who wouldn’t be depressed in those circumstances?

But on the other hand the incentives all now seem to point in the same direction. Getting a diagnosis for ‘anxiety’, for instance, is ludicrously easy, and once you have it, doors are simply opened for you (at my institution, for instance, if you suffer from this ‘condition’ – I thought it was a normal human emotion – you automatically get 25% more time when sitting an exam). And if you don’t fancy coming to campus because it’s raining or you’ve got a hangover, ‘struggling with my mental health’ is a readymade excuse that nobody can really inquire into – the 2023 equivalent of ‘my grandma died’. To what extent the crisis is real or fake is therefore difficult to answer. It’s both.

In a sense, though, the cause is irrelevant, because the fact remains: ***we have an entire generation now – really anybody under the age of 25 – which seems to think a) that mental health problems are common, b) that having one is a legitimate reason either to avoid doing something undesirable or to receive special treatment of some kind, and c) that it’s wrong to ‘judge’ or stigmatise anybody if he or she suffers from such a problem.*** And the effect of those beliefs is the same, however sincerely they are held: avoidance of responsibility; self-centredness and navel-gazing; excuse-making and shoddiness. Each year a growing number of undergraduate students on my course don’t sit their final exam in May, when they should, but during the re-sit period in August, because their mental health issues are purportedly so crippling. Does it matter whether this is because they are just pretending and want a few more months to revise, or because they are genuinely in dire mental straits? At the sharp end, the consequences are identical.

One used to be able to convince oneself that kids would grow out of this kind of thing once they entered the ‘real world’ of employment – just as one used to be able to convince oneself that they would grow out of being woke when surrounded by real adults. **The truth is that the opposite is happening: society is being forced not just to accommodate but to encourage the eccentricities of the young.** Hence my institution and its 25% exam extension bonus for the anxious, and every employer on LinkedIn advertising its ‘duvet days’ and ‘mental health afternoons’ and therapeutic working environments. What’s worse is that the grown adults, who have no excuse because they were raised in the good old days of the stiff upper lip, are getting in on the act. Last year, when a student at my institution unfortunately died, the other students in his various seminar groups (who barely knew him) were encouraged to apply for extensions to the submission deadlines for their coursework by their 40-something module tutor on the basis that “I’m sure you guys are struggling”. The same staff member later himself went off work for four months (at full pay, of course) with that other favourite, ‘stress’.

I don’t therefore believe that a solution can be found to this issue now; these attitudes are ingrained and almost universal among younger people (though I am aware, of course, that there are plenty of exceptions) and, as I have suggested, are even infecting the old. I’m afraid we are simply going to have to watch a vast experiment unfold – the political and cultural consequences that follow when, for the first time in human history, the majority of society describes itself as suffering from a mental health problem and deploys it as a ‘get out of jail free’ card at the drop of a hat. When, indeed (consider the absurdity of the times in which we live!), having an abnormally low mood has become normal. And when this condition is at its rifest among the professional classes – doctors, teachers, lawyers, accountants, architects, civil servants – who have graduated from university and basically run society. The only advice I can give is to hold on to your hat – because things are about to get interesting, and not in a good way.

https://dailysceptic.org/2023/05/09/the-truth-about-generation-snowflake-is-even-worse-than-we-feared/

Media: Chicago Police Advise Business Owners To Install Shatter-Resistant Glass Shields Amid String Of Break-Ins

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, MAY 09, 2023 - 04:45 PM

Authored by Ryan Morgan via The Epoch Times, The Chicago Police Department recently advised businesses in its 14th District to install special shatter-proof glass window protectors to keep their stores safe after a recent series of break-ins.

“This alert gives notice to businesses in the 14th District of recent burglaries in the overnight hours,” the April 30 police alert states.

“The Offender breaks the front/side glass windows of said businesses by means of rock/brick/crowbar to gain entry. Once inside they steal money from cash register, the cash register itself, safe, and liquor.”

Europe: Italy's Meloni To Pull Trigger On Belt & Road Exit In Major Blow To China

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 09, 2023 - 04:44 PM

The government of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is readying plans to pull the trigger on a formal exit from China's controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), estimated at having funded $900 billion in infrastructure projects globally.

The past weeks have seen increasing reports that Meloni’s Brothers of Italy party has been spearheading a move away from the BRI, though some within the broader center-right coalition unity government have been on the fence. *Bloomberg* now reports Tuesday that "Italy has signaled to the US that it intends to pull out of a controversial investment pact with China **before the end of the year**."

"Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni reassured US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy during a meeting in Rome last week that while a final decision hasn’t been taken, her government is **favoring an exit** from its role in China’s massive Belt and Road Initiative, according to people present at the talks," *Bloomberg* continues. Neither the Italian nor US administrations have yet to give public comment or confirmation to the report.

Inflation government, energy, war, journal: Biden Delays SPR Refill Again, Now Says Must Wait For Storage Repairs First

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 09, 2023 - 02:25 PM

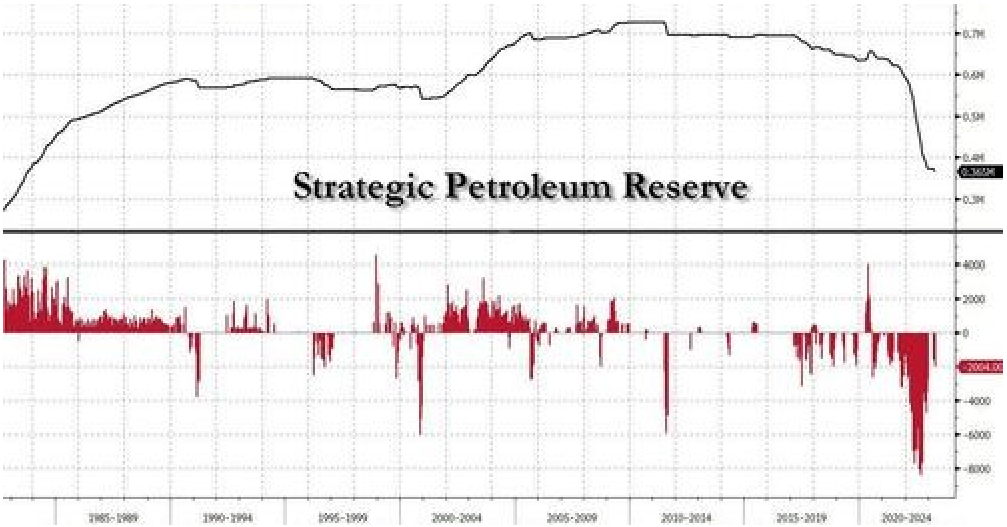
Last November, when there were still tens of millions of extra barrels in the US Strategic ~~Political~~ Petroleum Reserve, we joked that not only would the historic drain by the Biden administration not reverse - contrary to what the senile occupant of the White House would read from his cue cards on occasion - but that the drains would continue until the salt caverns collapsed.

It was supposed to be a joke, but like everything else relating to the Biden admin, it may not have been.

That's because according to Bloomberg, months and months after vowing it would start refilling the SPR when oil dropped to a price where energy tzar Hunter Biden would be waving it in, the Biden administration "plans to begin **purchasing oil to replenish the nation's emergency reserve after completing maintenance work later this year."**

Here a bunch of questions immediately pop up: why not buy oil futures today, for delivery 1 year from now, or 2 years, or 3 years, etc. After all, that was precisely what **Biden promised to US energy producers who,** it turns out, were absolutely correct not to believe the lies. Or, for that matter, what maintenance is required to the deep underground salt caverns where the SPR is stored? Did the White House's aggressive SPR drain truly damage them - as we joked last November it would.

In other words, just another excuse not to do so now, because even the absolute amateurs that surround Biden know that with the oil market the most illiquid it has ever been, the moment a government bid steps in, oil will soar back into the triple digits.



“The SPR remains the largest in the world and DOE remains committed to refilling the SPR in a manner that will deliver the best value for American taxpayers and protect US national (and economic) security interests, while abiding by congressional mandates and undertaking necessary maintenance that is also part of good stewardship,” the Energy Department lied on Tuesday, but since few are aware that China's SPR is now far bigger than the US equivalent, it's not like anyone will counter.

In addition to direct purchases, the department said part of its strategy for replenishing the reserve includes a return of oil from previous exchanges requested by refiners facing disruptions earlier this year and avoiding “unnecessary sales unrelated to supply disruptions.”

While the department cancelled some 140 million barrels of oil sales mandated by Congress via a government funding bill last year, the past few weeks have seen continued SPR drains anywhere between 1.5 and 2 million barrels, the latest attempt to lower oil prices and offset the recent OPEC+ output cut.

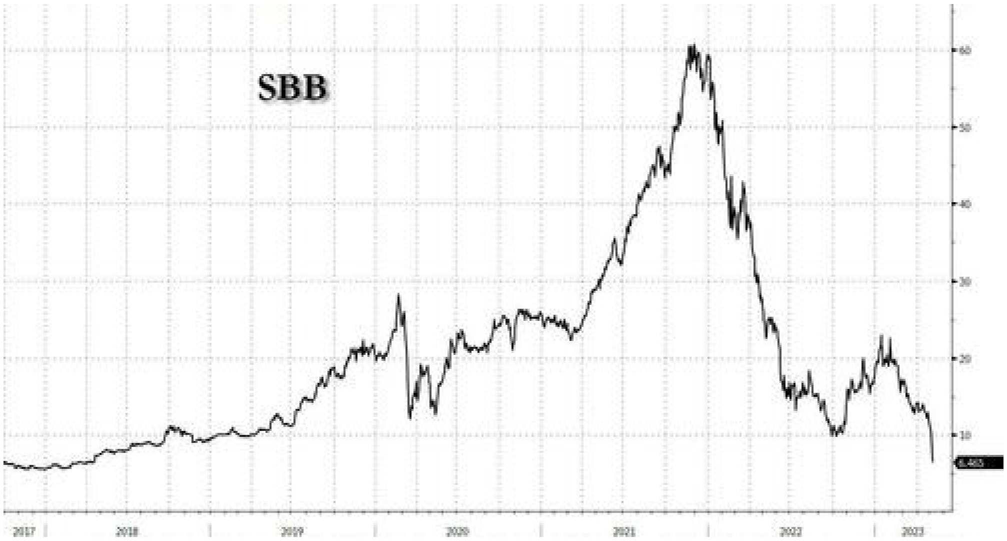
Markets, inflation, house: CRE Crisis Crosses Atlantic: Sweden's Largest Commercial Landlord SBB Implodes After Getting Junked, Halting Dividend

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, MAY 09, 2023 - 01:45 PM

The US Commercial real estate crisis - which according to Jim Cramer *"isn't going to destabilize the system"* thus guaranteeing another global crash - has crossed the Atlantic and made landfall in Sweden where commercial landlord SBB - one of the most-owned stocks in Sweden - saw its share price crater to the lowest level since 2018 years after the company announced plans to postpone a dividend and cancel a rights issue intended to shore up its finances.

Shares in Samhallsbyggnadsbolaget i Norden AB — as SBB is formally known — plummeted more than 20% and have fallen 14 out of the last 15 trading days. Today's plunge compounded the losses from Monday when the stock cratered 20% following a credit rating cut to junk by S&P Global Ratings. Its market capitalization has dropped from over $17 billion in late 2021 to less than $1.5 billion, a historic collapse for its more than 260,000 shareholders.



War, middle east, india: The White House Is Blocking The New York Post From Attending Biden Appearances

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, MAY 09, 2023 - 09:13 AM

Authored by Steve Watson via Summit News,

The New York Post revealed Monday that The White House is blocking its reporters from attending Joe Biden’s public appearances, suggesting that it is doing so in retaliation for the outlet reporting on “his relatives’ foreign dealings.”

The White House press office barred The Post from attending President Biden’s only daytime public event Monday as federal prosecutors near a decision on criminally charging first son Hunter Biden for tax fraud and other crimes.

The Post has closely covered the president’s ties to his relatives’ foreign dealings and first reported in October 2020 on files from Hunter’s abandoned laptop that link Joe Biden to ventures in China and Ukraine.

Biden, who falsely characterized The Post’s reporting as Russian disinformation, appeared with Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to talk about airline policies in the White House-adjacent Eisenhower Executive Office Building

In a Monday email, White House staff informed The Post: “We are unable to accommodate your credential request to attend the Investing in Airline Accountability Remarks on 5/8. The remarks will be live-streamed and can be viewed at WH.gov. Thank you for understanding. We will let you know if a credential becomes available.”

The email does not claim that the exclusion is due to “space limitations” — an excuse that was used until recently to justify the press office’s mysterious prescreening of reporters let into large presidential events, which under past administrations were open to all journalists on White House grounds.

Heightening the risk of national instability is the fact that many of Khan's well-placed enemies are top military and intelligence officials:

Khan's detention came after Pakistan's military spokesman, Maj. Gen. Ahmed Sharif, released an usually sharply worded statement against the former prime minister, warning him not to malign a serving officer. That followed ***recent allegations made by Khan that a military intelligence official was leading behind a plot to kill him****.*

Sharif described Khan's claims as "highly irresponsible and baseless allegations" which were "unfortunate, deplorable and unacceptable."

To add insult to the allegations, ***Khan referred to the military intelligence official as "Dirty Harry,"*** *from an old Clint Eastwood movie — allegations he doubled down on Tuesday before reaching the courthouse.*

A Pakistani political analyst has explained to *Al Jazeera* that "Ever since this whole process started with ousting of the former prime minister 13 months ago, it has become crystal clear that the ruling political elite as well as the establishment in the country **did not want Imran khan back in any capacity, in any ruling capacity**."

This suggests significant civil unrest to come: "They will go to whatever lengths to ensure this happens," the analyst, Zeeshan Salahuddin, said.

One pro-Khan, opposition social media user had this to say: "This is unprecedented in Pakistani history. Pakistani people are taking the **protests to the Army -- the real rulers of the country** — finally."

Already there are reports of casualties from the protests coming out of Pakistan on Tuesday, also with reports and footage showing that demonstrators have **stormed a Pakistani Army headquarters**.

Footage shows people approaching a high-secure entry area of the Pakistan Army HQ in Rawalpindi, in an unprecedented and highly volatile situation...

There are also widespread reports circulating on social media that in some locales police and military might be using live fire to put quell the unrest.

The pro-Khan crowds **could target government buildings and ministries next**. *Al Jazeera* is reporting that "In Lahore, protesters gathered outside the former prime minister’s Zaman Park residence and blocked the adjacent roads by burning tires."

Journal, censorship: Never could've imagined a world where the NY Post would be openly blocked from attending such an event. They have been around for a long time, and are a well recognized outfit, routinely breaking original stories. It is no different than blocking the NY Times.

The White House Is Blocking The New York Post From Attending Biden Appearances

BY TYLER DURDEN
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Journal, markets, Probably due to trade war hostilities:

West Coast Port Dominance Cracks As Containerized Flows Shift East

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 09, 2023 - 06:45 AM

US importers are reevaluating where they ship goods into the US after decades of relying solely on US West Coast ports as a gateway to the Heartland. They're now betting that US South And East ports can offer reduced risk, time, and transportation costs.

The share of all US containerized cargo handled by Southern California's ports topped 40% over the last several decades as imports between the US and Asia surged. But the shifting winds in trade have forced importers to ditch Asia to Los Angeles and Long Beach routes and opt for end destination ports in Houston to the Mid-Alantic area.

Bloomberg explained more about the shifting trade winds :

Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

·
May 3

The idea that governments around the world have for years been secretly censoring ordinary citizens sounds crazy, but it's true. Worse, they are now on the cusp of imposing what can only be described as a totalitarian system to end freedom of speech as we know it.

World On Cusp Of Woke Totalitarianism As Governments Act To End Freedom Of Speech

Media blackout as politicians in EU, US, UK, Brazil, Ireland, Canada, and Australia seek to jail citizens for wrongthink under the cover of a Big Lie about "hate speech"

MICHAEL SHELLENBERGER AND ALEX GUTENTAG
MAY 3, 2023 · PAID

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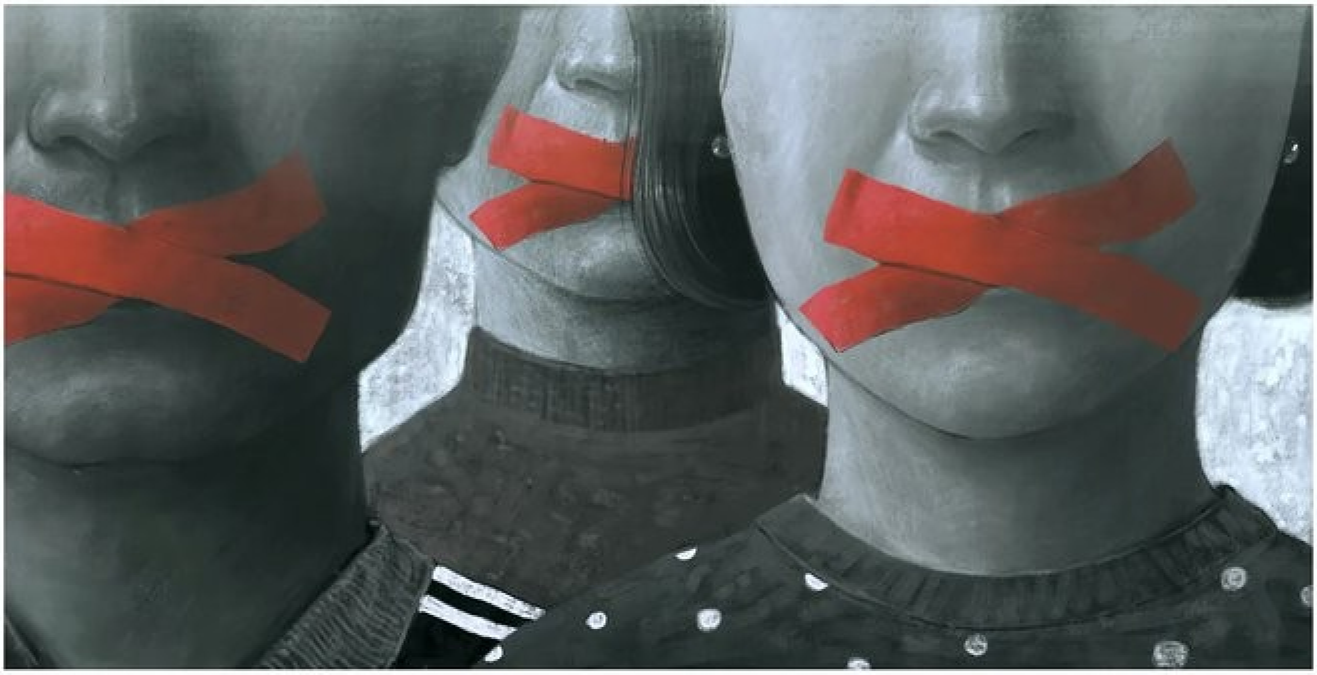

By Michael Shellenberger and Alex Gutentag

2,000
11.1K
29.4K

3.4M

Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

World On Cusp Of Woke Totalitarianism As Governments Act To End Freedom Of Speech Media blackout as politicians in EU, US, UK, Brazil, Canada & Australia seek to jail citizens for wrongthink under the cover of a Big Lie about "hate speech" by
@shellenberger
@galexybrane
11:15 AM · May 3, 2023
·
99.3K
Views

560
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2,318
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42
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Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

·
May 3

The Twitter Files gave us a window into how government agencies, civil society, and tech companies work together to censor social media users. Now, key nations are attempting to enshrine this coordination into law explicitly.

32

475

2,209

86.7K

Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

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May 3

Around the world, politicians have either just passed or are on the cusp of passing sweeping new laws, which would allow governments to censor ordinary citizens on social media and other Internet platforms.

15

329

1,638

71.3K

Michael Shellenberger

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May 3

Under the guise of preventing “harm” and holding large tech companies accountable, several countries are establishing a vast and interlinked censorship apparatus, a new investigation by Public finds.

19

331

1,673

73.9K

Michael Shellenberger

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May 3

Politicians, NGOs, and their enablers in the news media claim that their goal is merely to protect the public from “disinformation.” But vague definitions and loopholes in new laws will create avenues for broad application, overreach, and abuse.

15

305

1,533

59.2K

Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

·

May 3

In Ireland, for example, the government may soon be able to imprison citizens simply for possessing material that officials decide is “hateful.” Under the RESTRICT Act in the US, the government may soon have the authority to monitor the Internet activity of any American deemed… Show more

31
424
1,545

63.9K

Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

·
May 3

Governments aim for total control. In Canada, a state agency can filter and manipulate what Canadians see online. In Australia, a single government official can compel social media companies to remove posts.

20
305
1,383

51.6K

Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

·
May 3

Governments and allied NGOs intend to force tech companies to comply with their rules. UK lawmakers have threatened to *imprison* social media managers who don’t censor enough content. And Brazil has introduced severe penalties for platforms that fail to remove “fake news.”

10
262
1,258

48.6K

Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

·
May 3

The key area of action is the European Union. It is seeking sweeping new powers to regulate social media companies. And if it acts, it may change how social media companies operate worldwide, given the EU’s economic power and influence globally.

8
243
1,191

45.4K

Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

·
May 3

Under the EU’s Digital Services Act, large tech companies must share their data with “vetted researchers” from non-profits and academia, which would cede content moderation to NGOs and their state sponsors.

8
222
1,148

43K

Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

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May 3

The US’s RESTRICT Act, sponsored by Senator Mark Warner (D-VA), threatens 20 years in prison or a $250,000 fine for accessing blacklisted websites through “virtual private networks,” or VPNs, which are ways to create a private connection between a computer or phone and the… Show more

27
382
1,248

49.8K

Michael Shellenberger

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May 3

There has been no moment similar to this one in the roughly 30 years of widespread public Internet usage in Western societies. Officials have introduced these policies mostly in the dead of night with little publicity or outcry. There has been a virtual blackout of what’s… Show more

11

296

1,260

48K

Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

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May 3

As shown with the Twitter Files, the Censorship Industrial Complex is as much about discrediting accurate facts, true narratives, and content creators who threaten its power while boosting the ones that do.

5

268

1,256

41.8K

Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

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May 3

We are thus witnessing the emergence of a governmental apparatus with the power to control the information environment in ways that determine what people believe to be true and what is false.

11

268

1,215

39.2K

Michael Shellenberger

@shellenberger

·

May 3

As such, it is no exaggeration to say that the West is on the cusp of a new and much more powerful form of totalitarianism than either Communism or Fascism, which were limited in their reach by geography.

migrant, war: 4 Million Receive Temporary Protection After Fleeing Ukraine

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, MAY 09, 2023 - 03:45 AM

Nearly four million non-EU citizens who fled the war in Ukraine had been granted temporary protection by the end of March 2023, according to the bloc's official Eurostat database.

As Statista's Anna Fleck reports, some 98 percent of those were Ukrainian citizens, with women aged 35-64 making up the biggest share (47 percent), while 35 percent were children and only 18 percent men. As the following chart shows, the highest number of applications were granted in Germany, which gave 1,067,755 people temporary protection, followed by Poland with 976,575 and Czechia with 325,245.

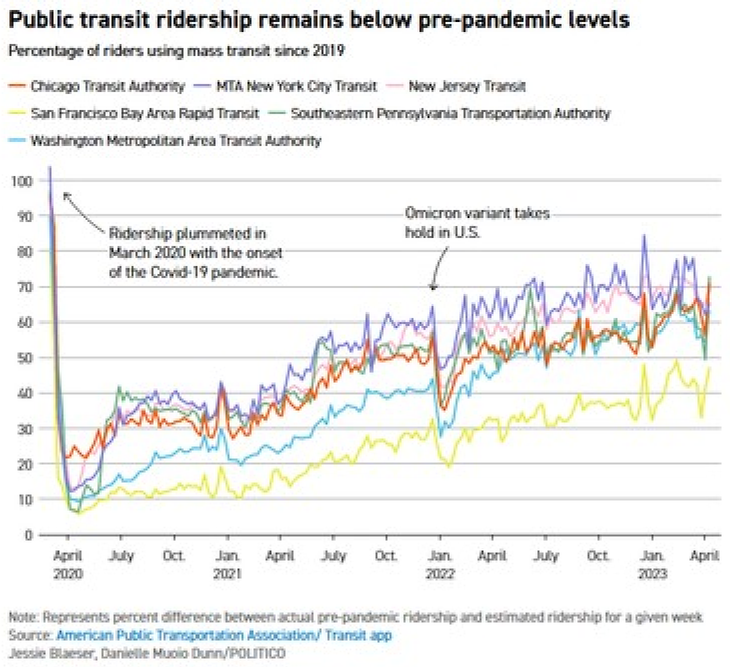
Journal, more on the empty cities phenomenon: “

In San Francisco, BART ridership is down 60% compared to pre-pandemic levels. In order to turn things around, the transit system is contemplating boosting service on nights and weekends - however the system's budget constraints means that it would need to reduce less-popular services elsewhere.”

America's Largest Transit Systems Reeling As Revenues Continue To Crater

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 - 11:00 PM

Public transit systems across the country are reeling from a **dramatic decline in ridership** which has left some of the largest cities with **less than 70% of their pre-pandemic traffic** - causing a financial rut that's led to transit CEOs pressing city and state officials for more funding streams and taxes, *Politico* reports.


Public transit ridership remains below pre-pandemic levels

Percentage of riders using mass transit since 2019

Note: Represents percent difference between actual pre-pandemic ridership and estimated ridership for a given week
Source: American Public Transportation Association/ Transit app
Jessie Blaeser, Danielle Muoio Dunn/POLITICO

Media, narrative: Tucker Carlson Preparing For "War" Against Fox News

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 - 04:45 PM

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News,

Tucker Carlson is preparing to go to “war” against Fox News as the network refuses to release him from his contract, preventing him from working for other networks until January 2025.

Fox News announced it was parting ways with Carlson last month, although speculation is still raging as to the exact reason.

Carlson has not technically been fired since he has still not been released from his $20 million per year deal, which forbids him from working elsewhere in the industry for another 20 months.

That means the popular host would be completely frozen out of being able to actively cover the 2024 presidential election.

“His team is preparing for war. He wants his freedom,” a close friend told Axios, adding that Carlson had previously said ***he wanted to “get this done quiet and clean” but his team was now “going from peacetime to Defcon 1.”***

Several behind the scenes videos of Carlson have already been leaked to left-wing media outlets, although Fox News has denied they are responsible.

Another inside source told the media outlet that the conservative commentator “knows where a lot of bodies are buried, and is ready to start drawing a map.”

Both Newsmax and Rumble have reportedly offered Carlson more than he was being paid at Fox, while Carlson has also reportedly been in talks with Twitter owner Elon Musk about starting a new project.

“The idea that anyone is going to silence Tucker and prevent him from speaking to his audience is beyond preposterous,” Carlson’s lawyer Byran Freedman told Axios.

Fox News has lost almost half its viewership in the slot that Carlson previously occupied and audience figures for the network’s other shows have also suffered big hits, especially in the coveted 25-54 age demographic.

As we previously highlighted, members of the US military-industrial complex celebrated Carlson’s depature, with one declaring “good riddance!”

latin America, policy: Chilean Right Triumphs In Key Vote On Attempt To Impose 'World's Most Progressive' Constitution

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 - 03:05 PM

Chilean assets gained Monday morning on the news of a major conservative-led political shakeup, after Sunday's vote to elect advisers to draft a new constitution saw the Chilean right come out on top. It's being widely dubbed an earthquake in Chilean politics: the ultra-conservative Republican party has won

22 of 50 seats for the body **tasked with overseeing a rewrite of the country's Pinochet-era constitution**, giving it clear veto power.

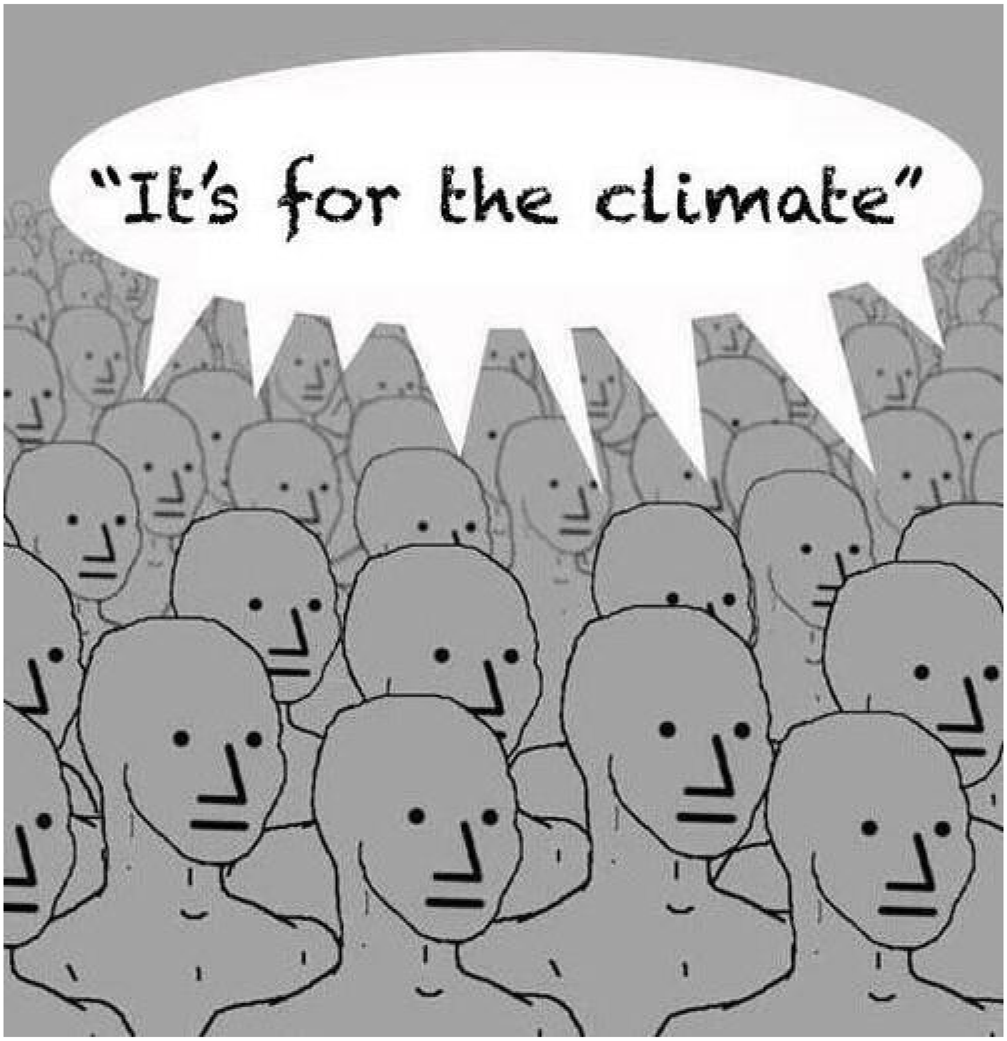
Led by conservative firebrand and former presidential candidate Jose Antonio Kast, the Republican party has long staunchly opposed a drastic revision of the Pinochet document. Mainstream English-language media has long dismissed Kast as a **"far-right radical"**.

Planet, stats, censorship, government, journal: top CO2 emitting countries, great stats

BBC: Climate Change Too Important To Be Left To Personal Choice

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 - 02:05 PM

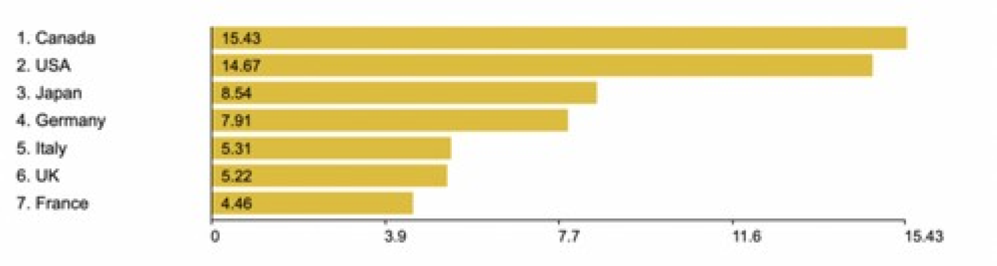
Authored by Mark Jeftovic via BombThrower.com,



Everyone will have to ratchet down their standard of living by over 75%

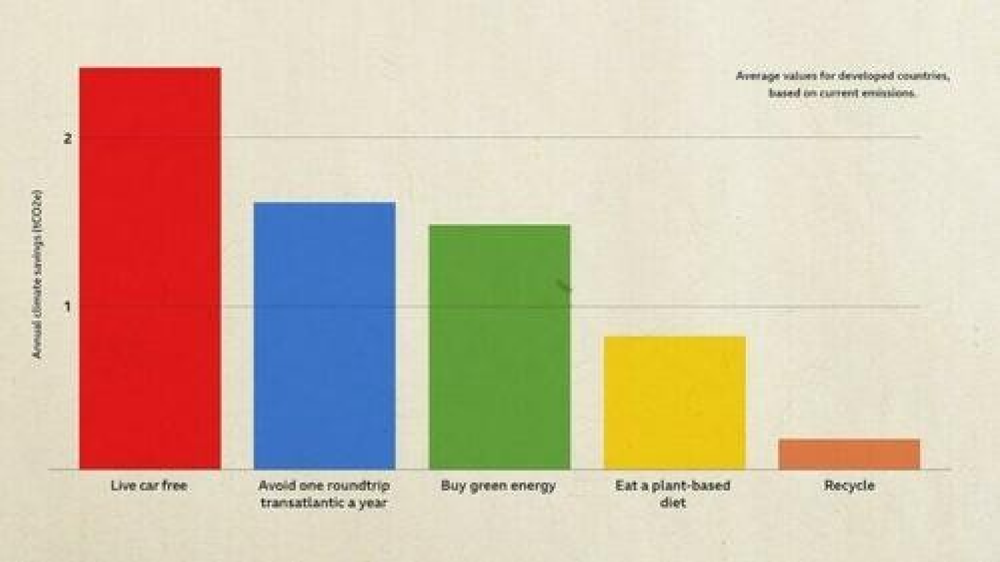
A recent piece in BBC's "Future World" series on its surface celebrates someone who choose to live an "ultra low carbon lifestyle". They made a conscious and individual decision to bring their own personal carbon footprint down below 2 metric tonnes per year.

Throughout the developed world, per capita carbon output ranges from 4.46 (France) to Canada being the highest at 15.43.



Via [GlobalEconomy.com]()

The article talks about the personal challenges around living an ultra-low carbon lifestyle. According to the piece, 2 tonnes/year is also about half the output of a single gas powered car in the US, so the first step for any Americans (or Canadians) wanting to do this, they would have to start by ditching their cars.

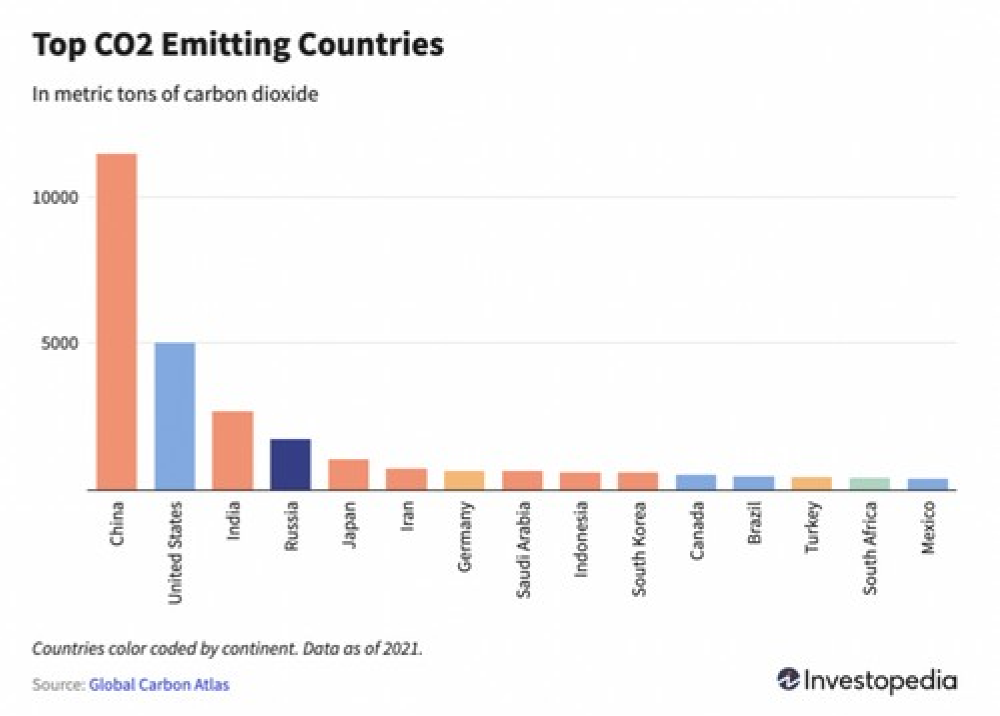


Other behaviours which move the needle would be: eating a plant based diet, buying green energy and forgoing one transatlantic round-trip per year.

In terms of what level of personal CO2 emissions gets the job done “for the climate”, estimates vary. While the 2 tonne number was somewhat arbitrary, there are other climate focused think tanks that feel the number has to be 1.4 tonnes of C02 per person by 2040 and 0.7 by 2050.

The Fallacy of per-capita output

Going back to Canada’s “excessive” carbon footprint – if we look at a metric that really means anything – *total CO2 output* – Canada is basically a rounding error to the world’s largest emitter, China.


Top CO2 Emitting Countries

In metric tons of carbon dioxide

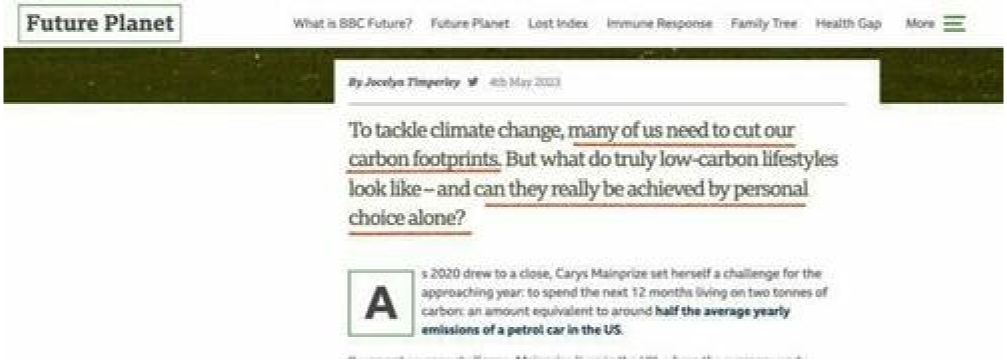
Countries color coded by continent. Data as of 2021.

Source: Global Carbon Atlas

At an average annual temperature at -4 to -5c celsius, Canada is also the *coldest* G7 nation. So perhaps we can forgive the Canucks for not wanting to freeze to death – even if it means emitting Co2 for heat. Also worth noting that far more humans are killed each year from being cold (17.7 million per year, on average) than from being too warm (2.2 million per year), roughly 8X.

Here's the thing: everybody has to comply

While the overall timbre of the piece lauds the story's protagonist (a communications officer at a climate non-profit) over her decision to make this lifestyle choice, sprinkled throughout are casual, back-handed references at where all this is going:



By Jocelyn Timperley 4th May 2023

To tackle climate change, many of us need to cut our carbon footprints. But what do truly low-carbon lifestyles look like – and can they really be achieved by personal choice alone?

As 2020 drew to a close, Carys Mainprize set herself a challenge for the approaching year: to spend the next 12 months living on two tonnes of carbon: an amount equivalent to around **half the average yearly emissions of a petrol car in the US.**

The ultra-low carbon lifestyle isn't just for the eco-minded, it has to be for everybody. Or it isn't going to work ("work" being defined as controlling the planet's climate decades out).

"what do truly low-carbon lifestyles look like – and ***can they really be achieved by personal choice alone?****"* the article laments.

Well if the answer is "no" then that means the ultra-low CO2 lifestyle has to be for everybody. How we do that is a matter of *"both individual and systems change".* By systems change is meant that

"with the right policies, infrastructure and technology in place to enable changes to our lifestyles and behaviour, we can reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions substantially by 2050…

In richer countries, ***this means moving towards a far lower carbon lifestyle for most people.*** *But the changes to get there aren't necessarily painful or even negative. For example, research has shown that good public services enable higher wellbeing at lower energy use."*

If you read between the lines we see the implications of this. It basically means that an ultra-low carbon lifestyle has to be brought about through systemic change, government policy and massively expanded public services – or said differently, increasing dependence on The State.

Private infrastructure – like cars – will have to become a thing of the past:

One major change would be to change how we move around. Akenji envisions a combination of public transport alongside micro-mobility systems (such as electric scooters and drones) which make it efficient and effective for people to reach it. Private cars, with their huge emissions and often empty seats, would largely be a thing of the past, he says, and car parks converted to green public spaces where people go to play, relax or do exercise.

The Climate Cult-ist 's Dilemma

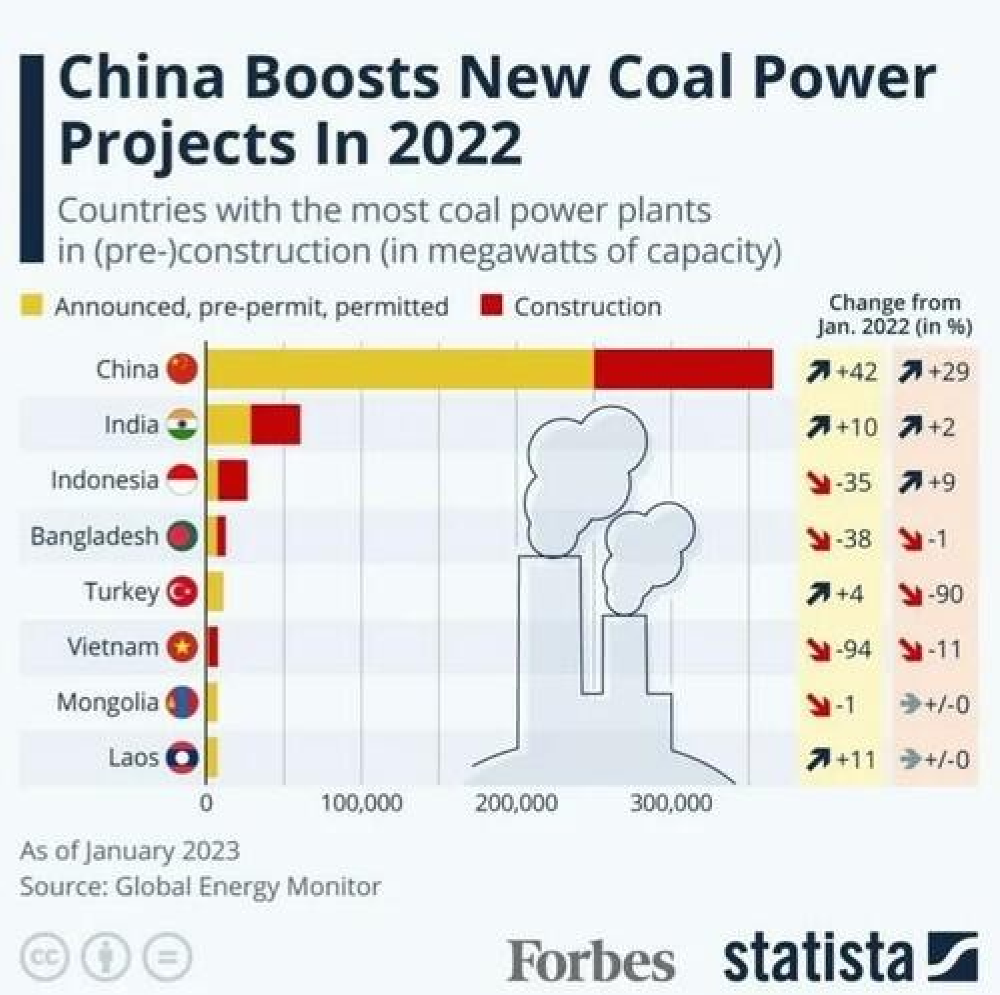
We live in a world where many people believe many different things, but nowhere else do we find the kind of mandatory buy-in required as with the so-called climate crisis. Fortunately we're hearing from an increasing number of scientists that there is no crisis, and whose voices are getting louder even in the face of corporate media "fact checking" and other headwinds of narrative control.

Climate crisis or not, I personally think decarbonization will happen anyway if for no other reason than that fossil fuel supplies are finite. With rational energy policies, including nuclear, natural gas and hybrid EVs (as opposed to full EV), we could significantly ratchet down CO2 emissions while still providing increased energy *inputs* to a world hungry for higher living standards.

Doomberg frequently quips that one's standard of living can be measured by how much energy one can afford to *waste.* Somewhat glib perhaps, but he uses it to hammer home the point that *energy is life* (also his phrase, see this Tweet thread that goes deeper on why).

The reality is there is no viable path forward that makes *reduced energy usage* and standard of living *reductions* a requirement, let alone mandatory.

Doing so means telling the middle class to own nothing and eat bugs, while the elites parade through the city in lengthy motorcades on their way to the airport to wing it to Davos in their private jets. It means telling third-world nations to remain mired in poverty. And it means *forcing* the Chinese to stop building all those coal-fired plants and to keep the 600 million subjects there who are still living in extreme poverty, poor.


China Boosts New Coal Power Projects In 2022

Countries with the most coal power plants in (pre-)construction (in megawatts of capacity)

As of January 2023
Source: Global Energy Monitor

Via Forbes

Good luck with that.

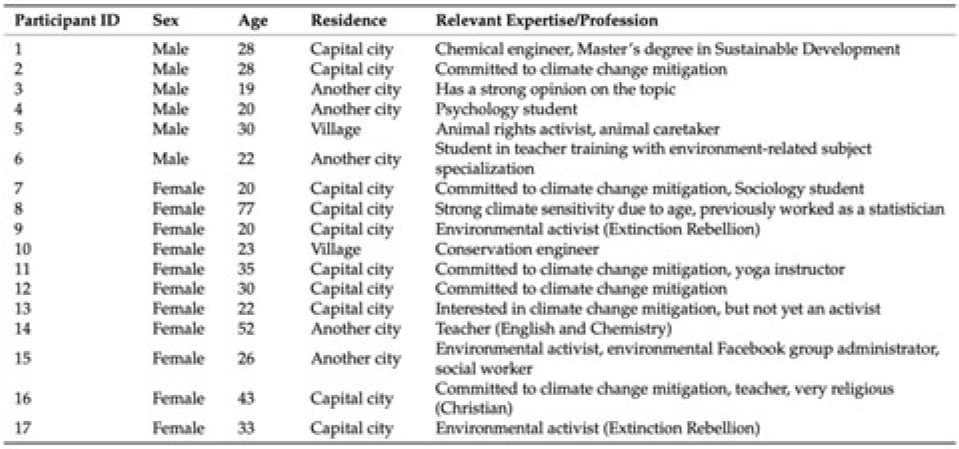
The simple reality is that any desired policy or collective goal that requires 100% compliance from a population (let alone the entire world) will simply not occur. *Even if* 100% of the world's population believed in anthropogenic global warming, you still wouldn't achieve consensus on the forecasts, the models or how to implement a response.

For people who believe the climate emergency narrative (and make no mistake, *it is a **belief**, like any other),* the reality of this induces a type of eco-anxiety. Climate researchers and activists are sensitive to this dilemma and have created a word for it, "solastalgia",

"the condition of feeling lonely, insecure and powerless because of the intense changes in one's immediate environment, which can be caused by the acute impacts (e.g., floods and wildfires) of climate change, the chronic degradation of places caused by climate change (e.g., sea level rise) (Galway, Beery, Jones-Casey, & Tasala, 2019) or by human activity (e.g. mining, deforestation) (Albrecht et al., 2007, Galway et al., 2019). Solastalgia is not nostalgia, because it is not a longing for a place from which one has moved, rather it is suffering from change and lack of control over it (Albrecht et al., 2007)."

If that weren't bad enough, they also face cognitive dissonance over their own carbon footprints – not all, even many, of those involved in the fight for climate change are living ultra-low carbon lifestyles themselves, and that causes them *eco-guilt.* In this widely cited paper on the topic, 17 respondents were interviewed about their coping mechanisms around *'the emerging "psychoterratic" syndromes such as eco-anxiety, eco-guilt, and eco-grief"*, they were:

Table 1. The main characteristics of the sample.



Participant ID	Sex	Age	Residence	Relevant Expertise/Profession
1	Male	28	Capital city	Chemical engineer, Master's degree in Sustainable Development
2	Male	28	Capital city	Committed to climate change mitigation
3	Male	19	Another city	Has a strong opinion on the topic
4	Male	20	Another city	Psychology student
5	Male	30	Village	Animal rights activist, animal caretaker
6	Male	22	Another city	Student in teacher training with environment-related subject specialization
7	Female	20	Capital city	Committed to climate change mitigation, Sociology student
8	Female	77	Capital city	Strong climate sensitivity due to age, previously worked as a statistician
9	Female	20	Capital city	Environmental activist (Extinction Rebellion)
10	Female	23	Village	Conservation engineer
11	Female	35	Capital city	Committed to climate change mitigation, yoga instructor
12	Female	30	Capital city	Committed to climate change mitigation
13	Female	22	Capital city	Interested in climate change mitigation, but not yet an activist
14	Female	52	Another city	Teacher (English and Chemistry)
15	Female	26	Another city	Environmental activist, environmental Facebook group administrator, social worker
16	Female	43	Capital city	Committed to climate change mitigation, teacher, very religious (Christian)
17	Female	33	Capital city	Environmental activist (Extinction Rebellion)

They reported feelings of helplessness, meaninglessness, that we're all going to die, guilt over travel, guilt over their own carbon footprints, conflict with family over eco-awareness, the list goes on, but widely summed up as

Prophetic *individual responsibility and Self-criticism, self- examination, self-blame… Prophetic individual responsibility included the participants' sudden recognition of humanity's or their own environmental impact, which was often described as an overwhelming burden.* ***We called it prophetic because the participants reported that they had realized they knew more about the topic than other people, which made them feel responsible for enlightening others*** *or evoked a desire to make others aware of the damage or impending disaster because otherwise there would be no change.*

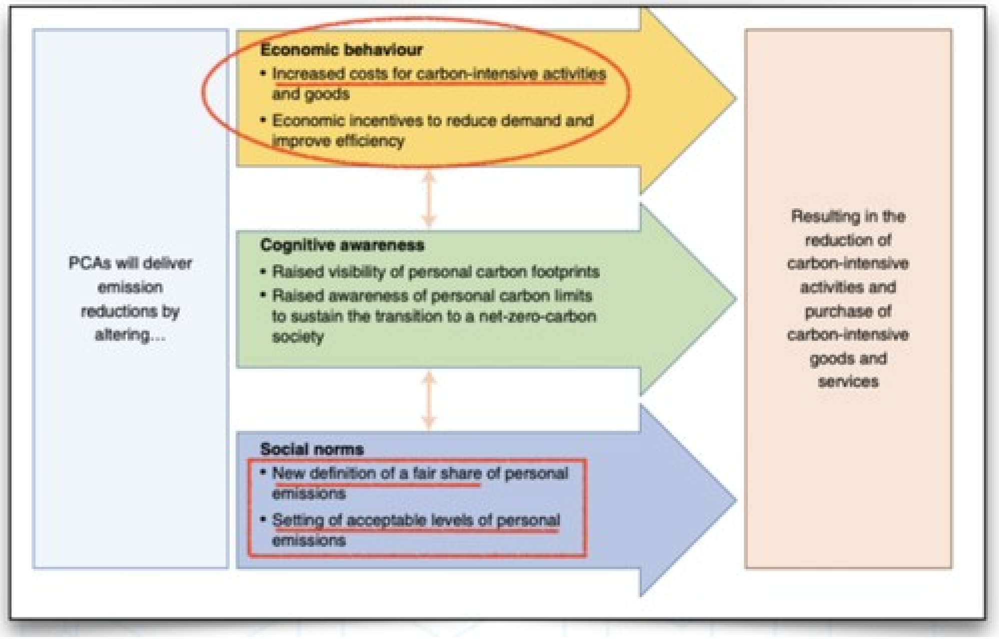
At their core, the anxieties faced by these people are indicative of the human condition itself: we all have unique insights into the world – and if we're introspective and genuinely curious – we become attuned to system problems that we feel need addressing. All Bitcoiners understand the "Fix the Money / Fix the World" maxim. But the approach to orange-pilling people is markedly different from eco-sermonizing.

But beneath even *that,* we all face impermanence, uncertainty and even mortality. Part of our psychological process of individuation is to find meaning and purpose within it all. It's called life. Only for most of us, while seeing that our emotional support structures incorporate community, family and purpose, we realize that at our core we are, in our earthly incarnations – here alone, as individual souls. We must face the world as it is, and we each have a personal responsibility to grow into it under our own devices.

It is mainly the eco-anxious, the collectivists and Marxists who believe it critical, even necessary that the entire world must conform to the same worldview "in order to save humanity”. It’s textbook messiah complex and narcissism (see Deconstructing Wokethink)

Weaponizing “eco-guilt” (a.k.a “Rigging the game”)

This eco-anxiety is so acute that many think it noble and just that the structure of society itself *must* be altered to fit the worldview. There are academic papers on using eco-guilt to motivate eco-friendly behaviours (“eco-shaming”). In The Bitcoin Capitalist we’ve covered the UK’s “Nudge Units” which use social media influence operations to condition behaviors.


PCAs will deliver emission reductions by altering...
Economic behaviour
• Increased costs for carbon-intensive activities and goods
• Economic incentives to reduce demand and improve efficiency
Cognitive awareness
• Raised visibility of personal carbon footprints
• Raised awareness of personal carbon limits to sustain the transition to a net-zero-carbon society
Social norms
• New definition of a fair share of personal emissions
• Setting of acceptable levels of personal emissions
Resulting in the reduction of carbon-intensive activities and purchase of carbon-intensive goods and services

There is even one from Ross Mittiga, a professor of Political Theory at the Catholic University of Chile, and a democratic socialist (of course) who argues for the political legitimacy of authoritarianism to the point where political candidates must “pass a climate litmus test” before being *permitted* to run for office, and even overturning previous democratically driven policies if they are deemed harmful to the climate:

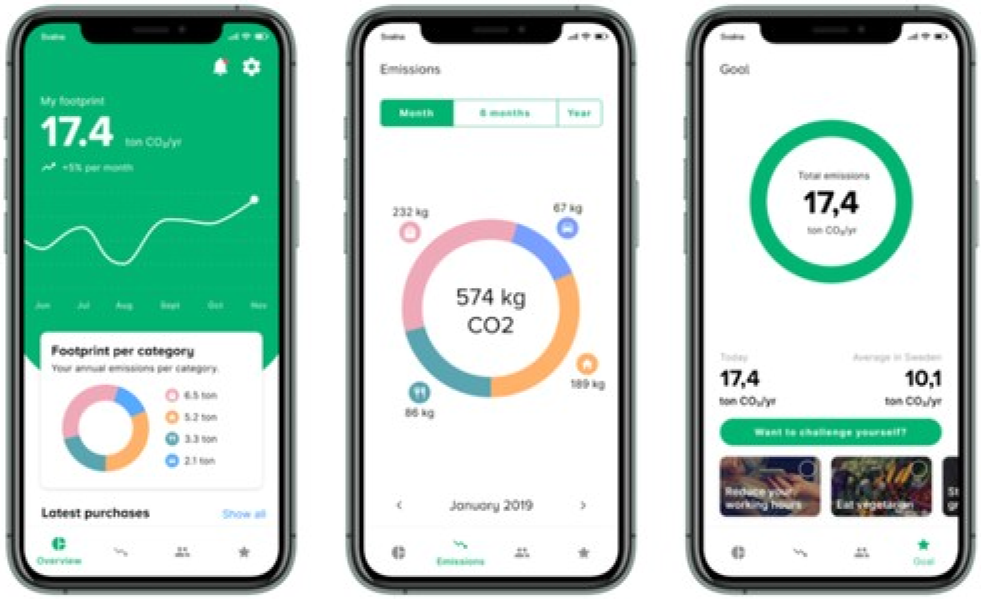
“Governments might also justifiably limit certain democratic institutions and processes to the extent these bear on the promulgation or implementation of environmental policy. ***This could involve imposing a climate litmus-test on those who seek public office****, disqualifying anyone who has significant (relational or financial) ties to climate-harming industries* ***or a history of climate denialism****. More strongly, g****overnments may establish institutions capable of overturning previous democratic decisions*** *(expressed, for*

example, in popu- lar referenda or plebiscites) against the implementation of carbon taxes or other necessary climate policies."

In the future it'll be a lot more expensive to be free

This drumbeat for climate collectivism is going to get worse before it gets better. While it's encouraging to see more reality being injected into the conversation – and eco-messiahs increasingly discrediting themselves through their lifestyles of conspicuous consumption – large swaths of the population are buying this story hook-line-and-sinker, and as Late Stage Globalism enters into its endgame, we expect policy makers to become more desperate and draconian.

CBDC's will probably come out of the gate as personal carbon quota systems and mass adoption will be driven through UBI delivered on the rails of social credit systems and digital ID.


My footprint
17.4 ton CO₂/yr
+5% per month
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sept
Oct
Nov
Footprint per category
Your annual emissions per category.
6.5 ton
5.2 ton
3.3 ton
2.1 ton
Latest purchases
Show all
Overview
Emissions
Month
6 months
Year
232 kg
67 kg
574 kg CO2
189 kg
86 kg
January 2019
Emissions
Goal
Total emissions
17,4
ton CO₂/yr
Today
17,4
ton CO₂/yr
Average in Sweden
10,1
ton CO₂/yr
Want to challenge yourself?
Reduce your working hours
Eat vegetarian
Goal

COVID was supposed to be a godsend for those seeking to create precedent for unlimited stimulus, quasi-UBI and prototypical social credit mechanisms through vaccine passports et al. Fortunately it was all too much, too soon and it appears as though the opposite may be happening.

Where another twenty years of operant conditioning and creeping totalitarianism may have provided the perfect setup for an enduring, technocratic authoritarianism, the widespread policy failures created a larger swath of population who is now wary and suspicious of the next "existential crisis".

The 37 Trillion in new M2 money blowing out the currency system, the central banks forcing themselves into a corner on interest rates vs inflation, the new pandemic of "sudden and unexpected" excess mortality, and now various Covid rockstars trying to distance themselves from their role in it all, it certainly looks as though the globalist elite of hyper-Liberalism have overplayed their hand.

That won't preclude them from trying, however, and there are still many who think #CovidsNotOver, want to #BringBackMasks who will be all too eager to have their lives mediated and gamified via their smartphones and dramatically ratchet down their lifestyles in order to "save the climate".

Let them.

But you don't have to go along with it, but it *will* become more expensive to be free. Wealth taxes, windfall taxes, heavily regulated chokepoints between the rapidly deteriorating "fiat world" and the coming "anti-fiat" economy will require being a net producer, owning hard assets across multiple jurisdictions and networks, and garnering multiple income streams. The middle class is being demolished, and with calls to reduce living standards by *over 75%* (cutting personal emissions from an average if 8 tonnes per capita to 1.5 and then 0.7), it looks intentional.

"In the future, there will be only one occupation: managing one's wealth. And most people are going to be unemployed".

As I wrote in a recent issue of the premium letter:

The CBDCs will roll out, and intended or not, become full-fledged China-style social credit systems, from which "the smart money" flees into Bitcoin and other hard assets to preserve its wealth.

This leads to "The Great Bifurcation" scenario I've written about at length.

It's where Neo-serfs who rely on The State for their economic survival live lives of quiet desperation and servitude, their carbon footprints metered, their behaviours monitored, nudged and shaped; their destinies largely out of their own hands. Life is something that just happens to them, punctuated by episodes of "gaming the algo" to score additional privileges or avoid punishment.

Marbled throughout this world would be enclaves, and networks of sovereign individuals and micro-states for whom life is a futuristic extrapolation of hyper-

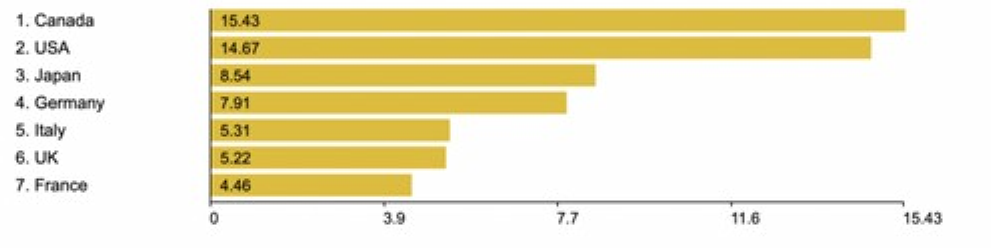
capitalism and mobility. This is the Sovereign Individual thesis meeting The Network State, writ large.

Become a sovereign individual in whatever manner suits you: own gold, stack sats, have a Plan B, work for yourself, not somebody else and for God's sake, turn off the TV and stop subjecting yourself to the corporate media. Connect with like minded individuals and form both virtual and real communities and networks.

The defining tension of Late Stage Globalism will not be between "left" and "right" but between sovereign individuals and collectivists, decentralization vs centralization.

Join the Bombthrower mailing list and get a free copy of our investment thesis, or try The Bitcoin Capitalist: The monthly journal for today's Sovereign Individual. Follow me on Nostr or Twitter.

Planet, narrative: per capita carbon output by country, canada number 1



Via GlobalEconomy.com

Stats, government, markets: SEC Pays Out Monster $279 Million Whistleblower Award

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 - 01:45 PM

We guess you can forget the old adage from your childhood that "no one likes a tattle-tale". Because when you tattle to the tune of $279 million, you can buy as many new friends as you'd like.

This might be the case for the whistleblower who was bestowed a massive $279 million award from the SEC as a result of helping out with an investigation that led to "three different settlements or fines", according to Bloomberg.

Gurbir Grewal, the SEC's enforcement chief, said this week: "The size of today's award – the highest in our program's history – not only incentivizes whistleblowers to come forward with accurate information about potential securities law violations, but also reflects the tremendous success of our whistleblower program."

The SEC said that information provided to the agency expanded "the scope of misconduct charged" in an investigation that was already ongoing. In keeping with policy, neither the names of the company nor the whistleblower were disclosed.

Market, government: 'Challenging Protein Market': Tyson Foods Reports Loss, Slashes Revenue Outlook For Year As Shares Plunge

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 - 12:30 PM

The largest US meat company, Tyson Foods, tumbled 10% in premarket trading after it posted a second-quarter loss. The meat supplier has been battered by rising costs across its business and sliding demand for its meat products as consumers push back against high supermarket prices.

For the quarter ending on April 1, Tyson reported a loss of $97 million, or 28 cents per share, compared to a net income of $829 million in the same period last year. A Factset survey of Wall Street analysts expected the company to report a profit of 80 cents per share.

Tyson said quarterly revenue increased slightly from the prior year at $13.1 billion. However, it was well below the $13.6 billion the analysts expected.

Journal, war: They’re just openly admitting to assassinating Russians, and inside their country.

Kremlin Responds To Ukraine Intel Chief's Threat To "Kill Russians Anywhere"

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 - 11:50 AM

Maj. Gen. Kyrylo Budanov, the head of Ukraine’s military intelligence agency, in an interview with *Yahoo* News published Friday addressed the recent string of assassinations and cross-border attacks on Russian territory.

In reference to the August car bombing death of Daria Dugina (*Yahoo* underscored in its lead-in that "U.S. intelligence has attributed Dugina’s killing to the Ukrainian government"), Gen. Budanov offered the following ultra-provocative statement:

*"**we’ve been killing Russians and we will keep killing Russians anywhere on the face of this world** until the complete victory of Ukraine."*

He seemed to be owning up to Ukraine being behind the assassinations. **What Russia calls "terrorism, we call liberation,"** he had said when asked whether Kiev was behind the attacks, which also included the April cafe bombing and death of Russian blogger Vladlen Tatarsky.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov blasted the threatening remarks, calling them **"truly heinous"** while "vigorously" condemning them. In the Monday response, Peskov said, "What Budanov said is **a direct confirmation that the Kiev regime isn’t only sponsoring terrorist activity, but is a direct organizer of this activity**."

He further emphasized that Russia's own secret services "will be doing everything that they should be doing against the background of such statements."

"It’s very difficult to imagine that such terrorist statements from Kiev will remain without condemnation. Therefore, today we will be waiting for these condemnations," he followed with, in reference to the international community.

But the White House has remained mum on the **emerging covert 'dirty war' targeting Russian officials and 'pro-Russia' journalists and mere activists**, and may even be assisting with intelligence and planning for such operations. Moscow has leveled this charge precisely. None of those killed so far have actually been Kremlin decision-makers, but are **civilians**...

Erdogan, war: Turkey Angrily Rejects US Request To Give Ukraine S-400 Air Defense System

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 - 10:50 AM

Turkey over the weekend announced that it has rejected a US request for Ankara to provide Ukraine with Russian-made S-400 missile defense systems, which it controversially acquired from Moscow in 2017, and which resulted in strained relations with the United States.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu revealed the request, and said it would be a violation of Turkey’s sovereignty, and strongly suggested the request was insulting in the first place. **"They made proposals that directly affect our sovereignty, for example, give us control over it, give it to another place. Where is our independence and sovereignty?"** Cavusoglu said.

Markets, inflation, government: Buffett Turns Gloomy: The "Incredible Period" For The US Economy Is Coming To An End

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 - 07:11 AM

While Warren Buffett's insights on the economy are traditionally cheerful and uplifting - usually hitting at time of peak pessimism in the form of self-serving NYT op-eds or CNBC vignettes (and usually around the time the Omaha billionaire knows that the government will backstop his TBTF investments, unlike those of pretty much anyone else), on Saturday the head of Berkshire Hathaway had a far more downbeat and gloomy prediction for his own businesses - and the broader economy in general - the good times may be over.

Speaking at Berkshire's annual general meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, the billionaire investor said he expects **earnings at the majority of the conglomerate's operations to fall this year** as the coming economic downturn slows corporate activity further. He made his pessimistic comments even as Berkshire posted an almost 13% gain in operating earnings to $8.07 billion for the first quarter, up from $7.04 billion a year ago.

“The majority of our businesses will report lower earnings this year than last year,” Buffett, 92, said, before crowds of thousands at the event on Saturday according to Bloomberg. During the last six months or so, the “incredible period” for the US economy has been coming to an end, he said.

Stats, markets, inflation: What Is The Success Rate Of Actively Managed Funds?

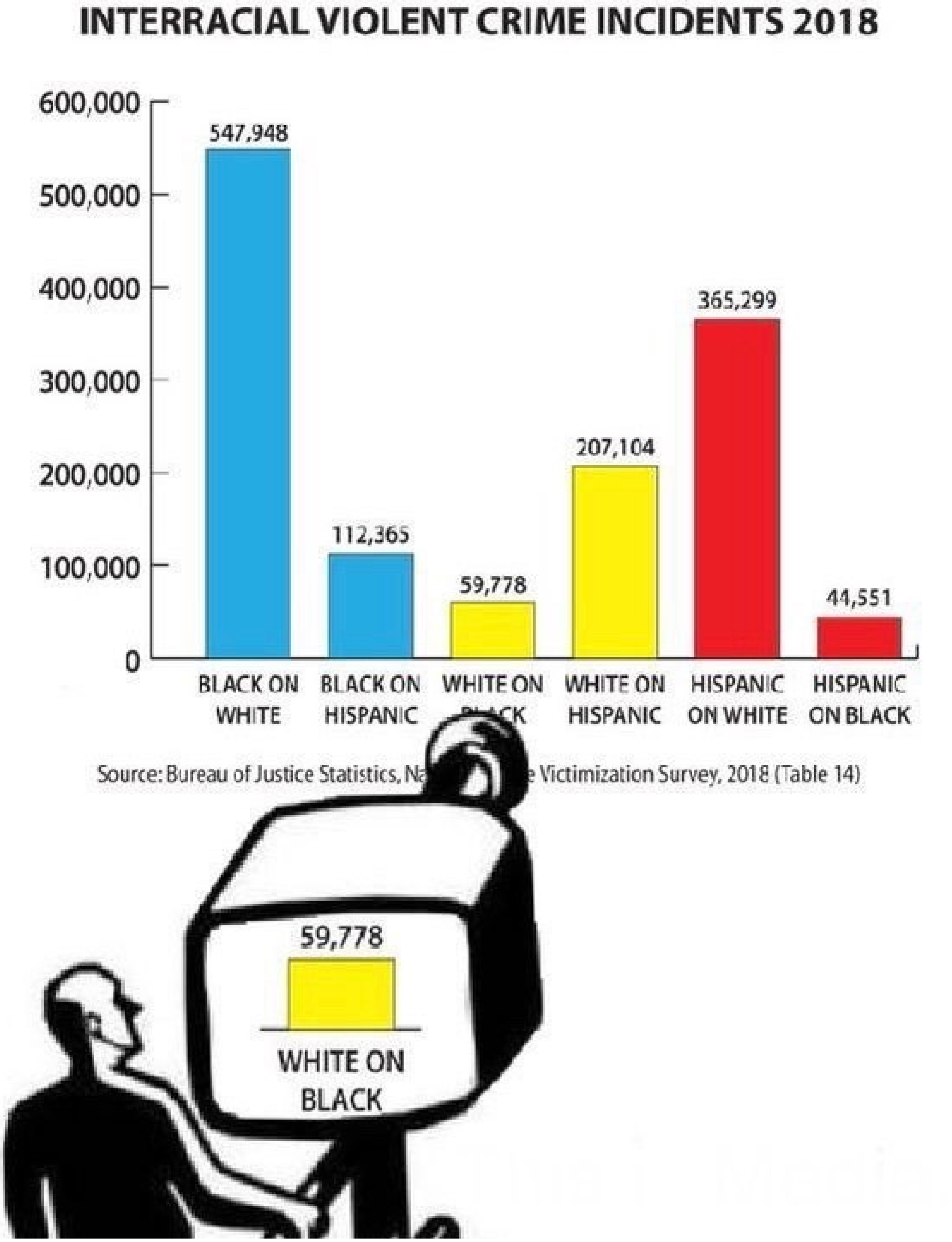
BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 - 07:55 AM

Over a 20-year period, **95%** of large-cap actively managed funds have underperformed their benchmark.

As Visual Capitalist's Dorothy Neufeld shows in the graphic below, the performance of actively managed funds varies widely across a range of fund types(using data from S&P Global via Charlie Bilello).

Journal, media, stats: racial crime statistics that will blow your mind


INTERRACIAL VIOLENT CRIME INCIDENTS 2018
600,000
500,000
400,000
300,000
200,000
100,000
0
547,948
112,365
59,778
207,104
365,299
44,551
BLACK ON WHITE
BLACK ON HISPANIC
WHITE ON
WHITE ON HISPANIC
HISPANIC ON WHITE
HISPANIC ON BLACK
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Na
e Victimization Survey, 2018 (Table 14)
59,778
WHITE ON BLACK

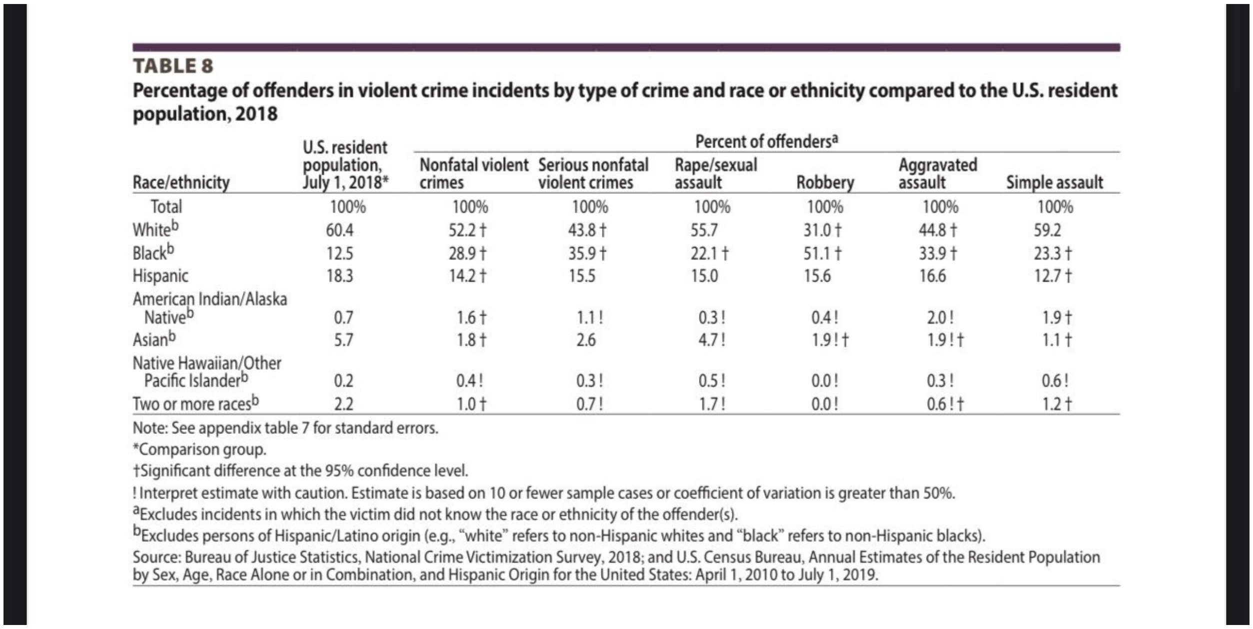


TABLE 8

Percentage of offenders in violent crime incidents by type of crime and race or ethnicity compared to the U.S. resident population, 2018

Race/ethnicity	U.S. resident population, July 1, 2018*	Percent of offenders[a]					
		Nonfatal violent crimes	Serious nonfatal violent crimes	Rape/sexual assault	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Simple assault
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
White[b]	60.4	52.2 †	43.8 †	55.7	31.0 †	44.8 †	59.2
Black[b]	12.5	28.9 †	35.9 †	22.1 †	51.1 †	33.9 †	23.3 †
Hispanic	18.3	14.2 †	15.5	15.0	15.6	16.6	12.7 †
American Indian/Alaska Native[b]	0.7	1.6 †	1.1 !	0.3 !	0.4 !	2.0 !	1.9 †
Asian[b]	5.7	1.8 †	2.6	4.7 !	1.9 ! †	1.9 ! †	1.1 †
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander[b]	0.2	0.4 !	0.3 !	0.5 !	0.0 !	0.3 !	0.6 !
Two or more races[b]	2.2	1.0 †	0.7 !	1.7 !	0.0 !	0.6 ! †	1.2 †

Note: See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

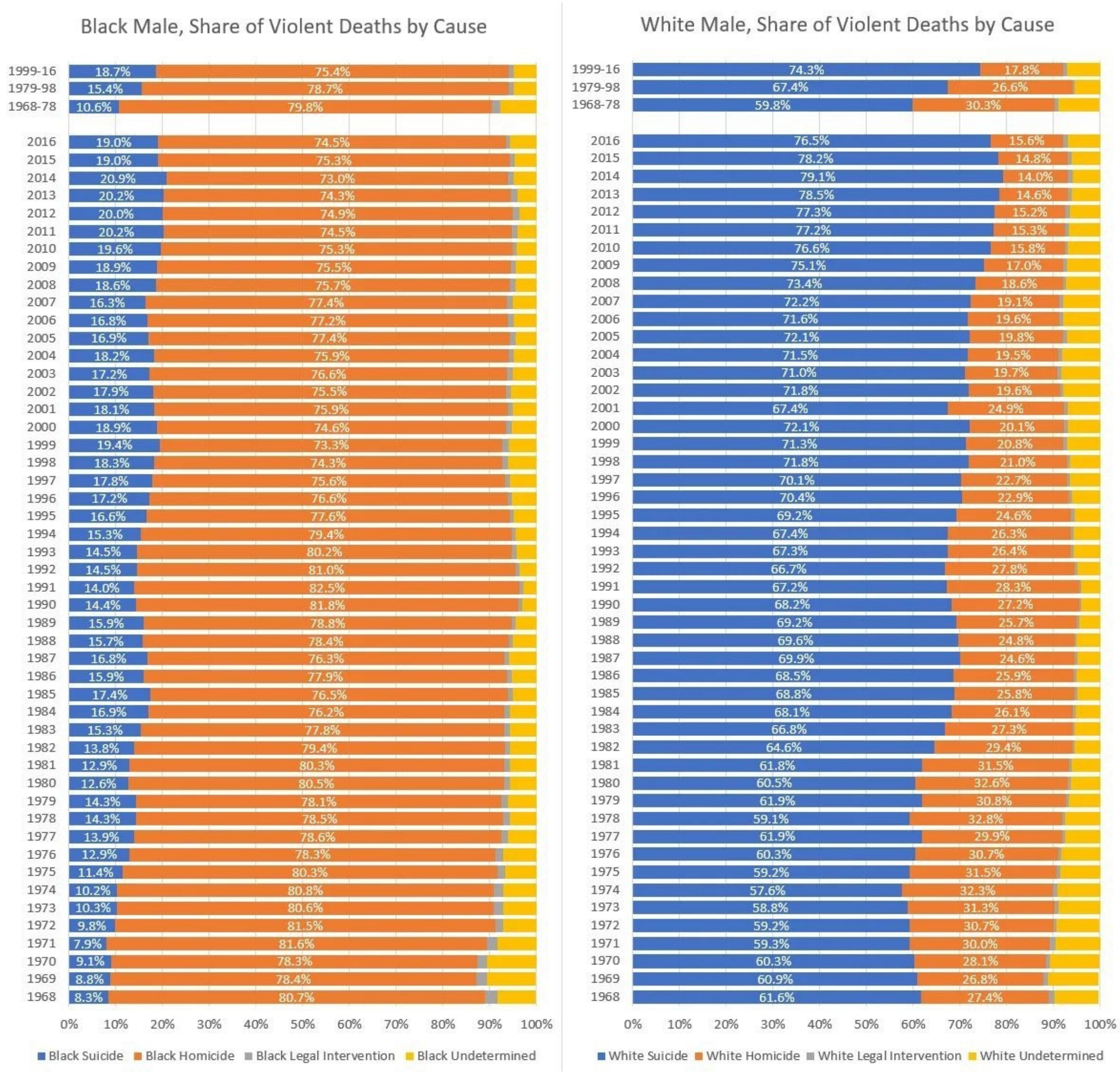
†Significant difference at the 95% confidence level.

! Interpret estimate with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

[a] Excludes incidents in which the victim did not know the race or ethnicity of the offender(s).

[b] Excludes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic whites and "black" refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2018; and U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Age, Race Alone or in Combination, and Hispanic Origin for the United States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019.



TheRabbitHole84/status/1654847822121009152/photo/1

War, middle east, Erdogan: Arab League Agrees To Reinstate Syria After 12 Years

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 - 05:15 AM

The Middle East political alignment continues its "reset" away from US influence at a rapid pace, as on Sunday *Al Jazeera* reported the huge development that the **foreign ministers from Arab League member states have agreed to accept Syrian membership** after a suspension that's lasted 12 years.

"The ministers voted for Syria’s return into the fold at the Arab League’s headquarters in Cairo on Sunday," AJ details. "The decision was made in advance of the Arab League Summit in Saudi Arabia on May 19 and amid a flurry of regional normalization of ties with Damascus in recent weeks."

War, government, markets, Russia, Germany, Europe, energy: Growing Pushback Over BlackRock In Ukraine: "Taxpayers Pay The War Bills, Private Firms Get The Profits"

One international online financial publication took note of a selection of the negative reactions among pundits, including social media statements which said: **"Taxpayers pay the war bills, private firms get the profits,"** and "Ukraine [is] being privatized and **sold off to companies like Blackrock**."

zerohedgedotcom/markets/growing-pushback-over-blackrock-ukraine-taxpayers-pay-war-bills-private-firms-get-profits

Government, media, journal: Israeli Whistleblower With Info On Biden Corruption Disappears In Cyprus After Saying Biden Regime Wants To 'Bury Him'

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 08, 2023 - 03:00 AM

Authored by Debra Heine via American Greatness,

An alleged Israeli whistleblower who is an expert on energy security has gone missing in Cyprus after claiming in a tweet that the Biden administration was out to “bury” him.

Government, inflation: California Defaults On $18.6 Billion In Debt, Saddling Employers With The Expense

“Exacerbating the situation were unprecedented levels of fraud occurring across the state, due to limited oversight and antiquated computer systems, according to Lee Ohanian, professor of economics at the University of California–Los Angeles.

Analytics firm LexisNexis estimated the total cost of the fraud at $32.6 billion.”

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, MAY 07, 2023 - 10:00 PM

California's recent decision not to pay back some $20 billion borrowed from the federal government to cover unemployment benefits during the pandemic **will fall on the shoulders of employers**, according to experts.

Ai, war, tech: “**Zeng predicted that by 2025, lethal autonomous weapons would be commonplace**,” Allen said, adding that Zeng had described the mass adoption of autonomous AI platforms as “inevitable.”

China Wants Killer Robots To Fight The Next War

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, MAY 07, 2023 - 08:30 PM

Authored by Andrew Thornebrooke via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

War grips the world and the most powerful nations on earth go to battle once more. **This time, however, it is machines that do the killing, operating free from all human oversight and accountability.**

Government: **California Approves Reparations Recommendations, Proposing $1.2 Million Checks For Black Residents**

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, MAY 07, 2023 - 08:00 PM

California is grappling with many crises, including soaring crime, a growing homeless population, out-of-control drug overdoses, a giant budget shortfall, a population and business exodus, and a power grid teetering on the edge of failure. But instead of progressive lawmakers addressing these problems and making life better for the tens of millions of Americans who currently live in the state, they are focused on reparations.

On Saturday, California's nine-member Reparations Task Force approved recommendations for how state officials should compensate and apologize to Black residents for past injustices. The task force has spent the last two years deliberating on payment recommendations that will now be sent for final approval in Sacramento before a July 1 deadline.

"Reparations are not only morally justifiable, but they have the potential to address long-standing racial disparities and inequalities," Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) said during the meeting last night in Oakland.

California task force's recommendations would mean a 71-year-old Black resident, living in the Golden State for their entire life, could receive a $1.2 million compensation check if the recommendations are passed into law.

Several economists working with the task force have developed these reparation estimates:

One such estimate laid out in the report determined that to address the harms from redlining by banks, which disqualified people in Black neighborhoods from taking out mortgages and owning homes, eligible Black Californians should receive up to $148,099. That estimate is based on a figure of $3,366 for each year they lived in California from the early 1930s to the late 1970s, when federal redlining was most prevalent.

To address the impact of over-policing and mass incarceration, the report estimates, each eligible person would receive $115,260, or about $2,352 for each year of residency in California from 1971 to 2020, during the decades-long war on drugs. -The New York Times

The task force's recommendations didn't include the total costs of reparations which could be more than $500 billion, based on estimates from economists.

"The initial down payment is the beginning of a process of addressing historical injustices," the recommendations reads, "not the end of it."

Residents at the meeting demanded $200 million in direct cash payments for each Black resident.

AmericanThinker's Chris Talgo pointed out that reparation payments and other government handouts won't close the wealth gap, "it arguably will make it worse."

Talgo explained:

Consider. Since the start of President Lyndon B. Johnson's "war on poverty," the federal government has spent $22 trillion on various wealth redistribution programs. Yet, over that span, the rate of poverty remains unchanged.

Perhaps this is because giving some people other people's money is an incentive for the former to remain indolent. In other words, government checks breed dependence on government.

On the other hand, if California lawmakers were actually interested in addressing the plight of many of the Black residents who live in the Golden

State, they ought to take a forward-looking approach that would include an increased police presence, a tough on crime approach, lower taxes, fewer regulations, and commonsense policies that would make energy affordable and abundant.

And, if these same lawmakers were really audacious and genuinely wanted to throw a wrench into the cycle of poverty that has entrapped so many Black Californians, they would do everything in their power to ensure that universal school choice was the norm in the Golden State. It also would help if these so-called leaders addressed the elephant in the room: the breakdown of the Black family, which is arguably the biggest driver of poverty and so many other societal problems.

He continued:

However, these are difficult conversations for leftist lawmakers, who always view more government wealth redistribution as the answer to everything. It is much easier for politicians to propose a superficial solution, like reparation payments, even though time has shown that giving people money doesn't solve deep-seated, complex problems.

What's troubling is that a California lawmaker has already declared a comprehensive reparations plan "will be a blueprint for America."

Media, trend, government: **Downtown San Francisco Becomes A Ghost Town As Major Retailers Flee**

https://mishtalk.com/economics/downtown-san-francisco-becomes-a-ghost-town-as-major-retailers-flee

Censorship: Like A Tweet, Lose Your Job

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, MAY 07, 2023 - 04:30 PM

Via The Brownstone Institute,

The president of Thomas Jefferson University may lose his job for liking tweets from Alex Berenson on his personal account. The episode marks a warning against those in mainstream institutions that any deviation from prevailing orthodoxy – no matter how minor – will not be tolerated.

Mark Tykocinski, a Yale trained molecular immunologist, became president of the university in 2022. Last week, a reporter from *The Philadelphia Inquirer* went through **his personal Twitter account which had under 300 followers.**

The *Inquirer* reported that Dr. Tykocinski had liked tweets from Berenson that **criticized transgender surgeries for children** and the efficacy of mRNA Covd vaccines.

"Two years after their introduction, the mRNAs Covid vaccines have proven to be what we all should have expected," one tweet from Berenson argued.

"Another in a long line of overhyped, rushed, profit-driven Big Pharma flops with weak long-term efficacy and a lousy side effect profile."

This constituted a media and academic scandal. The reporter demanded an explanation, and Tykocinski's colleagues rebuked his transgression. Thomas Jefferson University CEO Joseph G. Cacchione wrote to faculty, employees, and students that Tykocinski "should have known better" than to like those tweets.

Even self-professed defenders of free speech joined the chorus of reprimands. Jonathan Zimmerman is a professor at the Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education and the author of *Free Speech: And Why You Should Give a Damn*. In 2021, he defended Georgetown Law adjunct professor Sandra Sellers after she was fired for noticing that black students underperformed in her class.

"Georgetown's official policy on speech says it is 'committed to free and open inquiry, deliberation and debate in all matters.' It has now carved out an exception for matters of race, which are essentially closed," he wrote.

"The lesson [from Georgetown] is clear and unequivocal: Keep your big mouth shut, if you know what's good for you."

Now, Zimmerman has discovered his own carve-out – wrongthink related to Covid and juvenile transgender procedures.

"If he liked those tweets because he agrees with Alex Berenson, that is a dagger at the heart of the scientific enterprise," Zimmerman told the *Inquirer*.

"There's no other way to describe it."

“I have sworn upon the altar of god eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man,” then-Vice President Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1800. **Now, the university that bears his name has declared hostility against its president for social media wrongthink.**

But the attack is not directed at Dr. Tykocinski. It is a warning against anyone in institutions that they must conform to prevailing orthodoxy or risk their professional reputations. They must *keep their big mouths shut*, in the words of Professor Zimmerman. In this system, career advancement relies on obedience rather than ingenuity. It is no wonder that our ruling class is so banal.

By silencing critics, the powerful aim to achieve authority without accountability. Submission is central to their quest for power, and threatening the livelihoods of freethinkers is a powerful ploy.

Berenson’s reporting and support from public figures like Jay Bhattacharya and Elon Musk may save Dr. Tyconski’s job for now; but going forward, he’ll know the price that he will bear if he deviates from groupthink. He didn’t have to *say* anything to learn this reality. He didn’t make a post or deliver a speech. All it took was liking a tweet from a journalist.

Free speech is more than a slogan. It must be an operational reality for everyone. It can be closed down by forces other than edicts from government. It can be suppressed also by arbitrary private actions that reflect regime priorities. Ever more workers and especially intellectuals today work in an environment of fear that leads to self-censorship.

There are many ways to skin a cat and many paths toward despotism. Canceling the capacity of competent professionals to dissent against the state-subsidized orthodoxy is one.

Censorship: "God Save [Free Speech]": Britain Celebrates Coronation With Time-Honored Tradition Of Arresting Anti-Monarchists

BY TYLER DURDEN

SUNDAY, MAY 07, 2023 - 01:30 PM

Authored by Jonathan Turley,

Thousands cheered King Charles III with 'God Save The King" as his gilded carriage passed through London. The coronation had all of the pomp and circumstance that people expected from the fifth longest monarchy in history (Japan is the longest).

The ceremony included one time-honored tradition that some of us could have done without: **the arrest of peaceful protesters**. It was all part of "Operation Golden Orb" and follows a long, unbroken British tradition of quashing free speech.

London's Metropolitan Police made 52 arrests during the coronation, including many anti-monarchy protesters who were wearing yellow T-shirts and shouting "Not My King."

They were members of Republic, an anti-monarchy group that fails to see the need for a royal family.

The group said that they were not told the reason for their arrests and that police "would figure it out" later. If the group wanted to make a statement against the monarchy, it has succeeded. The group posted on Twitter, commenting: ***"So much for the right to peaceful protest."***

Commander Karen Findlay defended the arrest and said, while the police respects free speech, a peaceful protest can become unlawful.

"This depends on the context. The coronation is a once in a generation event and that is a key consideration in our assessment. A protest involving large numbers has gone ahead today with police knowledge and no intervention."

It is a statement that is quintessentially British. It lacks any discernible objective standard. It depends entirely on the view of the "context" by authorities on whether to allow free speech to occur.

Previously, the police announced that "our tolerance for any disruption, whether through protest or otherwise, will be low,. We will deal robustly with anyone intent on undermining this celebration."

"Undermining this celebration." It is a line best delivered with a haughty accent and a harrumph.

Last year, that same undefined discretion led to the arrest of a man who heckled Prince Andrew.

The fact is that Great Britain never had a free speech tradition analogous to our own. Free speech was not guaranteed in the celebrated Magna Carta. The country has long relied (as in other areas) on the benign and beneficent judgment of its government.

That lack of clarity and structural protections has allowed the government to exercise ill-defined powers for centuries against dissenting voices. It has also contributed to the rapid erosion of free speech in recent years.

We recently discussed the call of a minister for the jailing of social media heads whose companies refused to carryout censorship.

Yet, the decline of free speech in the United Kingdom has long been evident. A women last year was arrested for praying to herself near an abortion center. A man was convicted for sending a tweet while drunk referring to dead soldiers. Another was arrested for an anti-police t-shirt. Another was arrested for calling the Irish boyfriend of his ex-girlfriend a “leprechaun.” Yet another was arrested for singing “Kung Fu Fighting.” A teenager was arrested for protesting outside of a Scientology center with a sign calling the religion a “cult.”

English courts have seen criminalized “toxic ideologies” as part of this crackdown on free speech.

It appears one of those toxic ideologies is the belief of a democratic government without a monarchy. It is a telling moment for a country that often justifies the royal family as a harmless tradition since the King has little power in the actual governing of the nation. Indeed, many seem to speak of the royal family like virtual Disney “cast members” who are good for tourism. **However, those characters become a tad less lovable when dozens are being arrested in the background.**

It is all summed up by the words on the family’s coat of arms: *Dieu et mon droit:* “God and my right.” As shown in these arrests, that “my” part is still exclusive and literal when it comes to free speech.

War, narrative, Russia: Wagner Chief Says Moscow Agreed To More Arms After Threats To Quit Bakhmut

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, MAY 07, 2023 - 01:00 PM

Exactly one week ago Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin first threatened that he and his men would withdraw from the strategic city of Bakhmut, where Russia appears close to victory given it controls at least 90% of the city, if the Russian defense ministry didn't immediately supply all the arms needed to keep up the offensive.

"I am appealing to Sergei Shoigu with a request to issue ammunition immediately," he said at the time in reference to Russia's defense minister. "Now if this is refused ... I deem it necessary to inform the commander-in-chief about the existing problems, and to make a decision regarding the feasibility of continuing to station units in the settlement of Bakhmut, given the current shortage of ammunition," Prigozhin warned in video statements. He had cited **"useless and unjustified" losses** due to lack of regular supplies.

On Friday he followed by narrowing his threat, setting **a withdrawal date of May 10** if the necessary arms and ammo didn't come through. It was a surprising move given it was **a very direct and open challenge to the top military leadership of Russia**. Likely, President Putin himself was forced to "decide" on who to back in the spat: Prigozhin and his frontline Wagner fighters, or the regular chain of command.

Journal, planet, government, war: The united states is leading the world in active satellites, accounting for 3415 of the earths **current total of 5465. Second is China, with only 535.**

Chart: The Countries with the Most Satellites in Space | Statista

Stats, narrative, journal, middle east: **nice breakdown of the slavery situation in Libya.**

America's First Black President Left A Legacy Of Slavery

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2023 - 11:30 PM

Authored by Brian McGlinchey via starkrealities.substack.com

Barack Obama was elected president some 143 years after the abolition of slavery in the United States. As teary-eyed African-Americans watched Obama’s 2008 election night speech in Chicago’s Grant Park, **none could have imagined that America’s first black president would leave his own legacy of slavery — *in Africa*.**

However, that’s exactly what he did, thanks to a combination of imperial hubris, disregard for constitutional restraints on executive war powers, and the use of false pretenses.

In 2011, **egged on by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and a handful of other advisors, Obama ordered a months-long series of air strikes that facilitated a NATO-backed regime change** campaign that toppled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

Rather than ushering in liberal democracy and prosperity, the ouster of Gaddafi left the country fractured, with two rival governments and various militias vying for power. **Obama’s regime change marked the start of an ongoing era of chaos, with some of the greatest resulting evils inflicted on black Africans.**

Those evils began during the war, as racism and Gaddafi’s use of sub-Saharan black mercenaries combined to spark widespread **atrocities perpetrated against blacks** who were seen as fair game for various atrocities including beatings, rapes and lynchings.

“We had 70-80 people from Chad working for our company,” a Turkish construction worker told *BBC*. **“They were cut dead with pruning shears and axes**, attackers saying: ‘You are providing troops for Gaddafi.’ The Sudanese were also massacred. We saw it for ourselves.”

One rebel group was glorified in roadside graffiti as **“the brigade for purging slaves, black skin”** — that being a reference to Libya’s black descendants of slaves, such as those who populated the town of Tawergha. Once home to 30,000 people, Tawergha was ransacked and its occupants assaulted to the point of turning it into an ethnically-cleansed ghost town.

In 2017 — six years after Gaddafi's death — CNN captured **a new and unthinkable dimension of misery being imposed on black people** as a result of Obama's regime change: The network aired video of two **open-air slave auctions hosted in Libya.** "Big strong boys for farm work," said an auctioneer. One trio of blacks was purchased for $400 each.

It hasn't stopped. Last month, the United Nations reported that a three-year investigation found "arbitrary detention, murder, rape, enslavement, sexual slavery, extrajudicial killing and enforced disappearance" have become **a "widespread practice"** in Libya.

Obama's War Power Hypocrisy

As a candidate in 2007, Obama was clear-throated about the limits of presidential military authority, telling the *Boston Globe*, "The president does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the nation."

However, as president, **Obama betrayed those assurances — and violated his oath of office — by ordering the Pentagon to carry out bombing attacks on Libya without congressional authorization**.

In a frontal assault on common sense, Obama's administration disingenuously asserted that, since the engagement was limited to bombing and Libya's military was in no position to retaliate, the United States was not engaged in "hostilities" and thus the War Powers Act didn't apply.

US says Gaddafi troops raping, issued Viagra-envoys | Reuters

Media, stats: Berkeley Prof Admits Claimed Indian Heritage Was Heap Big Falsehood

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2023 - 11:00 PM

A Berkeley professor who'd long claimed she was a Native American admitted this week that she's just a boring, plain ol' white woman.

"I am a white person who has incorrectly identified as Native my whole life, based on incomplete information," Elizabeth Hoover confessed on her personal website. Resisting calls for her resignation, Hoover says she has "been **working with restorative justice facilitators** to better understand how members of the...community have felt harmed and betrayed, and ways I can work to meaningfully make amends."

This news would be amusing enough coming from any professor on the leftist campus. What gives it extra luster is that **Hoover is a professor of anthropology -- the study of human societies and cultures.**

Energy, journal: Alaskan Trucking Fleets Promise $150K Driver Salaries Amid Drilling Boom

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2023 - 10:30 PM

By Rachel Premack of FreightWaves

As more drilling and mining projects are approved in Alaska, local trucking fleets are planning to hire drivers around the United States to haul equipment, chemicals and other loads — particularly on its fearsome Dalton Highway, a remote, 414-mile road that connects Fairbanks to oil fields near the Arctic Ocean.

The developments, particularly ConocoPhillips Alaska’s Willow project, have been controversial as they may mar some of Earth’s most remote land. However, for the residents of the United States’ third-least-populated state, the new investments could bring an economic boom that many locals say the state needs.

The construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System in the 1970s and oil boom of the 1980s transformed Alaska. The pipeline brought in some 70,000 workers and often their families. Many of them stayed; Alaska’s population grew three times as fast as the rest of the country in the 1970s and 1980s. As of 2013, more than half of Alaska’s housing stock was built in those decades.

Josh Norum, the president of Fairbanks-based Sourdough Express, said the impending explosion in mining and drilling could rival those frothy years.

“We’re calling it our second pipeline,” Norum said. “(The Trans-Alaska Pipeline) was a huge boom. … We’re comparing that opportunity with this next phase.”

Russia, Europe, Germany, war: Prominent Russian Novelist Wounded In Car Bomb Assassination Attempt

BY TYLER DURDEN

SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2023 - 09:00 PM

One of Russia's best-known novelists has been targeted in an apparent attempted assassination near the city of Nizhny Novgorod on Saturday. RIA Novosti is reporting that a native of Ukraine is in custody related to the attack.

Zakhar Prilepin was **wounded by a car bomb**, **which killed his driver**. Immediately after the blast he was seriously injured but reportedly conscious, after which a suspect was quickly detained, according to Russia's Interior Ministry.

"The search for possible accomplices continues," the government statement said. "Law enforcement officers are now investigating the circumstances and causes of the incident. Zakhar is OK," the regional governor said.

Prilepin is not only a contemporary literary giant in Russia, but he's **considered to be very active in support of the Ukraine war**, with the BBC and other Western sources describing him as a prominent commentator of ultranationalist politics. He's a former member of the State Duma and has been very active in conservative political movements within the country.

Further according to BBC, a pro-Ukraine opposition group has claimed responsibility for the attack:

The explosion reportedly took place on a remote road some 80km (50 miles) from the town of Bor. State media said the blogger suffered a concussion and fractured bones.

The partisan group Atesh, which is made up of Ukrainians and Crimean Tartars, claimed it was behind the attack*.*

"We had a feeling that sooner or later he would be blown up," *they wrote on Telegram. "He was not driving alone, but with a surprise on the underside of the car."*

The group said further it "had been hunting Prilepin since the start of this year."

Below is a brief biographical snapshot of Prilepin and some of his novels via Russia's RT:

After the Western-backed coup in Kiev in 2014, Prilepin emerged as a staunch supporter of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics*, which broke free from Ukraine's rule and later joined Russia. In 2017, he formed his own volunteer battalion, taking the position of political officer. In late January, the writer's press service said that Prilepin had signed a contract with Russia's National Guard and set off for the conflict zone.*

Prilepin has also authored several books, most notably 'The Pathologies', a novel about the Chechen War, as well as 'Some Will Not Go To Hell', describing the hostilities in Donbass.

State media sources have described the explosion as occurring on a highway, with the device having been previously planted underneath the car, and which could have been detonated by remote signal.

Censorship, media, narrative: Tennis Legend Martina Navratilova: "Women's Sports Is Not The Place For Trans Athletes"

BY TYLER DURDEN

SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2023 - 07:00 PM

Authored by Steve Watson via Summit News,

Multi-time grand slam winning tennis champion Martina Navratilova has taken a stand for women's sports, voicing her objections to trans identified male athletes competing against biological women.

Related:

Former Olympian Swimmer Says Trans Hate Mob Has 'Made My Life Hell'
Swimming's World Governing Body Slaps Total Ban on Transgender Athletes
Another Sport Bans Trans

journal: the marijuana price collapse in Canada is also happening in california:

California's Cannabis Market Crashes, Northern Counties Brace For Impact

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2023 - 06:30 PM

Authored by Travis Gillmore via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

California's cannabis industry is in a free-fall, with some municipalities in the northern part of the state making plans for significantly reduced tax revenues as a result of a collapse in wholesale prices.

Once selling for more than $4,000 per pound, **bulk buyers are now shopping in the $300 to $500 range for fresh harvests,** according to experts, and some growers reported clearing out their crops for less than $200 per pound for fear of being stuck with product.

The price represents a sharp drop from recent years, according to industry insiders.

"It's been a steady decline since we got here in 2010, but with the passage of Proposition 64 in 2016, prices accelerated downward quickly," Rachel Greene, a longtime grower with experience in Mendocino and Humboldt Counties' cannabis programs, told The Epoch Times. "It was a combination of a lot of people getting in the game and the old corporate warfare model of operating at a loss to drown out the competition."

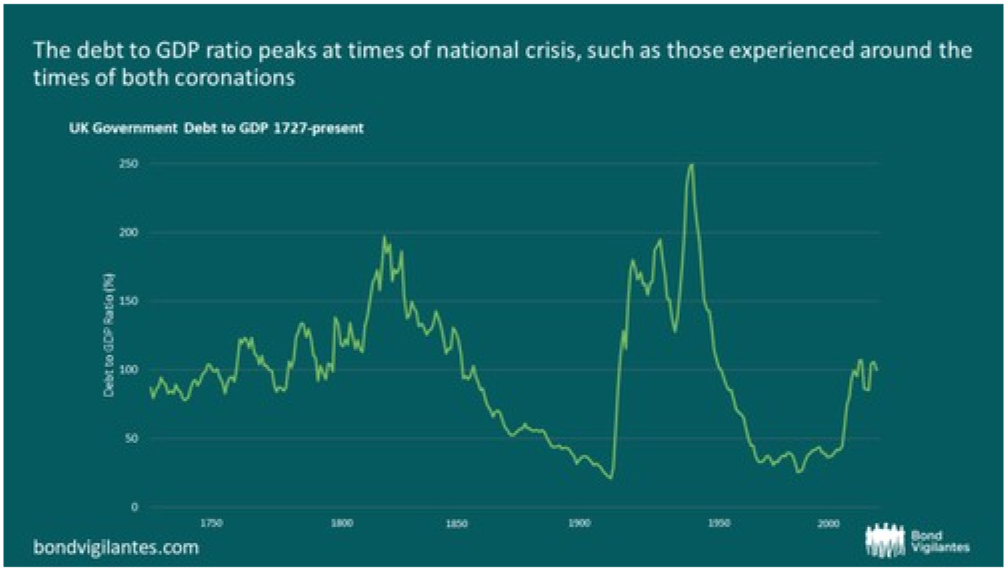
Censorship, narrative, media: “McGeever then gave several primal screams, saying "That is what the trans genocide in this country, in this city, has brought me to."”

"AAAAAAAAAHHHH": Trans Activist Unleashes Primal Scream At SF Board Meeting

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2023 - 06:00 PM

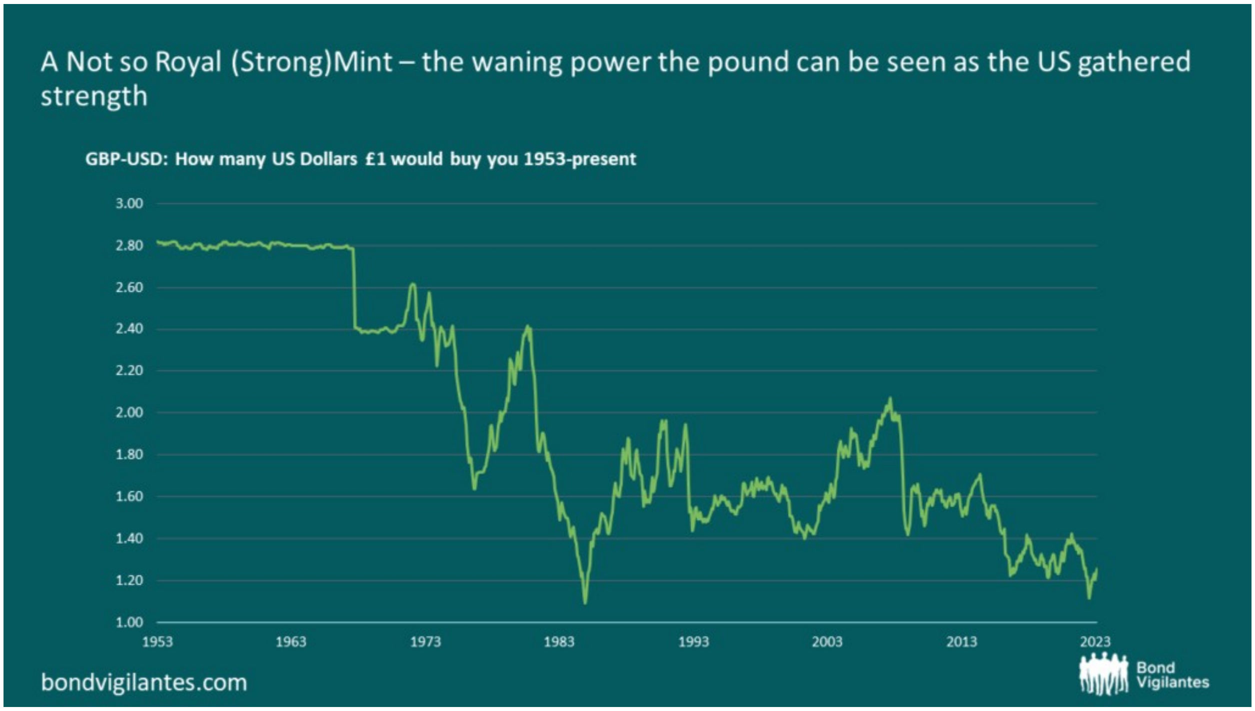
A transgender activist let out several primal screams at a San Francisco Board of Supervisors meeting last week, **after SF District Attorney Brooke Jenkins declined to prosecute a Walgreens security guard** who shot Banko Brown, a black transgender individual.

Stats, journal, government: uk government debt to gdp ratio going back to the 1700s!

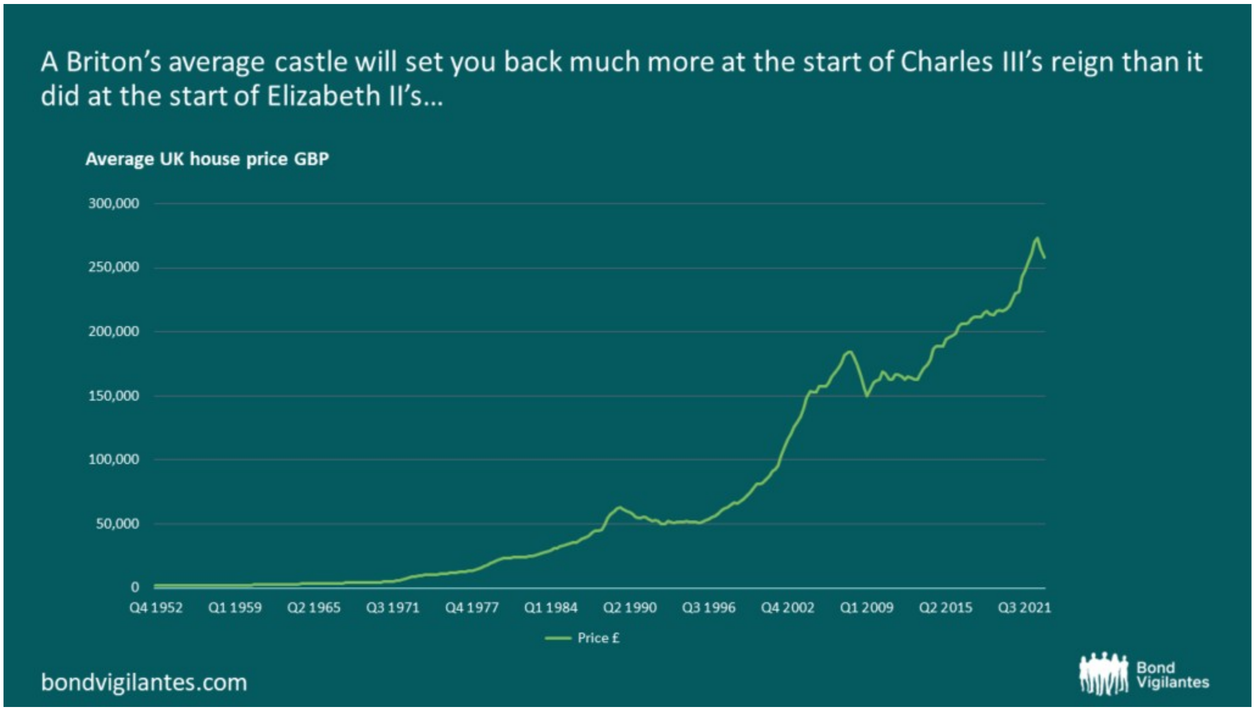


bondvigilantesdotcom/blog/2023/05/a-royal-ascension-of-prices/

Journal, stats, history: nice chart clearly shows the demise of the british empire by comparing the value of the british pound to the us dollar going back to 1952

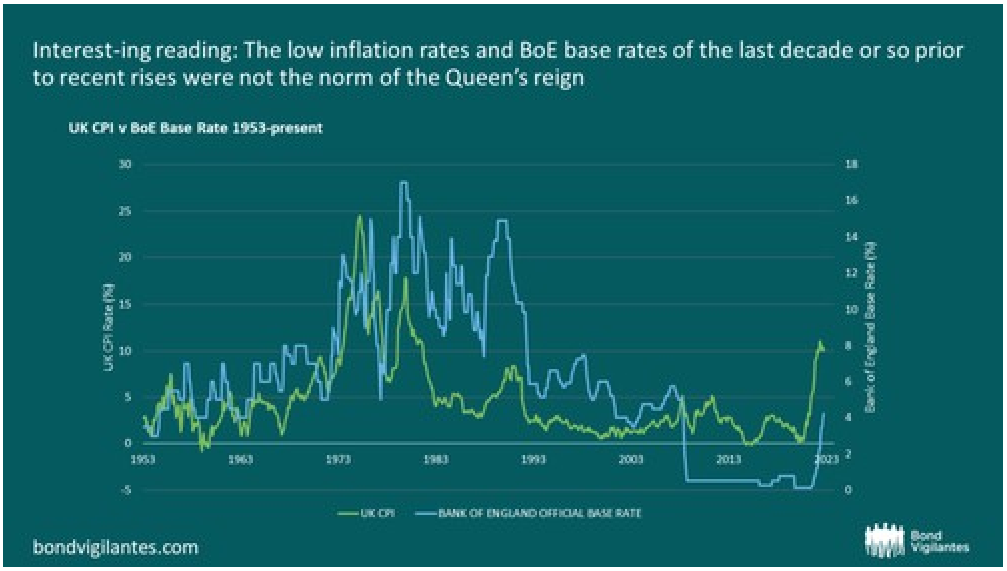


Journal, house, inflation: uk average house price over the quarter million mark


A Briton's average castle will set you back much more at the start of Charles III's reign than it did at the start of Elizabeth II's…

bondvigilantes.com

And 9x wages, double the 1952 ratio



A Royal Ascension (of Prices) - Bond Vigilantes

Stats: The Cost Of A Coronation

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2023 - 09:45 AM

The coronation of King Charles III will take place at Westminster Abbey in London today, May 6.

As a state function, the event is **traditionally mostly paid for by parliament, using taxpayers money**. However, as Statista's Anna Fleck reports, this has drawn heavy criticism among some in the United Kingdom, given the fact the country is currently engulfed in a cost of living crisis, with skyrocketing food and energy prices.

While Buckingham Palace has not yet announced an official figure for how much the coronation will cost, **it has been speculated and widely reported that it will hit between £50-£100 million**. If these figures are correct, it could be **the most expensive British coronation of at least the past 200 years**. Euronews reports that the significantly higher price tag is partly due to the added costs of security.

Europe, war, Russia: **Hungary's PM Orbán: Progresssive Liberals Have Launched A "Nation-Destroying Virus" Against Western Nations**

BY TYLER DURDEN

SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2023 - 08:00 AM

Authored by John Cody via Remix News,

The West is facing a “nation-destroying virus” unleashed by progressive idealists that will destroy civilization unless conservatives fight to contain it, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has warned.

Speaking at CPAC Hungary in Budapest on Thursday, the Hungarian prime minister, seen as perhaps the preeminent leader of the Western conservative movement, issued his warning to hundreds of politicians, national leaders, and conservative activists who gathered in Budapest from around the world.

“A virus attack has been launched against us. This virus was developed in the progressive liberal laboratories,” said Orbán.

“This virus is attacking the most vulnerable point in the Western world, and that is the nation. It is a nation-destroying virus that will atomize and pulverize our nations.”

The Hungarian leader said his country is seen as an incubator of conservative thought, and one of the primary strongholds left working against globalism. He noted that conservatives arrived in Budapest from countries ranging from the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Israel and Japan.

Not bad company, but how did Hungarians get into such a distinguished club? We’re not huge, we’re not formidable, we’re not rich, we don’t have a *big army, we don’t have a huge GDP, and we’re not particularly populous. Who cares about us? Yet, here we all are today.*

I think there is only one reason why we are in this elite club. There is one thing that makes our country an important place. It is the fact that Hungary is actually an incubator where the conservative politics of the future are being experimented with. Hungary is the place where we have not only talked about defeating progressive liberals and making a conservative Christian political turn, we have done it.

The Hungarian prime minister said that the attack facing Europe is not economic, but actually goes deeper into the very values and culture that had defined Europe for generations.

Vaccine: **Class-Action Suit Launched Against Australian Government Over COVID Vaccine Injuries**

BY TYLER DURDEN

SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2023 - 12:20 AM

Authored by Daniel Y. Teng via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

As reports of vaccine injuries gain traction globally, an Australian doctor is leading a new class action against the federal government and key medical figures.

Queensland GP Dr. Melissa McCann has filed the action in the Federal Court of Australia on behalf of 500 complainants.

Censorship: **University Slammed For Erasing The Word 'Woman' From Its Maternity And Menopause Policies**

BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, MAY 05, 2023 - 03:00 PM

Authored by Steve Watson via Summit News,

A London University has been criticised for removing the word ‘woman’ from it’s maternity policy and declaring that maternity, as well as the menopause, applies to “all genders”.

The University of the Arts London (UAL) implemented the wording in its policies a year ago, but the move has attracted attention since the institution began virtue signalling about it on social media and its own website.

University of the Arts London Vice Chancellor James Purnell wrote in a LinkedIn post in October 2022, “At UAL, we are introducing equal parental leave. Every new parent will be entitled to six months at full pay,” adding “It is fair to every kind of parent, of whatever gender or sex, or sexual orientation, whether adopting or not.”

In a further press release, the University noted that it’s maternity and menopause policies apply “irrespective of gender, sexual orientation or how people become parents.”

The policy itself states, “we wish to affirm in our use of language in this letter that not all pregnant people are women and thereby acknowledge trans, non-binary, gender-queer and gender fluid pregnant people and parents.”

In updated menopause policies, the university notes that it “may also be experienced by colleagues who do not identify as female.”

“UAL recognizes that menopause may also be experienced by colleagues who do not identify as female, so this guidance and support content is intended to support anyone experiencing menopause, regardless of their gender identity,” the university asserts.

Conservative MP Jonathan Gullis charged that UAL has abandoned “basic biology.”

“It is disturbing that a university does not understand the basics of biology… I hope [it] will stop this pathetic woke nonsense,” Gullis commented.

Toby Young, the director of the think tank Free Speech Union, told the Daily Mail that the university “has become so pickled in woke gobbledegook it’s becoming a bit of a joke. I hope it can correct course before it goes bankrupt.”

Young added that “Nearly all these institutions are publicly funded, yet all the polling indicates the public are overwhelmingly opposed to this nonsense.”

As we have previously highlighted, Britain’s National Health Service has also been accused of ‘erasing’ women, after it removed all references to women from an online advice section about the menopause, and altered its guidance pages on ovarian cancer, removing instances of the word “women” in a move they claimed was intended to be more “inclusive” toward trans, non-binary and intersex people.

NHS Removes References to Women From Advice About Menopause
Report: UK’s NHS Scrubs The Word ‘Women’ From Ovarian Cancer Guidance To Be More “Inclusive”

Additionally, a Freedom of Information Act request revealed last year that just 29 of the 124 NHS hospitals in England with maternity units still exclusively use the words “woman” or “mother” to refer to pregnancy, while all the others include terms such as “birthing people” or “pregnant people.”

Just 29 of 142 NHS Hospitals Refer to Pregnancy as Exclusively Biological Female Issue

The NHS was previously accused of over-diagnosing sex change treatment for children over fears of being branded “transphobic,” and has since appeared to change track, warning that gender confusion in kids “may be a transient phase, particularly for pre-pubertal children.”

NHS Over-Diagnosing Sex Change Treatment For Children Over Fears of Being Labeled “Transphobic”
NHS Warning: Many “Trans” Kids Merely Going Through A “Phase”
London Sex Change Clinic For Kids Shut Down And Sued By 1000 Families

Germany, sanctions, Europe: "Do Not Drive" Warning: NHTSA Recalls 90,000 BMWs Over Exploding Killer Airbags

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 05, 2023 - 02:40 PM

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration published a "Do Not Drive" warning for **90,000 BMW vehicles built between 2000 and 2006** with Takata airbags, telling owners to immediately park sedans and SUVs due to an increasing threat the **airbags might explode.**

"These vehicles are 17 to 22 years old, and the **risk to vehicle occupants is dire.** These are some of the oldest Takata airbags under recall and have an **extremely high probability of failure** during a crash. If the inflators rupture, the **metal fragments ejected toward the driver's face could kill or leave them with devastating, life-altering injuries**," NHTSA wrote.

Narrative, vaccine: CDC Director Rochelle Walensky Is Leaving The Agency

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 05, 2023 - 02:00 PM

Rochelle Walensky, the director of the disgraced Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is leaving the agency, President Joe Biden announced during a press conference on Friday.

"Dr. Walensky has saved lives with her steadfast and unwavering focus on the health of every American," President Biden said in a statement.

Walensky's exit comes days before the federal government is set to end the public health emergency around COVID-19, and hours after the WHO declared that the Covid pandemic "global health emergency" is now over.

War, planet: 13,000 Evacuated As Over 100 Wildfires Burn Across Alberta

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2023 - 03:00 PM

More than 100 wildfires, some of which are classified as out of control, rage across the western Canadian province of Alberta on Saturday morning, prompting officials to evacuate 13,000 people.

As of 1130 ET, there are 102 active wildfires in Alberta, of which 35 are classified as out of control, according to data from the Alberta Wildfire Status Dashboard.

Stats, tech, media: Billionaire Peter Thiel Pursues Immortality By

Planning Cryopreservation After Death

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2023 - 12:00 PM

Billionaire tech investor Peter Thiel told independent journalist Bari Weiss on her podcast, *"Honestly with Bari Weiss,"* that when death comes knocking on his door, he has opted to be cryogenically frozen, even though he isn't entirely sure if the technology will revive him at a future date.

Weiss asked Thiel:

"Is it true that you're signed up to be cryonically preserved when you die so that you might be brought back to life in the future?"

War, japan, china: **NATO To Open Office In Japan, The Alliance's First In Asia**

NATO is planning to open a liaison office in Japan next year, the alliance's first in Asia, *Nikkei Asia* first reported Wednesday.

https://news.antiwar.com/2023/05/04/nato-to-open-office-in-japan-the-alliances-first-in-asia/

Stats: https://www.statista.com/chart/24383/monarchies

Russia, war: **Watch: Fist-Fight Breaks Out Between Russian & Ukrainian Diplomats At Conference**

BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, MAY 05, 2023 - 09:40 PM

A Ukrainian diplomatic official has released video of himself **punching a Russian official on Thursday**. In the rare moment, rival delegations who were attending a meeting of Black Sea nations in Turkey literally came to blows while the war in Ukraine rages.

Oleksandr Marikovski posted the video, which has since gone viral. It shows a scuffle over display of a Ukrainian flag in a hallway of the parliament building in Ankara. "A Ukrainian delegate has punched a Russian delegate in the face during a meeting of Black Sea nations after his Ukrainian flag was snatched away to stop him from photobombing a video interview," *Al Jazeera* comments of the scene. Watch:

Narrative, vaccine: Randi Weingarten Goes Mega-Karen After Twitter Community Notes Expose Lockdown Lies

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 05, 2023 - 08:20 PM

Revisionist lockdown authoritarian Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, **has doubled down in her campaign** to convince everyone she was for *opening* schools.

To review - Weingarten testified to Congress late last month that she "spent every day from February on trying to get schools open," adding "we knew that remote education was not a substitute for opening schools."

This earned Weingarten a 'community notes' correction on Twitter, in which users noted that she previously called attempts to reopen schools in the fall of 2020 "reckless, callous and cruel."

It was so bad that **even *CNN* called out Weingarten**.

.@ScottJenningsKY to @rweingarten: "I am stunned at what you have said this week...I think you'll find that most parents believe you are the tip of the sphere of school closures...I hear no remorse whatsoever about the generational damage that's been done..." pic.twitter.com/gVCDgpP3dN

— Kevin Tober (@KevinTober94) April 28, 2023

Karen please...

War, Russia: **US-Russia On Verge Of "Open Armed Conflict" After Kremlin Drone Attack: Foreign Ministry**

BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, MAY 05, 2023 - 06:20 PM

On Friday the highest ranking Russian official thus far to have issued a statement on the Wednesday drone attack which targeted Kremlin buildings which house President Vladimir Putin's offices said that the drone operation out of Ukraine was **impossible without US foreknowledge**.

"It's clear that without the knowledge of their minders, the terrorists from Kyiv could not have carried out (the attack)," Lavrov said while on a trip to India, in reference to Washington.

He followed with: "We will respond with concrete actions." The statements came the day after Putin press spokesman Peskov said such decisions are not "made in Kiev, but in Washington." He asserted that Ukraine is **"doing what it is told to do by the US."**

While the Biden administration has quickly rejected these accusations, and has downplayed the significance of the whole incident, which Russia called an "terroristic" attempted assassination of a sitting head of state, there's been a flurry of maximalist and fierce statements from various sectors of the Russian government.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said simultaneous to Lavrov's remarks on Friday that US-Russia relations are starring into the abyss, headed towards armed conflict:

*"We are working to keep relations with the US from **falling into the abyss of an open armed conflict, we are already on the verge, on the edge of this abyss**," Ryabkov said on Thursday night in an interview with Russian Pervy TV channel.*

*Russia and the US maintain contacts, and the problem is in the lack of trust, that **Washington defies everything Moscow says as "disinformation,"** he said.*

He followed by saying the US "has long been a direct part to the Ukrainian conflict, **waging an open hybrid war**." He emphasized: "Ukraine is only a tool in their hands. ... Their goal is to destroy a sovereign, independent Russia as an international factor, they are increasingly tempted to play with the idea of dismemberment of Russia. ... This is a direct encroachment on the foundations of our state system."

Ryabkov then recalled the "destructive role that the US played in events, preceding the 2014 coup in Kyiv" that led to an eight-year long war in the Donbas. "And now, they are trying to pretend that they are only helping Kyiv in its kind of struggle, this is the height of cynicism and hypocrisy," he said.

"We see that the US bets on further escalation and we warn them against it. ... We remind them that the risks have increased many times in recent months," he stressed, saying there's no "magic solution" at this point.

Markets, government, inflation: Apple Jumps After Beating Across The Board, Announcing Massive $90 Billion New Stock Buyback

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 04, 2023 - 06:01 PM

Update (17:30 ET): Addressing the all important revenue guidance, during the company's earnings call, CFO Luca Maestri said that June quarter year-over-year revenue performance to be similar to the March quarter; as a reminder Q2 was down about 3%. This is in line with expectations.

Some other Q3 guidance (via BBG):

- June quarter YoY growth to be similar to March assuming no worsening economic environment
- OpEx will be between $13.6 billion and $15.8 billion in the current period
- FX should hit growth about 4 percentage points
- Services growth should be similar
- Gross margin between 44-45%
- Opex between $13.6B-13.8B
- OINE $-250M
- Tax rate: 16%

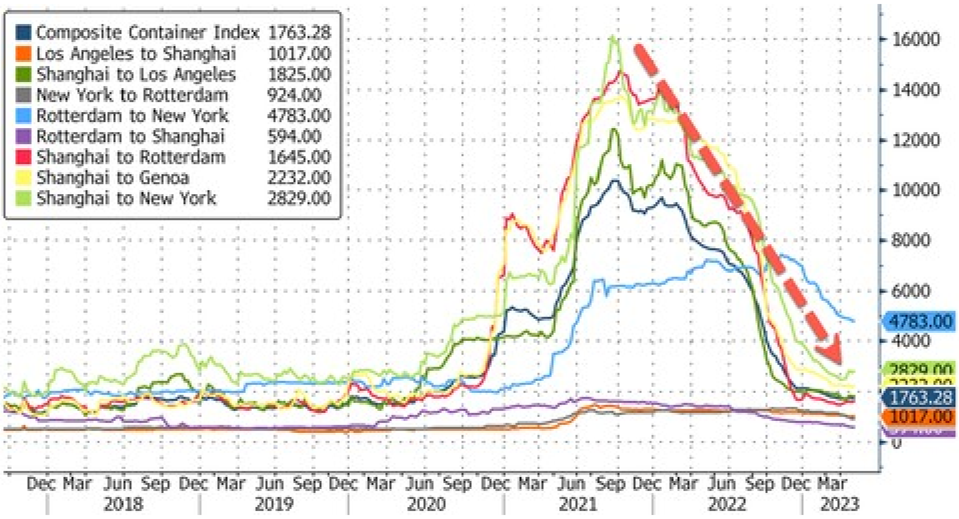
Stats, inflation, journal: Maersk warns of ‘radically changed’ world as profits tumble

Shipping group signals industry’s pandemic-driven boom is over as demand and freight rates fall

“Container shipping went through an extraordinary boom after the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, with the industry making more money in three years than in the previous six decades.”

Ft.com/content/c9808a10-a9d9-45ee-ac80-3da93172f290

Maersk transports close to one-fifth of world containers, according to zh.



Simultaneously, the IMF trimmed its global-growth projections in its latest World Economic Outlook report, warning about the increasing risks of a 'hard landing.'

And the days of overconsumption of goods, brought on primarily by fiscal stimulus, are over, and one of the main reasons global shipping lanes are slowing. When Maersk speaks, it's worth a listen as economic storm clouds are gathering.

"Going To Be Bumpy": World's Largest Container Shipper Warns Of Downturn

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 05, 2023 - 06:45 AM

War, Russia: 21 Russian Cities Cancel V-Day Parades As Tit-For-Tat Drone War Heats Up

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAY 05, 2023 - 03:45 AM

Russia has witnessed **several drone attacks against its territory and infrastructure over the past 24 hours**, following the pair of drones sent against Kremlin buildings in the heart of Moscow, which was denounced as an assassination attempt on Putin.

Separate overnight drone attacks damaged oil refineries in the southern oblasts of Rostov and Krasnodar. The Krasnodar attack involved four drones and caused a large fire, while the Rostov attack resulted in limited damage. Russia's RT counts multiple recent incidents, detailing: "Earlier in the week, there was a drone incident at another oil facility in the same region, and last week, **an oil terminal was hit in the city of Sevastopol in Crimea**."

Stats, government, inflation: Visualizing The Assets & Liabilities Of US Banks

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 04, 2023 - 10:40 PM

The U.S. banking sector has more than 4,000 FDIC-insured banks that play a crucial role in the country’s economy by securely storing deposits and providing credit in the form of loans.

This infographic from Visual Capitalist's Niccolo Conte and Christina Kostandi visualizes all of the deposits, loans, and other assets and liabilities that make up the collective balance sheet of U.S banks using data from the Federal Reserve.

With the spotlight on the banking sector after the collapses of Signature Bank, Silicon Valley Bank, and First Republic bank, understanding the assets and liabilities that make up banks' balance sheets can give insight in how they operate and why they sometimes fail.

Censorship, journal: California Democrats Push Bill To Mandate 'Gender Diversity' Books In Schools

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 04, 2023 - 09:40 PM

Authored by Steve Watson via Summit News,

Democrats in California are pushing legislation that would force every school in the state to stock books in their libraries that are centred around LGBTQ themes and "people of all gender expressions."

Democrat California assemblyman Corey Jackson, who has pushed the bill through committee to the full legislature, said the legislation "intends to combat the national Christian white supremacist movement, which is aimed to ban books."

Jackson charged that "the radicalization of the Christian faith," is being used "to achieve a political objective," adding "We must meet this moment of history and make sure we are on the right side of it."

The Free Beacon reports that **Jackson's legislation would place a state board in charge of classroom and school library books and texts, with any school needing to get state approval before removing any material that is challenged as potentially inappropriate, with regards to race and gender.**

However, the bill does make exceptions for removing religious texts deemed to be "sectarian" or "denominational".

The report further notes that under the legislation, the state education board would be required to set curriculum guides for school districts that emphasize diversity. The guides be required to focus on "people of all gender expressions in all types of roles, races, cultures, and religions," as well as representations of labor unions and "the entrepreneur."

Speaking out against the legislation, Lance Christensen, vice president of policy for the California Policy Center said “It’s shocking to have an author of a bill to make such inflammatory commentary on those who would oppose this bill in good faith.”

Christensen added that opposing “radical indoctrination does not mean we are all white Christian nationalists” further charging that Democrats are conflating school text curation with book-banning.

As we highlighted earlier this week, **Chelsea Clinton appears to have taken on a new activism project, defending attempts to force kids as young as Kindergarten age to be exposed to such sexually explicit “LGBTQ+” material at school.**

Clinton tweeted a claim that Republicans are trying to “ban” books and that it is harmful to children to remove material with LGBTQ+ “themes”.

Chelsea Clinton Comes Out In Favour Of Porn For School Kids

As we have exhaustively covered, the truth is that no one is calling for the books to be banned, but many are calling for the books that contain pornographic images and even pedophilia themes, as well as unscientific statements about biological gender, to be removed from school libraries.

A Twitter fact check of the Clinton tweet pointed out that the book shown in the tweet contains graphic sexually explicit material. Clinton was then treated to a stream of responses providing examples of some of the shocking material contained within the books.

Twitter Fact Check Confirms Book Chelsea Clinton Promoted For Children Contains Graphic Sex Acts

Related:

- Report: School District In Maryland Makes LGBTQ Books Mandatory Reading
- Report: Kindergarteners Forced To Read Trans Book For Biden Endorsed ‘Transgender Day Of Visibility’
- Video: 11 Year Old Confronts Officials By Reading Shocking Gay Porn Book Found In School Library
- Republicans Introduce Bill To Ban Porn Books In Schools
- DeSantis Reveals Shocking Porn Books Being Removed From Florida Schools
- Video: Mother Reads Shocking Porn Content From Books Given To Kids In NY Schools
- Video: Mother Reads Shocking Gay Porn Material Found In Minnesota School Direct To Board Members
- Wisconsin Parents Outraged After Finding ‘Queer’ Porn In Children’s School Library
- Videos: Hundreds Of Parents Protest Gay Porn Books At School Meeting
- Video: CBS News Report Frames Removal Of Gay Porn Books From Children’s Library As ‘Book Banning’

* * *

journal, ai, tech:

'Godfather Of AI' Quits Google And Warns World About Impending 'AI-Driven' Crisis

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 04, 2023 - 12:50 AM

The "Godfather of AI" resigned from his position at Google, where he has worked for over a decade. He joined a growing chorus of critics who warn of the existential risk artificial intelligence systems pose to humans.

Over 130 Arrested In Coordinated International Mafia Raids Involving 10 Countries

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 04, 2023 - 03:45 AM

Police in Europe and South America coordinated to arrest over 100 people Wednesday in a wave of raids on the 'ndrangheta, a notorious Italian crime group that's arguably the world's well funded.

Vaccine, narrative: **Infectious Disease Experts Advise Health Care Facilities To Drop Universal Mask Policies**
https://www.theepochtimes.com/health/infectious-disease-experts-advise-health-care-workers-drop-universal-mask-policies_5227291.html?utm_source=partner&utm_campaign=ZeroHedge&src_src=partner&src_cmp=ZeroHedge

Stats: **Sony Group is the world's top provider of image sensors for smartphones**

the Netherlands is the second-largest agricultural exporter in the world

Fentanyl Overdose Deaths Skyrocket 279% Since 2016 Amid Nationwide Drug Crisis

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 04, 2023 - 09:20 PM

Fentanyl is fueling the worst drug crisis in the history of the US. New federal data shows the rate of overdose deaths linked to the synthetic opioid has skyrocketed over the last five years.

According to a report released early Wednesday by the National Center for Health Statistics' National Vital Statistics System, the rate of fentanyl-related overdose deaths jumped 279% between 2016 and 2021, rising from 5.7 per 100,000 to 21.6 per 100,000.

War: White House Rejects Kremlin Statement US "Undoubtedly" Behind Drone Attack On Kremlin

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 04, 2023 - 11:15 AM

The Kremlin issued a formal accusation against the United States for helping Ukraine conduct yesterday's 'assassination attempt' on President Vladimir Putin via drone strike.

"Attempts to disown this, both in Kyiv and in Washington, are, of course, **absolutely ridiculous**. We know very well that decisions about such actions, about such terrorist attacks, are made not in Kyiv but in Washington," Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Stats: Jobs most at risk due to Chatgpt

The Jobs Most and Least at Risk of AI Disruption

Here is a list of jobs highlighted in the paper as likely to see (or already seeing) AI disruption, where AI can reduce the time to do tasks associated with the occupation **by at least 50%.**

Analysis was provided by a variety of human-made models as well as ChatGPT-4 models, with results from both showing below:

Jobs	Categorized By	AI Exposure
Accountants	AI	100%
Admin and legal assistants	AI	100%
Climate change policy analysts	AI	100%
Reporters & journalists	AI	100%
Mathematicians	Human & AI	100%
Tax preparers	Human	100%
Financial analysts	Human	100%
Writers & authors	Human	100%
Web designers	Human	100%
Blockchain engineers	AI	97.1%
Court reporters	AI	96.4%
Proofreaders	AI	95.5%
Correspondence clerks	AI	95.2%
Survey researchers	Human	84.0%
Interpreters/translators	Human	82.4%
PR specialists	Human	80.6%
Animal scientists	Human	77.8%

Editor's note: The paper only highlights some jobs impacted. One AI model found a list of 84 additional jobs that were "fully exposed", but not all were listed. One human model found 15 additional "fully exposed" jobs that were not listed.

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/cp/which-jobs-artificial-intelligence-gpt-impact/

War, Russia: Russia Says US Behind Overnight Drone Attack On Oil Refinery

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, MAY 04, 2023 - 09:55 AM

While all eyes were on the small drone attack against Kremlin buildings in Moscow yesterday, given Russian allegations of an assassination attempt against President Putin, a separate but very significant cross-border strike was reported in southern Russia overnight.

Multiple drones targeted an oil refinery in southern Russia, resulting in a large fire. "Four drones were used in an attack on an oil refinery in the Krasnodar Region, where an oil storage reservoir caught fire on Thursday night," TASS reports. The Kremlin is blaming Washington and Kiev's Western backers for the cross-border operation.

"There were four [drones]. The fire was extinguished. One drone did not explode, it fell down and now a [controlled] detonation of it will take place," the state publication said. It happened at around 3am, resulting in no casualties, and emergency responders reportedly extinguished the blaze, with authorities announcing "no threat to the population."

The last weeks have seen a noticeable uptick in cross-border drone attacks out of Ukraine on key Russian infrastructure, including oil facilities and even trains of late.

In the wake of this latest, the Russian Foreign Ministry vowed that **"Moscow will quickly deal with Kiev's terrorist and subversive activities,"** according to *Al Jazeera*.

But what's "new" about this attack on the oil refinery is that the Kremlin is very directly pointing the finger at the United States for helping the Ukrainians conduct the attack:

*Kremlin Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov told reporters that **Kyiv could not have carried out the attack without Washington's involvement**.*

***"Attempts to disown this — both in Kyiv and in Washington — are, of course, absolutely ridiculous,"** the Kremlin spokesman said, Russian news agency TASS reported.*

*"We know very well that **decisions on such actions, on such terrorist attacks, are not made in Kyiv**. Namely, in Washington. And Kiev is already doing what what he is told to do," he added. Russia has not presented any evidence backing up its claims that Ukraine and the U.S. were behind the drone attack.*

In a simultaneous blistering statement also aimed at Washington on Thursday, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the US and its allies are ultimately responsible for the actions of the Kiev regime.

"They destroyed the lawful government in Ukraine [in 2014], put crooks and bandits in charge, provided them with money and weapons, imbued them with a sense of absolute impunity and provided political cover and military

support," Zakharova said, asserting further that Russia holds "Washington, London, and NATO in general" accountable for Ukrainian leadership's actions. But more and more of Moscow's "red lines" have been incrementally crossed, and so far it looks like the Kremlin has remained somewhat restrained. However, some are calling for going gloves off on "Zelensky and his clique".

Censorship: “Under the EU’s Digital Services Act, large tech companies must share their data with “vetted researchers” from non-profits and academia, which would cede content moderation to NGOs and their state sponsors.

The US’s RESTRICT Act, sponsored by Senator Mark Warner (D-VA), threatens 20 years in prison or a $250,000 fine for accessing blacklisted websites through “virtual private networks,” or VPNs, which are ways to create a private connection between a computer or phone and the Internet.”

https://public.substack.com/p/world-on-cusp-of-woke-totalitarianism

Vaccine, censorship: Bolsonaro Raided, Aide Arrested Amid Fake Covid-19 Vaccination Records Scandal

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 03, 2023 - 08:50 PM

The mansion of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and other locations in Brasília, and Rio de Janeiro were raided by police on Wednesday as part of an investigation into fake Covid-19 vaccine cards.

As part of the arrest, Bolsonaro's "right-hand man" Lt Col Mauro Cid Barbosa was **one of six people arrested** Wednesday morning, *The Guardian* reports.

Two of Bolsonaro’s security guards were also taken into custody. *The ex-president was expected to be questioned later on Wednesday. Bolsonaro’s mobile phone was seized at his residence in Brasília and he was obliged to hand over the password after initially resisting.*

Federal police reportedly believe a series of official Covid vaccination records were falsified on Brazil’s health ministry database *in order to produce bogus vaccination certificates that would permit international travel, including to the US. -The Guardian*

The allegedly falsified records include those for Bolsonaro, his 12-year-old daughter Laura, and Mauro Cid Barbosa and his family. The records were reportedly entered into the health ministry's database between November 2001 and December of last year - Bolsonaro's last month in power after losing the last presidential election to far-left rival Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Bolsonaro, who repeatedly claimed that he had refused vaccination, had also refused to make his vaccination records public.

According to Lula, Bolsonaro should be brought to justice for his actions during the "slaughter" of Covid-19.

"Good morning and [have] a nice Wednesday," Lula tweeted as police rummaged through Bolsonaro's villa.

Other Bolsonaro foes chimed in.

"Brazil was governed by a group of Hollywood-style gangsters," said leftwing congressman Guilherme Boulos in a tweet.

This isn't the only investigation into Bolsonaro, who's being probed over several suspected crimes and transgressions while no longer enjoying prosecutorial immunity.

Bolsonaro, meanwhile, told reporters he was "surprised" at the raid, and denied any involvement in "adulteration."

"I wasn’t vaccinated. Full stop," he said, adding "**I have nothing else to say.**"

Media, government: Gov. Newsom Activates National Guard And Highway Patrol To Combat San Francisco's Drug Crisis

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 03, 2023 - 06:50 PM

Gov. Gavin Newsom has called up the California Highway Patrol and the California National Guard to combat San Francisco's out-of-control open-air drug market as parts of the progressive-run city descend into chaos.

According to ABC7 News, CHP officers will be deployed across Tenderloin and South of Market neighborhoods, while guardsmen will run intelligence analysis operations behind the scenes. The governor brought the two agencies together as the drug-related deaths in the city jumped 41% in the first quarter.

Stats, markets: **Icahn Sees $3.1 Billion In Wealth Evaporate After Hindenburg Research Report**

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 03, 2023 - 09:31 AM

The Bloomberg Billionaires index wiped away $10 billion in wealth from Carl Icahn after yesterday's Hindenburg Research report, which called into question IEP's dividend and portfolio marks.

The $10 billion plunge wasn't just attributed to IEP's fall on Tuesday, but was also due to a margin loan, collateralized by his stake in IEP, that the Billionaire's Index hadn't previously accounted for, the report says.

Icahn's position on the Billionaire's Index fell from 58th to 119th, Bloomberg notes.

"We've Never Seen Such A Dramatic Shift": Bud Light Hopes New Ad Blitz Can Overcome Corporate Suicide

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 03, 2023 - 07:35 AM

Bud Light parent company Anheuser-Busch is desperately scrambling to rehabilitate their image following **corporate suicide** over a transgender ad campaign featuring TikTok influencer Dylan Mulvaney.

War, Journal, zh appears to predict rice shortage,:

Global Rice Shortage Looms, Set To Be The Biggest In Decades

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 03, 2023 - 06:45 AM

Rice is the primary food source for over half of the global population, especially in emerging markets, where it plays a crucial role in feeding people. Last year, we highlighted the potential for a severe global rice shortage. A new report reveals that rice production this year could be at its lowest in decades.

A report by Fitch Solutions forecasts this year's global rice production will log its biggest shortfall in two decades. The deficit will be a major headache for countries relying on grain imports.

"At the global level, the most evident impact of the global rice deficit has been, and still is, decade-high rice prices," Fitch Solutions' commodities analyst Charles Hart told CNBC.

………

Recall in the late summer of 2022. We told readers:

- *The Stage Is Being Set For A Massive Global Rice Shortage*
- *"Situation Is Really Precarious": World's Largest Rice Exporter Faces Output Decline Amid Heatwave*

... and just recently.

- *Thai Rice Prices Jump As Global Food Crisis Reignites*

The takeaway is that a tight global rice market will raise food inflation for major rice importers such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Africa. Elevated food inflation is dangerous for governments because it increases social instability risks.

Journal, stats on veganism bs: Scientists unite against vegan theology, causes stunting, wasting and anemia

Scientists Say Meat Is Crucial To The Human Diet - Warn Against Vegan 'Zealotry'

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 03, 2023 - 05:15 AM

Dozens of experts were asked to look into the science behind claims that meat eating causes disease and is harmful for the planet in a special issue of a journal called Animal Frontiers. They have warned against a widespread societal push towards plant-based diets, arguing that poorer communities with low meat intake often suffer from stunting, wasting and anemia driven by a lack of vital nutrients and protein.

Thousands of scientists across the globe have also joined The Dublin Declaration, a group stating that livestock farming is too important to society to “become the victim of zealotry.” They say that many of the negative claims about meat in our diet are simply not true.

The Dublin Declaration group has published a statement allowing global signatories to join them in defending meat supported diets and contradicting common claims made by establishment institutions against livestock in agriculture. In particular, the scientists stress that meats provide vitamin B12 intake in human diets, play a major role in supplying retinol, omega-3 fatty acids and minerals such as iron and zinc, as well as important compounds for metabolism, such as taurine and creatine. There is no vegan equivalent that fills these nutritional needs and a number of supplements are often required to keep them healthy.

Scientists note that only well resourced (wealthier) people have the means to abandon meat in their diets and consume vegetables and carbs alone. In other words, veganism is a first world ideology that is impractical for the majority of the global population. Even India, a developing nation often cited by anti-meat activists for its religious stance against killing animals, still has a 70% meat eating population.

Previous studies (such as the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factor Study, published in The Lancet in 2020) warning against the "dangers" of meat are also being debunked. Dr Alice Stanton, of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, one of the authors of a review of anti-meat claims, notes:

“The peer-reviewed evidence published reaffirms that [the 2019 Global Burden of Disease Risk Factors Report] which claimed that consumption of even tiny amounts of red meat harms health is fatally scientifically flawed...In fact, removing fresh meat and dairy from diets would harm human health. Women, children, the elderly and low income would be particularly negatively impacted.”

The anti-meat movement most likely finds its roots in astroturf. Pro-vegan research tends to be funded by globalist institutions like the UN and the WEF, which have made clear that they want meat to become a "rare treat" rather than a dietary staple.

This would be accomplished by a number of means, but a primary tool would be emissions taxation on farmers and agricultural products leading to artificially higher prices. The UN hopes to ward much of the populace away from meat by making it unaffordable. This is similar to the tactic they have recommended for pushing people away from "fossil fuels." If price is a problem and you still need protein, the globalists suggest fake meat (which is more expensive than real meat for now), or shifting to a third world diet and eating bugs instead.

The UN says its goal is to enforce a completely meat and dairy free human diet by 2050 in order to "fight climate change," though they have been caught in the past greatly exaggerating how much livestock methane contributes to overall emissions. Even if you believe that there is a real climate crisis (despite there being no evidence to support the hype), there is still the fact that livestock emissions are a negligible portion of supposed "greenhouse gases." You wouldn't be accomplishing anything to save the planet by becoming vegan.

When climate hysteria is not effective, the same groups try to frighten people away from meat using fraudulent health concerns. We have seen this lately in the meat issue as well as with natural gas appliances. Baseless health risk claims are promoted using the corporate media as an amplifier, and the evidence proving the claims wrong is never addressed.

Without regular access to meat vast numbers of people may be dependent on manufactured supplements to stay healthy. Much of these supplements are produced in countries overseas that may become hostile and cut off exports. Not to mention, governments could also control the supplies for their own citizens as leverage. The price factor for foods would make sustaining the current population untenable, leading to either mass starvation or deliberate population reduction.

Censorship: Ireland Government's Hate Speech Bill Promotes 'Thought Crime Legislation'

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 03, 2023 - 04:30 AM

Authored by Naveen Anthrapully via The Epoch Times,

Irish authorities are pushing forward a bill that will make it a crime to disseminate and possess content deemed to be hateful—a development Elon Musk warns is a threat to free speech in the country.

The Criminal Justice (Incitement to Violence or Hatred and Hate Offences) Bill 2022 (pdf) seeks to “amend the law relating to the prohibition of incitement

to violence or hatred against a person or a group of persons on account of certain characteristics (referred to as protected characteristics) of the person or the group of persons and to provide for an offence of condoning, denying or grossly trivialising genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against peace.”

It aims at “combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law.”

The bill classifies “race, skin colour, nationality, religion, national or ethnic origin, descent, gender, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, and disability” as protected characteristics.

Gender is “the gender of a person or the gender which a person expresses as the person’s preferred gender or with which the person identifies and includes transgender and a gender other than those of male and female.”

The bill empowers Irish authorities to convict people criminally for alleged hate crimes. According to the bill, a person can be deemed guilty of an offense if the individual “(i) communicates material to the public or a section of the public, or (ii) behaves in a public place in a manner, that is likely to incite violence or hatred against a person or a group of persons on account of their protected characteristics or any of those characteristics.”

“Massive attack on freedom of speech,” **Musk said in an April 30 tweet responding to an organization called Free Speech Ireland, which criticized the Irish government for voting against “human rights and quite literally for thought crime legislation.”**

An amendment to include the UN Convention on Human Rights protections on free speech into the hate speech bill was defeated. Another amendment to excuse the section allowing for prosecuting individuals possessing offensive material without communicating it was also defeated.

This means that Irish authorities can arrest a person for simply possessing material deemed as potentially inciting hatred if disseminated.

A person deemed guilty of violating the bill’s provisions shall have to pay fines, face imprisonment for up to 12 months, or both.

Burden of Proof

The legislation also shifts the burden of proof onto the accused. During his April 26 speech at the lower house of the Irish legislature, Paul Murphy, an elected member for Dublin South-West, warned that Section 10 of the bill

“creates the possibility of someone being criminalized purely for having material which is hateful, without that material being communicated to the public.”

“That’s a problem. That gets to the fundamental problem of this bill. That is the creation of a ‘thought crime.’”

“Subsection 3 states that where it is reasonable to assume that the material was not intended for personal use, the onus will be put on the accused to prove their own innocence by showing that the material that they prepared or even just material they possessed was never intended to be publicly communicated,” Murphy stated.

“Within Section 10, you have the creation of a thought crime. And then you have a dangerous reversal of the burden of proof, where the burden is now placed on the accused to overturn the presumption that the material was not intended for personal use. This is extremely problematic.”

Religious Issues

The constitution of Ireland protects freedom of religion, provided it adheres to public order and morality. Some fear that the new hate speech bill might harm religious freedoms.

For instance, priests may hold opinions on subjects like gender and sexual identity that can be seen as violating the new bill’s provisions, thereby putting them under threat of prosecution.

The country’s progressive government has pushed the bill. The legislation is currently in its second stage of the legislative approval process and needs to go through three more steps before being signed into law by the president.

A petition at Change.org run by Free Speech Ireland asking for no hate speech laws in the country warns that the legislation will “patently undermine the fundamental right of speech” in the nation.

“So-called Hate Speech laws are a savage hypocrisy: they would do more to divide communities in Ireland by highlighting that they are different and thus should be treated differently under the law.”

government, journal, censorship:

Pornhub Blocks Access In Utah After State Passes New Age Verification Law

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 02, 2023 - 09:05 PM

Authored by Katabella Roberts via The Epoch Times,

Pornhub has disabled access to its website in Utah in response to a new law requiring companies publishing adult content to verify users’ ages before allowing them to view the X-rated material on their platforms.

Another Train Derailment In Russia Suggests Stepped-Up Covert Sabotage Campaign

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 02, 2023 - 08:05 PM

For the second consecutive day, a Russian freight train has been derailed not far from the Ukrainian border, in what appears to be another sabotage attack. These cross-border irregular warfare attacks seem to be stepping up simultaneous to the so-called Ukrainian Spring counteroffensive being stalled.

Reuters is reporting based on local sources that "**An explosion derailed a freight train for the second day in a row in a Russian region bordering Ukraine on Tuesday**, sending both the locomotive and some cars off the tracks, authorities said."

Kremlin Mocks & Dismisses White House's High Russian Casualty Count

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAY 02, 2023 - 04:11 PM

The Kremlin has reacted to a Monday briefing by National Security Council spokesman John Kirby wherein he issued a surprisingly high estimate of Russian casualties which he said took place since December in the contested Donetsk city of Bakhmut. He said Russian forces have suffered over 100,000 total casualties - including **about 20,000 soldiers killed in combat** and **another 80,000 wounded**.

"**Pulling out figures out of a hat, Washington does not have the opportunity to give any correct figures, they do not have such data, this is how it should be treated**" Peskov said, as cited in national media.

Ai, tech: **IBM To Stop Hiring For Roles That Can Be Replaced By AI; Nearly 8,000 Workers To Be Replaced By Automation**

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, MAY 02, 2023 - 10:55 AM

One month ago, to much dismay and widespread denial, Goldman predicted that AI could lead to **some 300 million layoffs among highly paid, non-menial workers** in the US and Europe. As Goldman chief economist Jan Hatzius put it, "using data on occupational tasks in both the US and Europe, **we find that roughly two-thirds of current jobs are exposed to some degree of**

AI automation, and that generative AI could substitute up to one-fourth of current work. Extrapolating our estimates globally suggests that generative AI could expose the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs to automation" as up to "**two thirds of occupations could be partially automated by AI."**

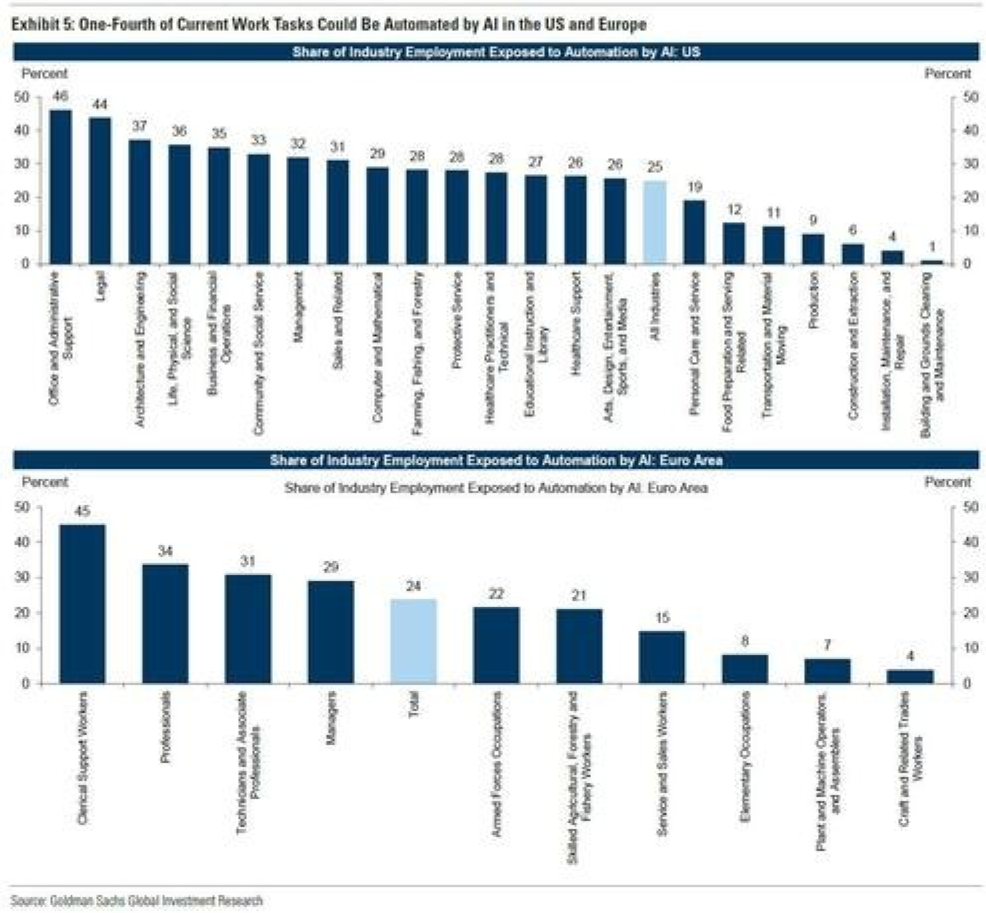


Exhibit 5: One-Fourth of Current Work Tasks Could Be Automated by AI in the US and Europe

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Yet while Goldman's forecast was met with a emotions ranging from incredulity to outright mockery, it may not have been too far off the mark.

Kirby Claims Whopping 100,000+ Russian Casualties In Bakhmut Alone

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, MAY 02, 2023 - 05:20 AM

In a Monday press briefing National Security Council spokesman John Kirby issued a surprisingly high estimate of Russian casualties which he said took place since December fighting in the contested Donetsk city of Bakhmut.

He said Russian forces have suffered over 100,000 total casualties - including **about 20,000 soldiers killed in combat** and **another 80,000 wounded**.

He explained that these figures were based on "information and intelligence that we were able to corroborate over a period of of some time."

While presenting these figures he said that the Russian advance in Donetsk and Luhansk provinces had "failed" - despite most international estimates currently indicating Russia holds 80-90% of Bakhmut at this point.

"Most of these efforts have stalled and failed," Kirby said. "Russia has been unable to seize any real strategically significant territory. "

"The only area where Russia has made some incremental gains — and I want to focus on the word ‘incremental’ — is Bakhmut," Kirby acknowledged. "That really holds, as we've said before, very little strategic value for Russia. The capture of Bakhmut would **absolutely not alter the course of the war in Russia's favor**, and Ukraine's defenses in the areas surrounding Bakhmut still remain strong."

He also said that some half of the 20,000 Russians killed there had been fighting on behalf of Wagner.

"Folks he [Wagner Group founder Yevgeny Prigozhin] went knocking around on the doors in prison cells throughout Russia to throw human flesh at this fight," Kirby said of a months-long recruitment drive by Wagner, controversially focused on Russian prisons.

But when pressed, the NSC spokesman **refused to give casualty numbers for the Ukrainian side**. "I'm not ever going to put anything out in the public domain that's going to make their job harder," Kirby said. "They are the victims here. Russia is the aggressor."

While very clearly Bakhmut has for months been a tragic "meat-grinder" for both sides, the US could be offering this staggering and large Russian casualty count of 100,000 in order **to establish a 'pyrrhic victory' narrative.** Kirby admitted the Russians are winning in Bakhmut, but wants to paint a picture of it losing the overall conflict given the massive cost and sacrifice for Bakhmut.

But to keep this figure in perspective, which to most people is going to seem an extremely high estimate (and thus dubious), the total official American casualties in Vietnam were nearly 60,000 killed in action, and over 150,000 wounded - and that was after a decade of war.

Markets: China Is Back: Record 19.7 Million Railway Trips Made On First Day Of May Day Holiday As Retail Sales Soar 20%

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 01, 2023 - 05:40 PM

China's "zero covid" nightmare is now long forgotten, and the long-suffering local population is finally emerging from the ashes of home lockdowns and celebrating its freedom by traveling more than ever.

According to the China Railway Group, the country tourism and consumer activities rose sharply on the first day of the five-day Labor Day holiday, as residents rushed to travel and spend after three years of Covid-19 restrictions finally ended. As Bloomberg reports, **some 19.7 million railway trips were made across the country on Saturday, the highest on record for a single day.**

Censorship: **Chelsea Clinton Comes Out In Favor Of Porn For School Kids**

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, MAY 01, 2023 - 04:50 PM

Authored by Steve Watson via Summit News,

Bill and Hillary Clinton's daughter Chelsea Clinton appears to have

taken on a new activism project, defending attempts to force kids as young as Kindergarten age to be exposed to sexually explicit “LGBTQ+” material at school.

Clinton tweeted the following post, claiming that Republicans are trying to “ban” books and that it is harmful to children to remove material with LGBTQ+ “themes”.

War, Russia: Wagner Chief Threatens To Quit Bakhmut Unless His Men Get More Munitions

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 01, 2023 - 04:20 PM

The head of Wagner Group and Russia's defense ministry have continued their public spat over war strategy and the mercenary firm's role in Ukraine operations.

On Sunday Wagner's outspoken chief Yevgeny Prigozhin **threatened to withdraw his fighters from the strategic eastern city of Bakhmut**, where fighting has raged for several months, at a time Russian forces control something like eighty to ninety percent of the city.

"I am appealing to Sergei Shoigu with a request to issue ammunition immediately," he said in reference to Russia's defense minister. "Now if this is refused ... **I deem it necessary to inform the commander-in-chief about the existing problems**, and to make a decision regarding the feasibility of continuing to station units in the settlement of Bakhmut, given the current shortage of ammunition," Prigozhin warned.

By many accounts, Wagner has spearheaded successful operations in Donetsk, especially in the capture of nearby Soledar, which created the necessary momentum to control most of Bakhmut, though Ukraine has still committed to the wrecked city's defense.

Prigozhin is now saying his supplies have dwindled to the point his forces can only sustain operations for a mere days longer. "Do we go on with our assaults or not? Do we stay or go?" he said, but still vowed to fight "until the very last round of ammunition."

On Monday he followed with a video post to his Telegram channel, saying he needs at least 300 tonnes of artillery shells each day in order to take the city. "Three hundred tonnes a day is 10 cargo containers – not a lot at all … **But we are being given no more than a third of that**."

Prigozhin has been charging the regular military command with **"betraying"** his fighters by withholding ammunition, in an ongoing spat which became public with the Russian seizure of Soledar. A Wagner statement at the time declared victory over the city for itself, but controversially didn't acknowledge the role of the regular military. The rift has increasingly been out in the open since then.

Readlater, journal: hospital admissions down during the onset of the pandemic? https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7769002/

Vaccine, narrative: Fauci Was Duplicitous on the AIDS Epidemic Too

In May 1983, amid the rapidly escalating AIDS crisis, a doctor at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) promoted a stunning theory about the newly encountered disease in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (*JAMA*). Noting that the same issue of the journal contained an article documenting one of the first cases of the immunodeficiency disease’s appearance in an infant, the author sounded an alarm about “the possibility that routine close contact, as within a family household, can spread the disease.”

The article took an increasingly speculative turn in promoting this new theory. “If indeed the latter is true, then AIDS takes on an entirely new dimension," it continued. "If we add to this possibility that nonsexual, non-blood-borne transmission is possible, the scope of the syndrome may be enormous." Although the article reiterated the need to "be cautious" in accepting these findings as they awaited more evidence, the discovery "should at least alert us to the possibility that we are truly dealing with AIDS in children," as transmitted through routine interaction.

The author of the article has since attained widespread familiarity. It was Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, a rising star within the NIH bureaucracy.

Press accounts, noticing Fauci's article, immediately sounded the alarm. "Household contacts can transmit AIDS," read one nationally syndicated report on the UPI wire dated May 5, 1983. The Associated Press queried the next day "Does AIDS spread by Routine Contact?" and quoted Fauci as their lead authority. The *New York Times* raised the specter of household transmission between family members, invoking Fauci's commentary as its main authority.

We now know of course that Fauci's theory was wrong. HIV, the virus that was later discovered to cause AIDS, only transmits by exposure to infected bodily fluids such as blood, or by sexual contact. The infant infection discussed in the same *JAMA* issue involved vertical transmission from the mother to child during pregnancy.

The damage was already done though, as the media went to work stoking alarm about AIDS transmission through simple routine contacts. Hundreds of newspapers disseminated the distressing theory from Fauci's article. Writing a few weeks later, conservative columnist Pat Buchanan enlisted Fauci as the centerpiece of a rebuttal against Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler, who told him "there is no evidence…that the general population is threatened by [AIDS]."

On July 14, both Buchanan’s column and its excerpt of Fauci’s article were entered into the congressional record along with moralizing commentary that assigned blame for the disease to homosexual establishments and gatherings. Unfounded fears of transmission risk through simple contact, and accompanying social ostracization of the disease’s victims, became one of the most notorious and harmful missteps of the entire AIDS crisis.

It might be tempting to chalk Fauci’s error up to the scientific uncertainties of a novel disease. Medicine advances by investigating all plausible theories, subjecting them to testing, and ruling out those that lack evidence. In this case however, the more likely candidate was scientific negligence and unwarranted alarmist speculation.

Journalist Randy Shilts documented the incident in his classic early history of the AIDS crisis, *And the Band Played On*. Immunologist Arye Rubinstein had already offered a more plausible explanation for the infant case, which even cursory examination would verify: the disease transmitted from the mother to the baby during pregnancy. As Shilts explains, “Upon investigation, Rubinstein learned that Anthony Fauci had not bothered to read his paper.” The NIH scientist instead relied on second-hand information from another researcher to indulge in open-ended speculation (for a longer excerpt of Shilts, see David Henderson’s post on Fauci’s early career).

Fauci Was Duplicitous on the AIDS Epidemic Too | AIER

Russian Freight Train Derails In Sabotage Attack As Airstrikes Pummel Ukraine For 2nd Day

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 01, 2023 - 11:50 AM

An apparent sabotage attack with an **"explosive device"** has resulted in a disastrous train derailment in the Russian region of Byransk which borders Ukraine.

"An unidentified explosive device went off, as a result of which a locomotive of a freight train derailed," Bryansk governor Alexander Bogomaz announced on Telegram Monday.

Energy, planet, government: California Could Phase Out Diesel Locomotives

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 01, 2023 - 07:55 AM

By Joanna Marsh of FreightWaves

The California Air Resources Board is poised to take action this week on a proposed regulation that seeks to reduce locomotive emissions in the state by phasing out diesel locomotives and requiring zero-emissions locomotives within a certain time frame.

Stats, markets: “stainless steel industry is the biggest consumer of nickel, gobbling up 75% of global production in a typical year”

Largest Supply Glut In A Decade Crashes Nickel Prices

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 01, 2023 - 04:30 AM

Authored by Alex Kimani via OilPrice.com,

- Physical nickel markets have become oversupplied in 2023.
- A new wave of supply from Indonesia has put prices under pressure.
- International Nickel Study Group: the nickel market will face a supply-demand surplus of 239,000 tonnes.

Last year, the nickel markets came into the limelight courtesy of the historic nickel short squeeze that sent nickel prices soaring to an astonishing $100,000 per tonne.

Stats, government, inflation: “87 percent of countries having violated their

workers’ right to strike in 2022, up from 63 percent in 2014”

The State Of Global Workers' Rights

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 01, 2023 - 03:45 AM

US Air Force Moves Strategic Air Tankers From Germeny To Poland

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, MAY 01, 2023 - 03:00 AM

Via Remix News,

Nineteen American in-flight refueling aircraft will be stationed at the Powidz Air Base in western Poland. According to the U.S. magazine Stars and Stripes, this is the latest sign that U.S. Armed Forces are shifting combat resources to strengthen NATO's eastern flank.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the presence of U.S. forces in Europe has increased, with the number of U.S. military personnel on the continent growing from 80,000 to 100,000.

U.S. Ambassador to Warsaw Mark Brzezinski recently stated that over 10,000 American soldiers are in Poland.

"The U.S. military's shift to the east is another example of the United States' efforts to create a permanent presence in the former Warsaw Pact country, an important member of NATO, which has over 300 miles of border with Ukraine," said reporter Jennifer Svan in Stars and Stripes.

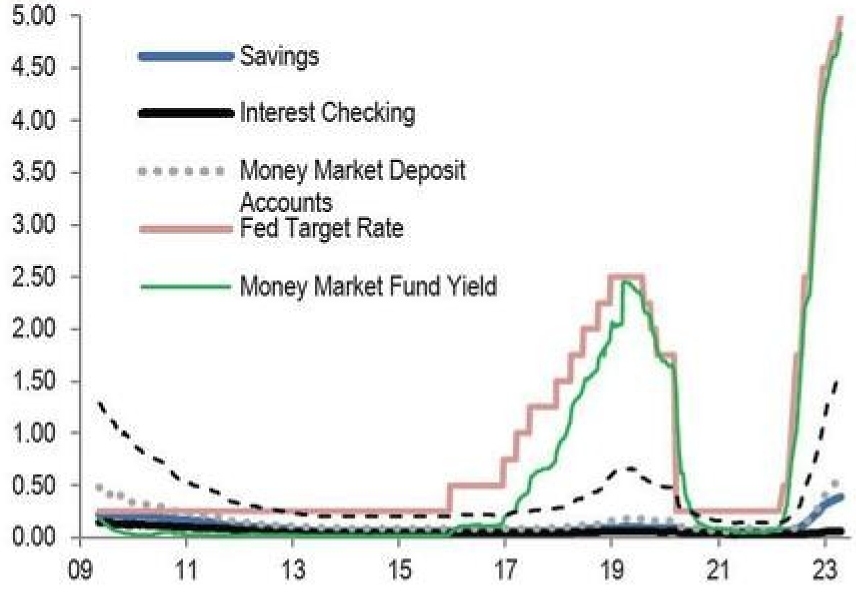
A month ago, the United States officially established its first permanent base in Poland. The U.S. Army garrison in Poznań, located about 100 kilometers from Powidz, will support the V Corps of the Army, which oversees NATO missions in the east.

journal: may 18th right before sunrise, there was ice on the puddles. talked to a storre worker, baby boomer generation, who said tghat shed never een weather like this in may before..

Journal, inflation, government: **people removing money from banks and lending it to the government through money market funds because rate significantly higher...** zerohedge breaks downs the flow from money market funds:

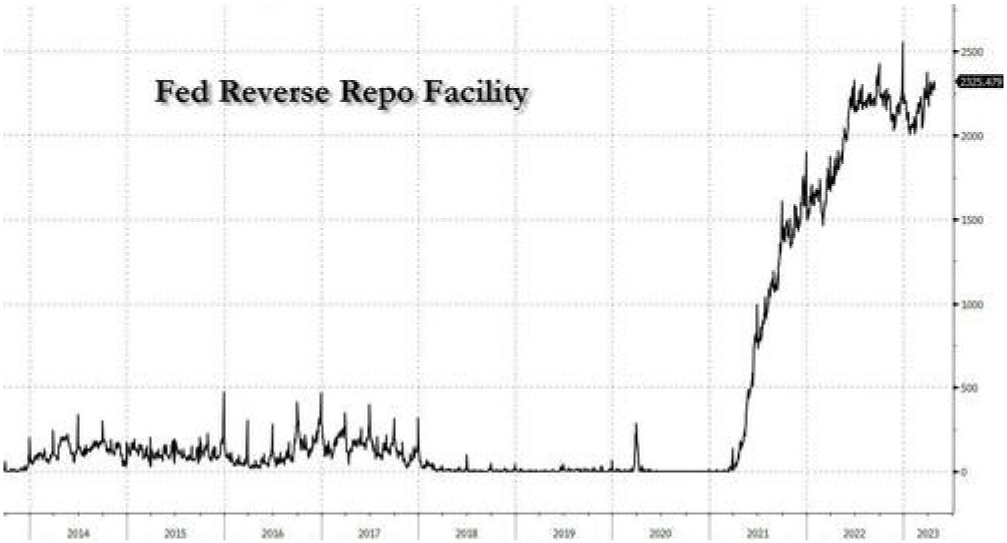
So, to save you a life of torture, let me translate: **The Fed introduced the reverse repo policy (RRP) in 2014 when they lost control of market operations at the zero lower bound.** But after losing control of inflation, **they hiked interest rates so fast it sparked a bank run.**

Figure 11: US Money Market Fund yields vs US bank deposit rates



Source: FIDIC, J.P. Morgan.

Now, investors are pulling cash from banks to buy money-market funds that invest in risk-free high-yielding reverse repos.



This exacerbates the bank run, and contracts credit in the economy. Which scares investors into selling risk assets to park more cash in reverse repos.

Sanctions, energy, Russia: World's Top Buyer Of LNG Warns Of Another Price Spike

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 30, 2023 - 09:00 PM

The northern hemisphere experienced higher-than-average temperatures this past winter, which helped alleviate energy crunches and sent liquefied natural gas prices tumbling from record-high levels. Now the world's largest gas buyer expects another price spike this year.

In an interview with Bloomberg, Yukio Kani, the chairman and CEO of Jera Co., expressed his concerns about another potential surge in LNG prices, attributing this to the increasing import capacity in Europe and China, along with potential severe weather risks.

War, Russia: Death Toll Rises As Ukraine Ramps Up Attacks On Russian Border Towns

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 30, 2023 - 08:00 PM

Casualties have risen after intense shelling of a Russian village in the Bryansk region near the Ukrainian border, an attack which happened Saturday, with emergency responders initially citing two killed.

The casualty count as been revised as rescuers comb through rubble of a residential building. **Four civilians have died** and another two wounded "as a result of the actions by Ukrainian nationalists," governor Aleksandr Bogomaz announced Sunday.

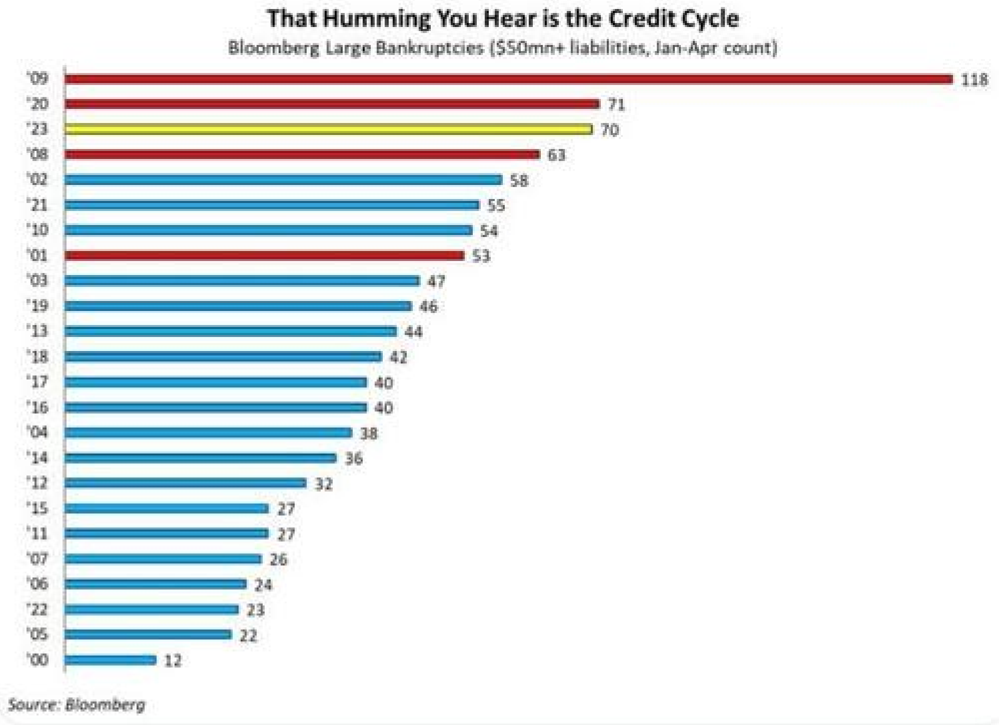
Inflation, government, markets: There Were 70 Major Bankruptcies In Just 4 Months This Year

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 30, 2023 - 07:30 PM

By Mish Shedlock of Mishtalk

For 2009 there were 118 bankruptcies through April. In Covid-impacted 2020, there were 71 bankruptcies. In 2023 there have been 70.

This is the third worst start to the year since 2000. Here's the Tweet.



Source: Bloomberg

2023 Bankruptcy Spotlight

- Bed Bath & Beyond: April 2023: Home goods, baby goods
- David’s Bridal: Date: April 2023: Bridal apparel
- Boxed: April 2023: An e-commerce platform selling wholesale consumer goods
- Independent Pet Partners: February 2023: Pet supplies
- Tuesday Morning: February 2023: Discount home goods
- Serta Simmons Bedding: January 2023: Bedding and accessories
- Party City: January 2023: Party supplies
- Forma Brands: January 2023: Beauty products

The bankruptcy spotlight list is condensed from a detailed report by CBInsights.

Journal, stats: “Predating Stonehenge by 6,000 years, Turkey’s stunning Gobekli Tepe upends the conventional view of the rise of civilization”. https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/gobekli-tepe-the-worlds-first-temple-83613665/

History: Anatolian hypothesis

The **Anatolian hypothesis**, also known as the **Anatolian theory** or the **sedentary farmer theory**, first developed by British archaeologist Colin Renfrew in 1987, proposes that the dispersal of Proto-Indo-Europeans originated in Neolithic Anatolia. It is the main competitor to the Kurgan hypothesis, or steppe theory, which enjoys more academic favor.

Description[edit]

The Anatolian hypothesis suggests that the speakers of Proto-Indo-European (PIE) lived in Anatolia during the Neolithic era. It associates the distribution of historical Indo-European languages with the expansion during the Neolithic Revolution of the 7th and the 6th millennia BC.

Anatolian hypothesis - Wikipedia

Journal, stats, history: portraying Cleopatra as Black is "a falsification of Egyptian history, Egyptian Antiquities Ministry (probably the most important antiquities ministry in the world).

"Falsification Of History": Egypt Goes Ballistic On Netflix Over Cleopatra's Race

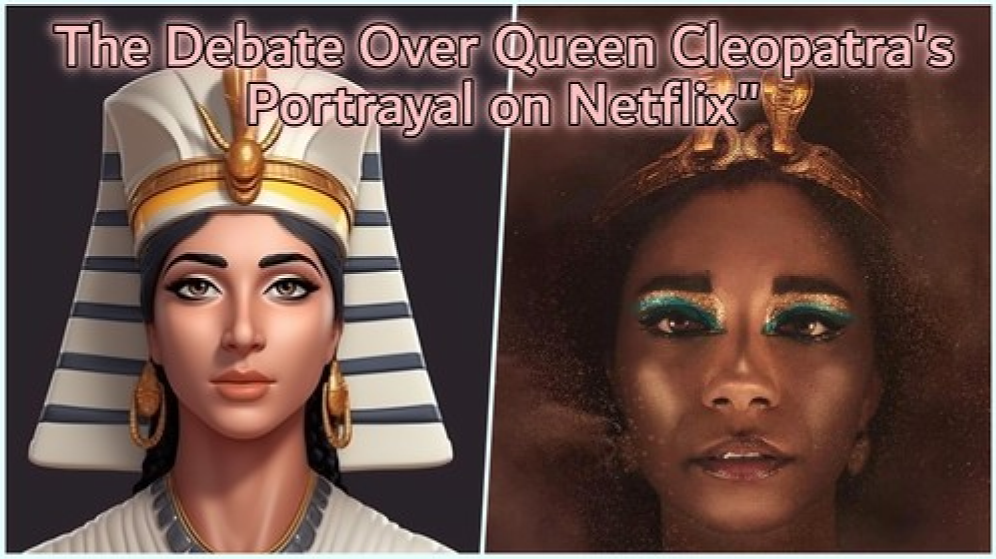
BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 30, 2023 - 06:00 PM

According to Egypt's antiquities ministry, an upcoming four-part drama-documentary produced by Netflix has made a serious error regarding the race of one of Egypt's pharaohs. It appears that 'woke capital' is distorting history.

"Queen Cleopatra," released May 10, has Black actor Adele James featured as the legendary leader. The move by Jada Pinkett Smith, the producer and narrator of the series, has infuriated Mostafa Waziri, head of the Supreme Antiquities Council, who said: portraying Cleopatra as Black is "a falsification of Egyptian history."

Waziri said nothing was racist about his comments, which were entirely motivated by "defending the history of Queen Cleopatra, an important part of the history of Egypt in antiquity."

Egyptian experts insist Cleopatra had "white skin and Hellenistic characteristics." But don't tell 'woke Netflix' this...


The Debate Over Queen Cleopatra's Portrayal on Netflix"

An online petition on Change.org titled Cancel Netflix's "Queen Cleopatra" has nearly 8,000 signatures. It alleges:

"Afrocentrism is a pseudoscience that is pushing a group's agenda to claim Egypt's history and rob the actual Egyptians of it. By using false articles and zero evidence, they are still attempting to falsify history."

"Cleopatra was born in Alexandria, Egypt in the Ptolemaic dynasty to Greek descent. She was NOT black. This is in no way against black people, and is simply a wake up call to preserve the history and the integrity of the Egyptians and the Greeks."

"The show is clearly done to complement the Afrocentric movement, which claims to be the owner of the ancient Egyptian civilization, and to consolidate what the movement promotes. Egypt was never black and it was never white, Egypt is just Egypt. There are many great African/black civilizations, but Egypt was/is NOT one of them. Sign the petition to stop the falsification of history!"

Meanwhile, Egypt has been critical of Netflix's content. It recently demanded the online streaming platform to drop content that runs counter to its "societal values," such as Western-produced television shows featuring gay and lesbian characters onscreen.

So, in Egypt's view, woke Netflix is distorting history.

Journal, stats, inflation: 200 years of gold production, visual capitalist. nice graphic

https://elements.visualcapitalist.com/200-years-of-global-gold-production-by-country/

MIT Scientists Create New Nanoparticle Sensors To Detect Early Cancer Via Simple Paper Test

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 30, 2023 - 02:30 PM

Authored by Bill Pan via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have designed nanoparticle sensors that could diagnose early-stage cancer through a simple urine test on a strip of paper.

The scientists said **these sensors, designed to detect many cancerous proteins, could also distinguish the type of tumor, how it responds to treatment, and whether it has metastasized.**

"We are trying to innovate in a context of making technology available to low- and middle-resource settings. Putting this diagnostic on paper is part of our goal of democratizing diagnostics and creating inexpensive technologies that can give you a fast answer at the point of care," said Sangeeta Bhatia, a biomedical engineer at MIT and senior author of the study published on April 24 in Nature Nanotechnology.

Journal, markets, inflation, government: recent small business stats, but also with demographics

"59.9 million Americans work at small businesses across the nation. An estimated 47% of Americans shop at small businesses at least twice a week, generating about 45% of the

nation's economic activity. According to the most recent available numbers from the U.S. Census, approximately 47% of U.S. employees work for small businesses, compared to 54.5% in 1988.”
oftwominds-Charles Hugh Smith: When We Lose Small Businesses...

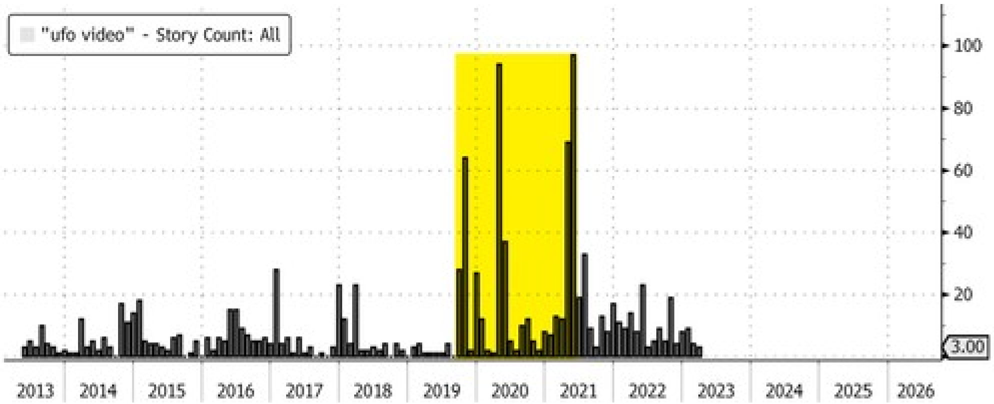
War, narrative, journal: **ufo search queries explode from 2019-2021**

"It Was Weird": Video Shows 'Mysterious Lights' Hovering Over Las Vegas

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 30, 2023 - 10:55 AM

The public's fascination with UFO sightings and potential signs of alien life has soared in recent years. The Department of Defense has played a significant role in fueling this public curiosity by sharing videos that show unidentified objects hurtling through the sky.

According to Bloomberg data, the number of news stories across all media outlets featuring "UFO videos" has exponentially jumped since late 2019, with multiple spikes in 2020 and 2021.



Over 10,000 FBI Agents Can Access Data From Secretive Surveillance Program: Inspectors General

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 30, 2023 - 10:20 AM

Authored by Joseph Lord via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

More than 10,000 federal employees could have access to data revealed by a secretive government surveillance program that has come under scrutiny because of alleged abuses, lawmakers were told by U.S. inspectors general.

Montana Governor Signs Bill Banning Tansgender Surgeries For Children

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 30, 2023 - 09:45 AM

Montana Governor Greg Gianforte (R) on Friday **signed legislation which blocks transgender surgical procedures for minors**.

The "Youth Health Protection Act" - which will become law on Oct. 1, seeks to enhance the protection of minors from "any form of pressure to receive harmful, experimental puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones and to undergo irreversible, life-altering surgical procedures" prior to becoming a legal adult.

According to Gianforte's office, the governor is "committed to protecting Montana children from invasive medical treatments that can permanently alter their healthy, developing bodies."

Gianforte signaled his willingness to sign the bill on April 17 when he offered several amendments that make it clear that public funds could not be used to pay for hormone blockers, cross-sex hormones, or surgeries.

The Republican governor said he had met with transgender youth and adults and sympathized with their struggles. *At the same time, he wrote in a letter to legislative leaders that any surgeries or treatments with hormones should wait until they're adults as the science around the impact of various gender transition procedures remains unsettled and continues to evolve. -Epoch Times*

The bill's co-sponsor, State Sen. John Fuller (R) applauded the governor for "supporting the health and safety of Montana's children."

Opponents vow to sue

The ACLU and other opponents such as Lambda Legal have vowed to sue.

"Gender-affirming care is a critical part of helping transgender adolescents succeed in school, establish healthy relationships with their friends and family, live authentically as themselves, and dream about their futures," the organizations said in a statement.

"If this bill is signed into law, we will defend the rights of transgender youth in court, just as we have done in other states engaging in this anti-science and discriminatory fear-mongering," they added.

Doctors who opposed the bill are speaking up as well.

"My bottom line to families is that this care remains legal," said Dr. Kathryn Lowe, a Bozeman pediatrician and member of the Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, in a statement to the *Montana Free Press*. "To all the families who are panicking, who are moving, who are listing their houses to sell … we have great hope that [SB 99] will never take effect."

Earlier in the week, Montana lawmakers voted to bar state Rep. Zooey Zephyr, a transgender Democrat, from voting on the House floor after he broke decorum by telling legislators they would have "blood on [their] hands" if they backed the law.

Narrative, media, censorship: Watch: Musk Warns Bill Maher

'Woke Mind Virus' Is Existential Threat To Civilization

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 30, 2023 - 09:44 AM

"I, at least, think of myself as a moderate," Elon Musk told Bill Maher during an appearance Friday night on the comedian's HBO show.

Despite being decried by all asunder as a 'far-right conservative operative' or some such hyperbole, Musk said:

"I spent a massive amount of my life energy building sustainable energy, you know, electric vehicles, and batteries, and solar. ***It's not exactly far-right****."*

Musk made his opinion clear a year ago - he hasn't changed, the world has...

And somehow in all this divisive bullshit, 'allowing' free speech has become a virtue of the far-right, the enablers of violence, the fascists

"Free speech used to be a left or liberal value, and yet we see from the quote 'left' a desire to actually censor, and that seems crazy."

"I think we should be extremely concerned about anything that undermines the First Amendment," Musk said.

More explicitly regarding his acquisition or, and changes made at, Twitter, Musk said:

"My concern with Twitter was to that it is somewhat of the digital town square and ***it's important that there be both the reality and perception of trust for a wide range of viewpoints.****"*

Maher responded that he does not tweet any more because “it’s too easy to get canceled” by a mob.

“Because ***you may be the mayor of tweet town now and I’m glad - I like it that the mayor likes my jokes - but the reason I don’t do it anymore is because the mob of mean girls is still there*** *and that has not changed.*

Like, ***it’s too easy to get canceled and I don’t even know what pisses them off:*** *they’re so nuts, these kids.*

I feel like I’m walking on a roof with a blind fold: I could fall off anytime, that was the most innocuous thing, but it’s like, you know, I said George Washington was a great president - oh how dare you,” Maher continued.

*“****You have to say, like, what does canceled mean?*** *You know - I mean, yes, if people attack you on Twitter that’s one thing - but frankly that’s just going to*

increase engagement. ***So I would just ignore it,****" Musk replied somewhat prosaically.*

And so Maher stepped it up a little more:

"You have talked about this woke mind virus in really apocalyptic terms," Maher asked Musk

"I don't - you should explain why you don't think it's hyperbole to say things like it's pushing civilization towards suicide. First of all, what is the woke mind virus?"

Musk responded much more clearly this time:

"I think ***we need to be very cautious about anything that is anti-meritocratic*** *and anything that results in the suppression of free speech," Musk said.*

"So, those are two of the aspects of the woke mind virus that I think are very dangerous, is that it's ***often very anti-meritocratic, and you can't question things.*** *Even the questioning is bad."*

Maher agreed, and asked Musk where he thinks this 'woke mind virus' originated from:

"I was trying to figure out where it's coming from. I think it's actually been a long time brewing, in that it's - I think it's been going on for a while, and ***the amount of indoctrination that's happening in schools and universities is I think far beyond what parents realize****," Musk said.*

Europe, markets, inflation, Germany: Fitch Downgrades France To AA-, Cites Civil Unrest As Major Risk

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 30, 2023 - 08:35 AM

Macron's not-so-secret ambitions for France to supplant AAA-rated Germany as Europe's superpower took a nosedive on Friday when rating agency Fitch downgraded the eurozone’s second-largest economy one notch to AA- (with a stable outlook) late on Friday night over concerns that social unrest and political paralysis following the pensions fight will limit government efforts to improve public finances.

“Political deadlock and (sometimes violent) social movements pose a risk to Macron’s reform agenda and could create pressures for a more expansionary fiscal policy or a reversal of previous reforms,” Fitch wrote.

Fitch had rated France AAA until July 2013, when it downgraded it to AA+, and then to AA in Dec 2014.

Stats: Vegas Baby! (Or South Korea's 'Hawaii'): These Are The Busiest Air Routes In The World And Stateside

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 11:30 PM

The busiest air routes in the world are all domestic flights. Yet, the frequent flyer nation of the **United States can't hold the candle to the high demand for air travel in Asia**.

There, the busiest route has the capacity to transport more than three times as many people in a month than the busiest U.S. route.

Data published for the month of April by air travel analytics firm OAG shows that **the route connecting Gimpo airport in the South Korean capital of Seoul and country's Jeju island is the world's busiest.**

Stats, censorship, media, narrative: **California Teachers Sue School**

District Over Transgender Policy Allegedly Forcing Them To Lie To Parents

BY TYLER DURDEN

SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 10:00 PM

Authored by Matthew Vadum via The Epoch Times *(emphasis ours),*

Teachers from a California middle school are suing officials in their school district in federal court over policies that they say force them to conceal the transgender status of young students from parents.

The legal complaint (pdf) in the new case, Mirabelli v. Olson, was filed April 27 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. The teachers involved in the lawsuit are devout Christians.

Stats: **The Number Of Jailed Journalists Reaches Record High**

BY TYLER DURDEN

SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 09:30 PM

In 2022, more journalists than ever before were imprisoned for doing their job.

As Statista's Martin Armstrong reports, **some 363 journalists were imprisoned in 30 different countries last year,** according to data from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

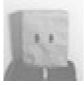
California Doctor Faces $290 Million In COVID-19-Related Fraud Charges

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 09:00 PM

Authored by Jason Blair via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

A doctor in Orange County, California, has been charged by federal prosecutors for orchestrating approximately **$230 million worth of fraud during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Hilarious comment from zh poster:



willisjr
1 month ago

remove
link

The US of A is now like an overgrown & mentally-deficient school bully, who goes around opportunistically punching out the teeth of his classmates, preventing them from having friendships and/or sanctioning others for trading baseball cards with each other without the authorization of said class bully.

Then, when all the other schoolboys had enough and ignores this bully and continues to trade baseball cards AROUND his sanctions & WITHOUT his involvement, the fat bully sulks like a petulant child and pouts in his isolated corner sucking his thumbs. LMAO.

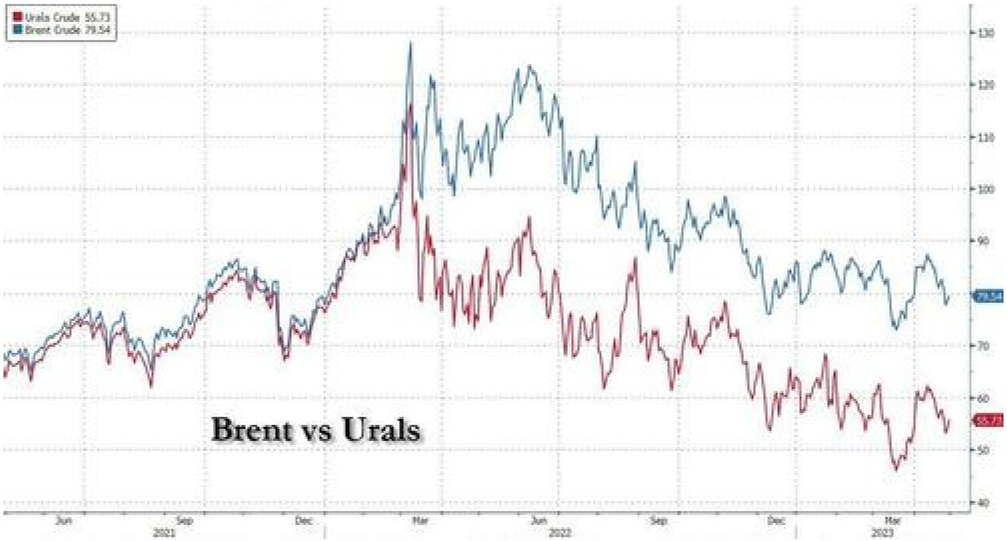
Sanctions, india, Russia, energy, government, war, Europe: Europe Is Buying Record Amounts Of Refined Russian Fuels Through India, And Paying A Huge Markup

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 07:30 PM

Last August, we were the first to show how Russia was bypassing Europe's so-called commodities embargo: it was selling LNG to China which was then re-selling it to Europe at a *substantial* mark up. And while we also frequently reported that Russia was using a similar sanctions bypass for oil, this time using India instead of China, few were willing to confirm as much: after all, it would seem very shortsighted if European consumers were paying an extra surcharge to India, while Russia was not suffering any adverse consequences from Europe's laughable "sanctions."

Not any more: on Friday, Bloomberg reported that for all of Europe's fire and brimstone about an embargo (which has gotten decidedly quieter in recent months), "*Russian oil is still powering Europe just with the help of India.*"

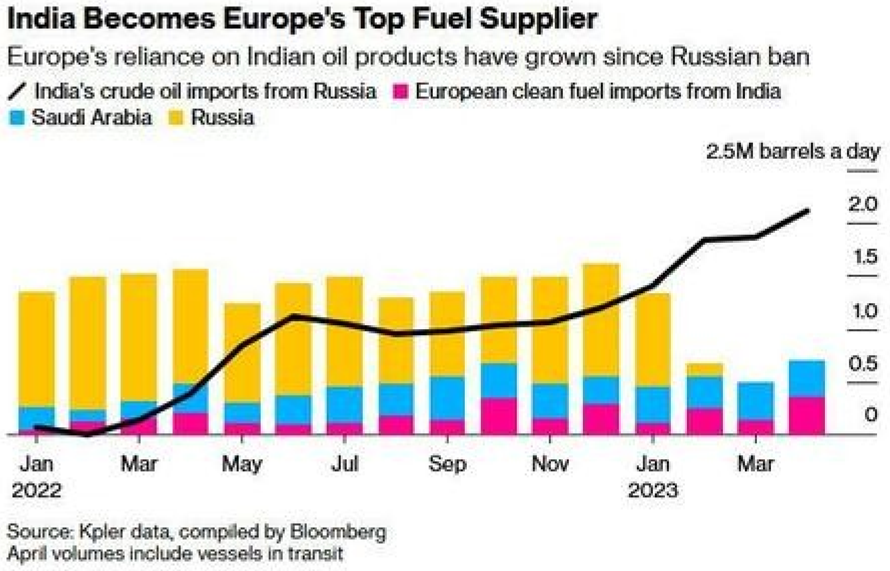
As we reported at the time, last December the EU barred almost any seaborne crude oil imports from Russia. It extended the prohibition to refined fuels two months later. However, the rules didn’t stop countries like India from snapping up cheap Russian crude, turning it into fuels like diesel, and shipping it back to Europe at a big markup: as shown in the chart below, just the Brent to Urals price differential, a byproduct of the Russian sanctions, is about $25/bbl, almost a third of the price of a barrel of crude. The markups on Russian product are even greater when dealing with refined products such as gasoline or diesel.



In fact, India has become so good at reselling Russian oil to the same Europeans who refuse to buy it directly from Moscow for a much lower price, that **the Asian country is on track to become Europe’s largest supplier of refined fuels this month while simultaneously buying record amounts of Russian crude,** according to data from analytics firm Kpler.

In other words, Europe is still buying Russian oil, keeping Putin's military machine well-funded, but because of the virtue signaling exercise of buying Russian oil though a mediator, the transaction ends up costing Europeans billions more than if they simply had purchased the oil directly.

“Russian oil is finding its way back into Europe despite all the sanctioning and India ramping up fuel exports to the west is a good example of it,” said Viktor Katona, lead crude analyst at the firm. “With India taking in so much Russian barrels, it’s inevitable.”


India Becomes Europe's Top Fuel Supplier

Europe's reliance on Indian oil products have grown since Russian ban

Source: Kpler data, compiled by Bloomberg
April volumes include vessels in transit

As Bloomberg notes, "the development is double-edged for the EU. On the one hand, the bloc needs alternative sources of diesel now that it has cut off direct flows from Russia, previously its top supplier. However, it ultimately boosts demand for Moscow’s barrels, and means extra freight costs." In other words, Europe achieves none of its embargo goals (i.e., keeping Russian oil out of the market, preventing Putin from using oil to finance the war in Ukraine), while being hit with far higher energy prices.

It also means more competition for Europe’s oil refiners who can’t access cheap Russian crude, and comes amid wider market scrutiny about where the region’s diesel imports are coming from.

Repsol SA’s CEO Josu Jon Imaz said on Thursday that Russian diesel is entering Europe illegally and called on authorities to clamp down on the activity. He wasn’t talking about the trade via India but flows of diesel that originated in Russia... which of course is the same thing.

Hilariously, a preliminary inquiry into the matter by Spanish authorities didn’t find evidence that Russian diesel was entering the country, a government official said Friday, adding that a probe is ongoing. Of course, nobody in Europe wants to admit that they are indirectly funding Putin, so expect many more such "discoveries" as all other countries try to find if they are importing Russian oil only to find that everyone but them is using it.

Meanwhile, Europe’s refined fuel imports from India are set to surge above 360,000 barrels a day, edging just ahead of those of oil exporting titan Saudi Arabia, Kpler’s data show.

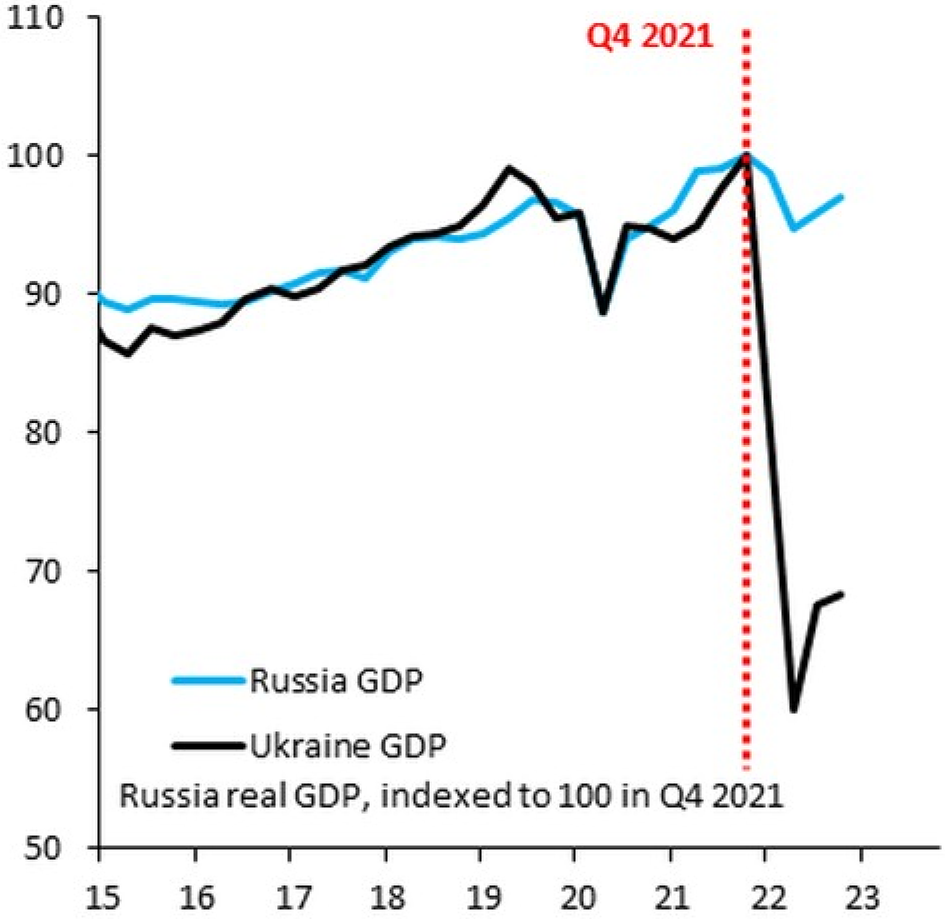
And the cherry on top: Russian crude oil arrivals to India are expected to surpass 2 million barrels a day in April, representing almost 44% of the nation’s overall oil imports, according to Kpler data. India then quickly re-exports the oil or processes it first into diesel and gasoline, and then sells it to European customers.

More than half of Russia’s seaborne oil shipments were to the European Union and Group of Seven nations before the bloc began to cut purchases in response to the nation’s invasion of Ukraine in early 2022.

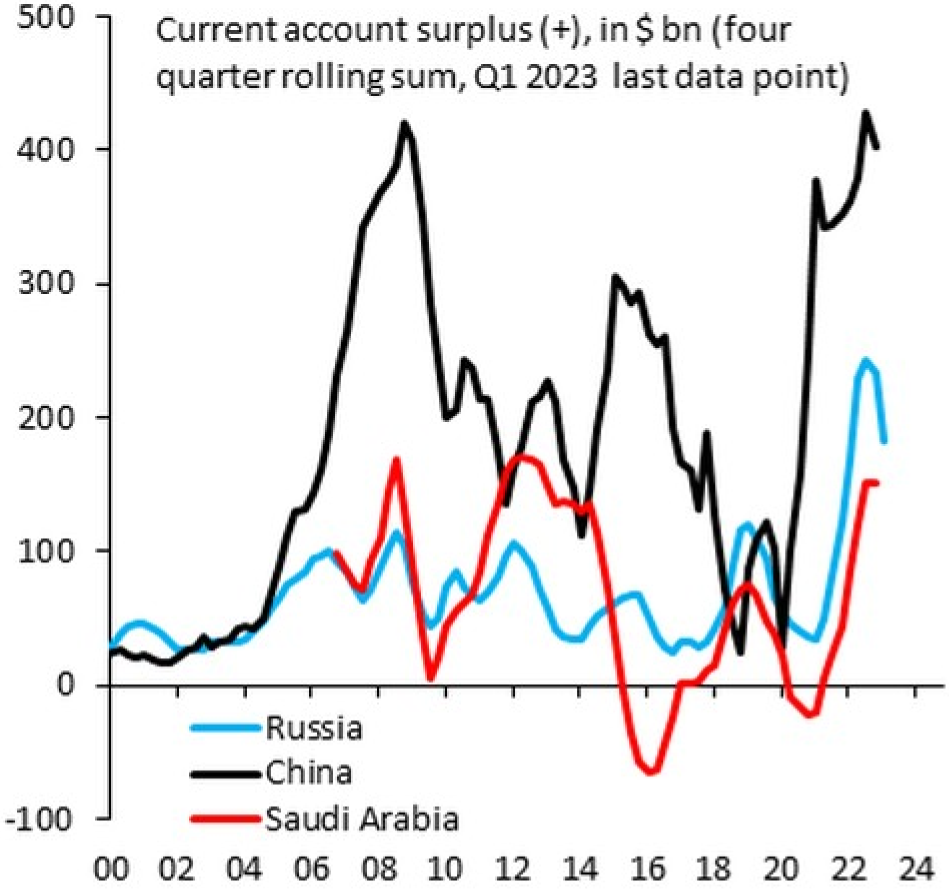
Finally, the question of ***what the point is of continued Russian "sanctions"*** remains, as the IIF's Robin Brooks explains in the following twitter thread, which once again makes clear that western sanctions against Russia have been a catastrophic failure... perhaps as was intended all along.

Evaluation of our sanctions policy

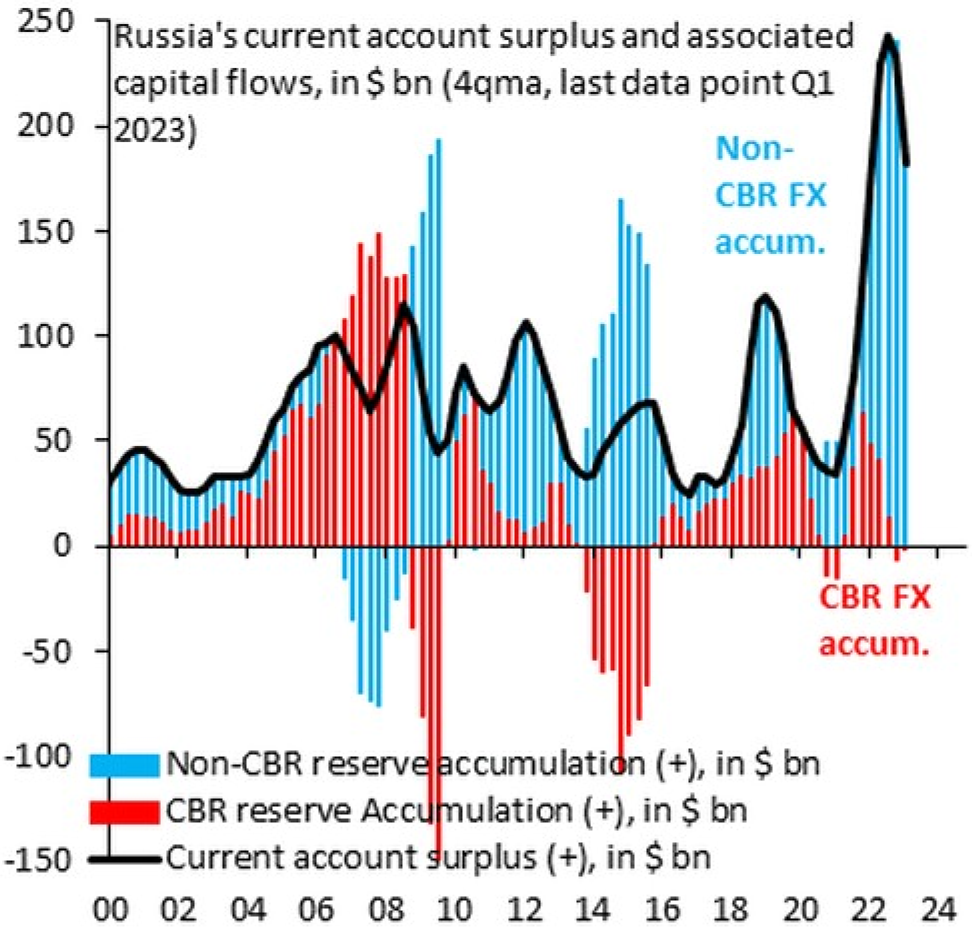
1. Only 2 questions matter. First, have our sanctions meaningfully curtailed Russia's ability to wage war? Second, are our sanctions a deterrent to countries that may wage war in the future? Unfortunately, the answer to both questions is: "No!"



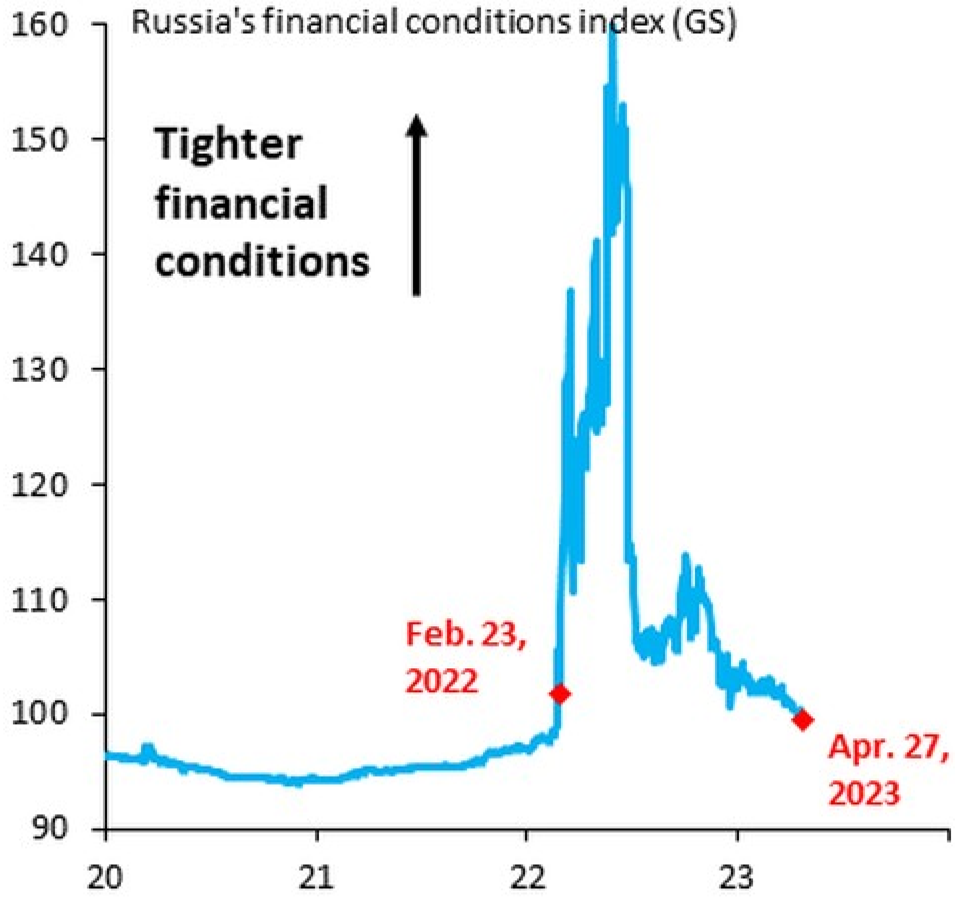
2. Root problem is an infatuation with financial sanctions. These can be effective when used on current account deficit countries - Turkey in 2018 is an example - but they don't work on current account surplus countries. This is a key point that cannot be emphasized enough.



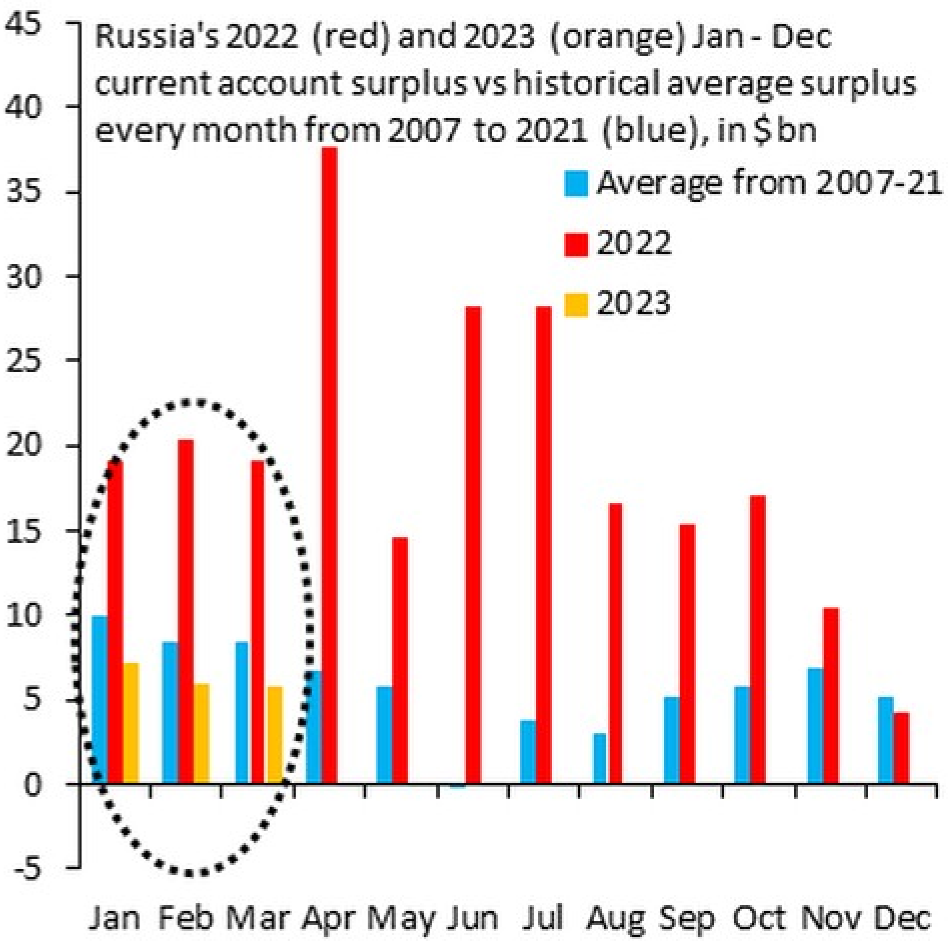
3. Russia shows how our financial sanctions failed. We sanctioned some banks, including the central bank (red), but not all. This meant that all the cash from Russia's current account surplus got routed through non-sanctioned Russian banks (blue). Putin still got all his cash...



4. So our financial sanctions did not prevent Putin getting all his cash in return for energy exports. All this cash just got routed through different banks than before. As a result, financial conditions in Russia eased back to pre-war levels, a big plus for Russia's war economy.



5. We could have avoided this, but it would have required sanctioning ALL Russian banks. That's the same as a trade embargo, since Putin no longer gets paid and stops exporting. This shows what's needed to hurt c/a surplus countries: **a trade embargo! Not financial sanctions**...



6. Number one lesson from Russia is that our infatuation with financial sanctions must end. They don't work on c/a surplus countries, unless we sanction all banks, in which case we're just doing a trade embargo. We need to be doing trade embargos instead of financial sanctions...

7. Had we done a hard energy embargo on Russia, this would have come at a cost to the West, but Russia would have gone into financial crisis, making the war harder for Putin to fight. An embargo would have also scared other potentially hostile current account surplus countries.

8. It's not too late. First, the West needs to end its focus on financial sanctions. Second, we need to start talking about hard trade-offs that are needed to confront c/a surplus countries. We need to stop giving them cash, which means we need to stop buying their stuff...

9. A footnote on the G7 oil price cap. The cap is recognition of the fact that Russia's current account surplus needs to be cut. But - thanks to Greek shipping oligarchs - the cap was set at $60 and wasn't binding. A mistake that can be fixed now by lowering the cap...

Europe, war, germany, russia, sanctions: Poland Seizes Russian School, Kremlin Vows Retaliation For "Blatant Violation"

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 06:30 PM

Moscow is furious after on Saturday Polish police reportedly **raided a Russian school attached to the Russian embassy in Warsaw and took it over**. School staff were then given hours to pack up their things and vacate the building, according to RIA Novosti, following local authorities bursting into the grounds using a crow bar.

Polish Foreign Ministry spokesman Lukasz Jasina said the state was enforcing a court ruling over the building building which says it was **"illegally leased by the Russian embassy for years."** Thus Poland is asserting that the building and school isn't protected under diplomatic status, which Moscow disputes.

"Such an impudent step by Warsaw, which goes beyond the framework of civilized interstate communication, will not remain without our harsh reaction and consequences for the Polish authorities and Poland’s interests in Russia," the ministry stated.

Stats, migrant: 'Modern-Day Slave Traders': Hawley Demands Probe Into 85,000 'Lost' Migrant Children

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 05:30 PM

Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) **is demanding that the FBI investigate** the exploitation of thousands of unaccompanied alien children (IUAC) who may have been brought into the United States via child smuggling operations.

According to data from US Customs and Border Protection, **approximately 345,000 minors have crossed into the United States unaccompanied** since President Joe Biden took office, while a report from the *NY Times* suggests that the Department of Health and Human Services has **lost contact with 85,000 of these minors**.

"The Biden Administration is morally responsible for their fate. The President lifted Title 42 restrictions on unaccompanied children in early 2021," wrote Hawley in a Friday letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray. "Reporting reveals that HHS loosened vetting processes for sponsors and retaliated against whistleblowers who raised these concerns. As a result, **thousands of children have been handed over to modern-day slave traders.**"

Hawley also threw Biden under the bus, noting that under his watch, lost minors are often forced into factory work under harsh conditions, denied food and education, suffer sexual violence, and fear for their lives.

"In a country that claims to value the rule of law and the protection of children, this is unconscionable," Hawley added.

During a Senate Finance Committee hearing in late March, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra **denied knowledge of the 85,000 figure**.

"I have never heard that number of 85,000, I don’t know where it comes from and … so I would say it doesn’t sound at all to be realistic, and what we do is we try and follow up as best we can with these kids," he said, adding "Congress has given us certain authorities. Our authorities end when we have found a suitable sponsor to place that child with. We try and do some follow-up, but neither the child or the sponsor is actually obligated to follow up with us."

In addition to urging the FBI to mount a “full-scale” effort to locate the missing children and bring to justice the criminals who are holding them in modern-day slavery, ***Hawley also demanded a probe into HHS and the Department of Homeland Security.***

*“**The FBI must also investigate HHS and the Department of Homeland Security for their role in facilitating the exploitation of these children**, in violation of the law,” Hawley wrote.*

“The pervasive maltreatment of migrant children plainly violates both the Fair Labor Standards Act, which prohibits the abuse of underage workers, and the

Trafficking Victims Protection Act, ***which designates human trafficking offenses as federal crimes****,” Hawley wrote.*

Hawley demanded a “full report” from the FBI priority by May 25. -Epoch Times

On Wednesday, an **HHS whistleblower told officials that unaccompanied children have been "suffering in the shadows"** of the US immigration system for almost a decade.

"I have to confess I knew nothing about their suffering until 2021 when I volunteered to help the Biden administration with the crisis at the southern border as part of operation Artemis," said Tara Lee Rodas, who appeared as a witness at "The Biden Border Crisis: Exploitation of Unaccompanied Alien Children" hearing held by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement.

Rodas said she was deployed to help HHS's Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) reunite UACs with adult sponsors in the United States.

"I thought I was going to help place children in loving homes. Instead, I discovered that children are being trafficked through a sophisticated network that begins with recruiting in home country, smuggling to the U.S. border, and ends when ORR delivers a child to a sponsor—some sponsors are criminals and traffickers and members of transnational criminal organizations, some sponsors view children as commodities and assets to be used for earning income."

In some cases, Rodas says she witnessed adult sponsors **who were allowed to take in "10, 20, 30 and 40 children" without any concerns from HHS**.

"**I saw sponsors trying to simultaneously sponsor children from multiple ORR sites at one time.** I saw sponsors using multiple addresses to obtain sponsorships of children, and I saw numerous cases of children in debt bondage—and the child knew they had to stay with the sponsor until the debt was paid," she said.

The next day, Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) wrote to Becerra and demanded answers.

"I am deeply concerned regarding the recent reports that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has mishandled unaccompanied migrant children by placing them with unvetted sponsors, leading to their exploitation and forced labor," she wrote.

War, government: Weapons Makers Suffering Worker Shortages As Ukraine War Drives Demand

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 04:30 PM

The war in Ukraine is so profitable for defense companies in the US and Europe that **they're having trouble finding thousands of skilled workers to satisfy a record influx of orders**, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

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stats, journal, government:

These 12 States Can Seize Your Home Over Delinquent Property Taxes

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 04:00 PM

Authored by Petr Svab via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

It was a dream come true—or rather about to come true—when the Halls bought their forever home. It had everything they needed and more: five bedrooms, four bathrooms, a family room, a dining room, a roomy garage, good schools, and a good neighborhood. Sure, a fixer-upper, but they felt up to it. Prentiss Hall, a home improvement contractor, made it his life project, and everybody lent a hand—his wife, Tawanda, and six children, cousins, and friends.

“We were really excited,” Tawanda told The Epoch Times.

They negotiated the price down to $67,000—a bargain, perhaps, but the home demanded a daunting amount of “tender love and care.”

*Read more **here...***

Journal, markets, readlater: zh premium article

Hartnett: "We Stay Bearish"

"under the surface it's starting to get scary, but we all know what the Big Tech horsemen can do to P&L before we blow up."

SAT APR 29, AT 1:30 PM

PREMIUM

66

Ukrainian Kamikaze Drones Blow Up Crimean Fuel Depot, 'Answering' Yesterday's Air Strikes

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 01:30 PM

The day after Russia mounted large-scale airstrikes and cruise missile attacks on cities across Ukraine, drones penetrated Crimea air defenses on Saturday and **blew up a fuel depot in the peninsula's main port of Sevastopol**.

Home to Russia's Black Sea Fleet, the port city has throughout the war come under sporadic long-distance drone attacks from Ukraine, also as President Zelensky has continued to promised its "liberation".

Kremlin Rejects German Media's 'Putin Drone Assassination' Report

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 28, 2023 - 11:15 AM

The German tabloid Bild on Wednesday published a story titled **"17 kilos of explosives intended to kill Putin"** - which alleged that Sunday's Ukrainian drone crash near Moscow had been part of an assassination operation to kill the Russian president. The downed drone was found in a forest Monday, according to AFP.

Bild further alleged there is a Kremlin cover-up in progress, given the ability of the kamikaze drone to penetrate that deep into Russian territory and crash near where Putin was expected to visit. But the Kremlin has rejected the report as fake news and part of Kiev's **"fabrications"**.

The drone allegedly reached a distance of some 500km from the Ukrainian border, but it wasn't the first time a Ukrainian drone was able to travel that distance inside Russia.

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600 Army Aviators Told They Owe Three More Years Than Previously Assured

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 01:00 PM

As the Army struggles to come anywhere close to its recruiting goals, **more than 600 US Army aviators who thought they were nearing the end of their service obligations have been notified they owe three more years.**

The affected officers, commissioned via West Point or ROTC, participated in a program called BRADSO, for Branch of Choice Active Duty Service Obligation. It let cadets choose their specific Army branch of choice in exchange for tacking on three more years onto their existing active duty service obligation (ADSO).

For many of the several hundred affected aviators who were primed for the next phase of their lives, the Army's change of contract interpretation was a harsh blow.

"That was the big kick in the gonads," one aviator who was recently married told *NBC News* as he traveled on a new deployment. "We wanted to start having kids, and we no longer can. It’s a stressor we didn’t plan to deal with."

"Yeah, the war on Afghanistan ended," he said. "There’s still a high demand for Army aviation. **We have units still in constant training or deployment rotations.** They’re failing to recognize the human aspect."

Many other aviators have already been discharged after having been allowed to serve the three-year BRADSO obligation concurrently. **“It’s a huge relief that I got out, but I have a lot of sorrow and pity for the others,"** said one who was discharged in April 2022. She asked for her name to be withheld for fear of being ordered back to duty.

"We’re captains. We’re commanders. We’re leaders. **We’re not just going to say that checks out, we’ll serve. It’s not right,"** one of the officers told *NBC*. "They thought we’d just accept our fates. Clearly, we did not."

US Army Grounds Aviators After Two Mid-Air Crashes, Killing 12 Soldiers

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 12:00 PM

After the tragic loss of 12 soldiers in two mid-air helicopter accidents in Alaska and Kentucky within the past month, the US Army immediately grounded aviation units for training.

"The move grounds all Army aviators, except those participating in critical missions, until they complete the required training," the Army said in a statement, according to AP News.

"The safety of our aviators is our top priority, and this stand down is an important step to make certain we are doing everything possible to prevent accidents and protect our personnel," Army Chief of Staff James McConville said of the decision to ground flight units for training.

Biden Authorizes Southern Border Deployment Of Reservist Troops

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 11:30 AM

Authored by Chase Smith via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

President Joe Biden authorized the deployment of reserve troops to the southern border to combat "international drug trafficking" under the National Emergencies Act in an executive order signed April 27.

Tanker Wars Are Back: Iran Releases Footage Of Commandos Landing On US-Bound Vessel

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 02:30 PM

Iran's navy has released new footage showing elite commandos seizing a foreign vessel in the Gulf of Oman two days ago.

The Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker Advantage Sweet had been moving Kuwaiti oil to Houston under Chevron, but while en route was **boarded by**

Iranian troops who propelled down to the vessel's deck from a helicopter, the footage shows.

"Advantage Sweet was seized by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy while transiting international waters in the Gulf of Oman," the US Navy said Thursday.

But it was later revealed that the Iranian assault on the vessel was in retaliation for the United States days prior to this seizing Iranian oil that was bound for China.

"US authorities ordered a tanker of Iranian crude oil to redirect towards the US in recent days, in **a move officials believe was the trigger for Iran’s decision to capture a US-bound tanker on Thursday**," the FT reported Friday.

"Three people briefed on the situation said the US had intervened to summon a ship loaded with Iranian crude, originally destined for China, as Washington looks to step up enforcement of sanctions on Tehran."

More footage aired on Iranian state media:

Meanwhile, Iran is boasting that it is stepping up hosting joint maritime drills with its more powerful military partners China and Russia...

***Iran welcomes the expansion of joint military drills with China**, and believes such exercises will help defuse the threat posed to both nations by **American-led unilateralism**, Defense Minister Mohammad Reza Ashtiani has said on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) defense ministers meeting in New Delhi, India, held on April 28-29.*

*“The regional and international situation is changing, and as a result, **the expansion of relations between Iran and China has become more important than in the past**,” Ashtiani said, speaking to his Chinese counterpart, Li Shangfu, on Saturday.*

With "friends" like these, Tehran is likely to feel emboldened to go after more international tankers, and especially those carrying crude bound for the US. At the same time, some Congressional hawks have been calling on the Biden administration to get even more aggressive in cracking down in Iran's sanctions-busting activities.

doug casey, international man: "In the 1840s, the US basically stole all the territory in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, from Mexico.

Doug Casey On The US Government Declaring War On Mexican Drug Cartels

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 28, 2023 - 08:40 PM

Authored by Doug Casey via InternationalMan.com,

International Man: There has been a recent push by some US politicians of the neocon variety to use the US military against Mexican drug cartels.

Senator Lindsay Graham has proposed designating them as "terrorist organizations."

Doug Casey: **It certainly wouldn't be the first time that the US has invaded Mexico.**

In the 1840s, the US basically stole all the territory in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, from Mexico. I know you shouldn't say that—it sounds unpatriotic. But patriotism should be focused on American values, not necessarily on supporting the actions of politicians in Washington.

In the Marine Corp's hymn, one of the lines is "From the Halls of Montezuma" because US forces were actually fighting in Mexico City.

It happened more recently when during the Mexican Revolution in the 1910s, Pancho Villa raided across the Rio Grande, and General Pershing's troops crossed into Mexico to (unsuccessfully) pursue him.

There's plenty of precedent for Americans invading Mexico, but perhaps the shoe is on the other foot now. 20 million or more Mexicans live in the US, mostly in the Southwest. Believe it or not, many of them talk about a Reconquista.

Narrative, journal; epoch playing the opposition, but how could that look in the event of a much larger outbreak?

“What is their name, again?”, people will ask. “Oh yeah”, they’ll say, “epoch times, like those crazy bible thumpers”, something that could act to shroud any future opposition to government mandates, particularly in regards to vaccine policy, (edicts) as the machinations of a crazy Christian fanatic: **Masks Had No Effect On COVID Cases Among Children: Study**

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 29, 2023 - 02:01 PM

Authored by Naveen Athrappully via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

The imposition of mask mandates among school children during the pandemic did not affect the incidence of COVID-19 infection, according to research conducted in Finland.

The study, published in the journal BMC Public Health on April 21, was conducted in three Finnish cities—Helsinki, Turku, and Tampere. These cities had similar baseline incidences of COVID-19 between August and September 2021. At the time, the federal government had recommended using masks in schools for children aged 12 years and above. In Helsinki and Tampere, the national recommendation was imposed as mandates at schools while in Turku, the mandate was levied on kids aged 10 and above.

The research team looked at the effects of masks on two groups of children—those between seven and nine years and those between 10 and 12. While the seven to 10-year-olds were not subject to mask mandates, 10-12 years olds had to wear masks.

*“**According to our analysis, no additional effect was gained from mandating masks**, based on comparisons between the cities and between the*

age groups of the unvaccinated children (10–12 years versus 7–9 years),” the study said.

*“**Face mask recommendations in schools did not reduce COVID-19 incidence among 10–12-year-olds in Finland**. This may indicate that COVID-19 cases in schools merely reflect community infections than school outbreaks.”*

Students, some wearing protective masks, arrive for the first day of school at Sessums Elementary School in Riverview, Fla., on Aug. 10, 2021. (Chris O'Meara/AP Photo)

Ineffective Masks

The Finnish study cited Spanish research on mask mandates in schools which found that masking was not associated with lower COVID-19 incidence or transmission. The transmission risk in schools was found to be lower than in households.

It also cited a late 2022 study from the United States which found that lifting mask requirements was associated with an increase in COVID-19 cases among students and staff.

“However, this study aggregated data from all age groups, making it difficult to determine how the effects of mask recommendations might vary by age,” the Finnish study stated.

Multiple other studies have also suggested that masks may be ineffective when it comes to controlling COVID-19.

On April 13, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said that **it could not find evidence as to whether N95 or similar medical-grade masks protect clinically vulnerable people from getting seriously ill from the disease.**

A review by the UKHSA of thousands of primary studies about the effectiveness of face coverings could not find anything on whether wearing N75 or similar respirators could protect people or not. This is quite significant given that N95 respirators are considered to be very efficient in filtering airborne particles.

Mask Harms

In addition to being ineffective, wearing masks also turns out to be harmful. A systematic review of 2,168 studies that looked at the adverse effects of wearing masks during COVID-19 found that many people suffered from health consequences like headaches and itching as a result.

*Read more **here...***

War, Erdogan, iran, middle east: Quiet US Seizure Of Iranian Crude Prompted Iran's Capture Of Houston-Destined Tanker

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 28, 2023 - 08:20 PM

When on Thursday the US Navy announced that Iranian commandos had seized a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman, conveniently absent from the narrative was the fact that just days prior **the United States seized a ship laden with Iranian crude**, identified as the Suez Rajan which was destined for China.

"US authorities ordered a tanker of Iranian crude oil to redirect towards the US in recent days, in **a move officials believe was the trigger for Iran’s decision to capture a US-bound tanker on Thursday**," the FT reports. "Three people briefed on the situation said the US had intervened to summon a ship loaded with Iranian crude, originally destined for China, as Washington looks to step up enforcement of sanctions on Tehran."

War: Russia Mounts First Large-Scale Air Raids On Ukraine In Nearly 2 Months

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 28, 2023 - 07:00 PM

Russia launched Friday attacks on the central Ukrainian cities of Dnipro Uman - and other locations, marking **the first large-scale missile and aerial raids in almost two months**, and resulting in a mounting civilian death toll.

Ukraine's defense ministry had previously warned the population it believed that major aerial strikes were imminent. The strikes occurred in the early night hours of Friday, with Ukrainian rescue operations ensuing throughout the day.

Some large residential buildings were reportedly struck in the missile barrage, with Ukrainian rescue and health authorities telling international press that **26 people, including five children, were killed**.

The attack included over 20 cruise missiles and as well as some 'suicide drones' at a moment Ukraine is preparing for a spring counteroffensive:

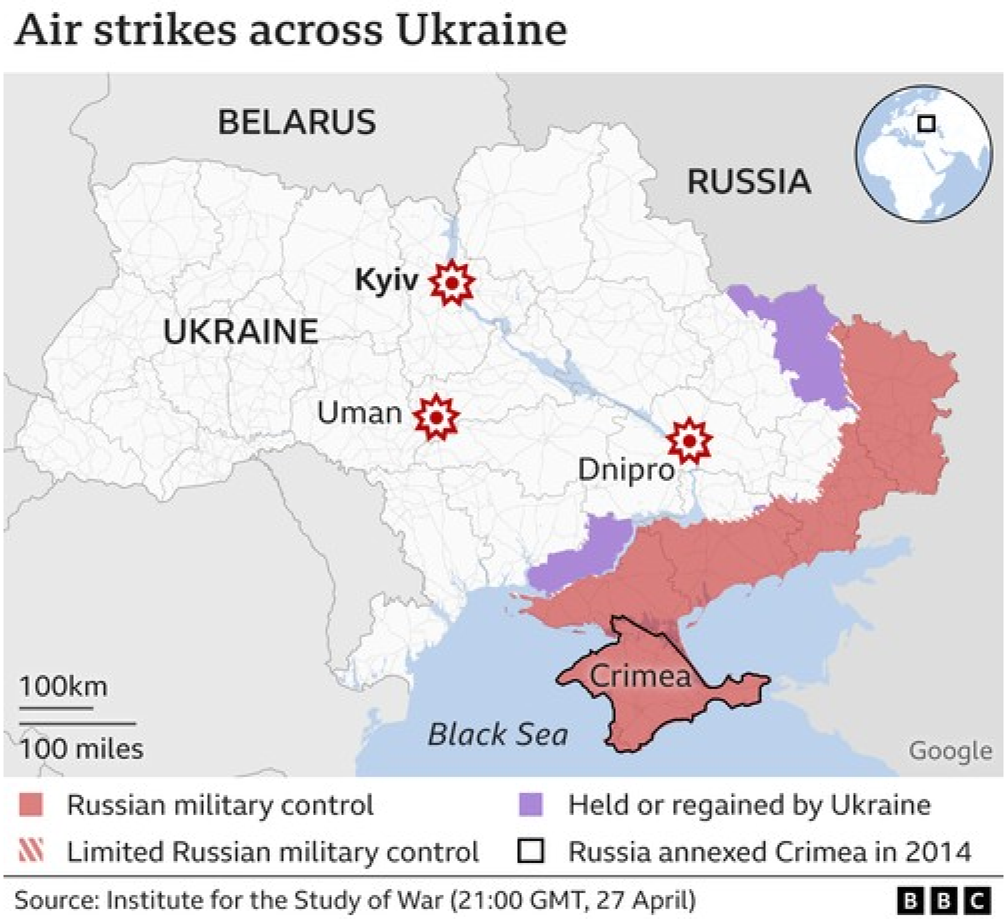
*Al Jazeera’s Charles Stratford reporting from Kyiv said that the attack, according to the Ukrainian government, was executed by one of "**23 cruise missiles and so-called kamikaze drones** that Russia fired in the early hours of Friday morning. Some were reportedly launched **from as far away as the Caspian Sea**," he said.*

*The attacks show **"Russia’s ability to strike targets across this country whenever and wherever it pleases"**, he said.*

A Russian Defense Ministry statement also said it utilized strategic bombers to target Ukrainian army reserve unites, with an aim toward **preventing additional troops from reaching the frontlines**.

Russia is also denying that it targeted civilians. "Overnight, the Russian Air Force carried out a collective rocket strike using long-range high-precision weapons **targeting temporary deployment sites of Ukrainian army reserve units**," Russian MoD spokesman Igor Konashenkov told reporters later in the day.

"The target of the strike was achieved. All designated facilities were struck. The advance of the enemy's reserves into combat zones was thwarted," Konashenkov said.



Air strikes across Ukraine

🟥 Russian military control
▨ Limited Russian military control
🟪 Held or regained by Ukraine
☐ Russia annexed Crimea in 2014

Source: Institute for the Study of War (21:00 GMT, 27 April)

Ukraine's military meanwhile claimed its anti-air defenses had intercepted many of the inbound missiles. Given the reported rising high death toll, Kiev is likely to press its Western backers even harder at this point for more advanced anti-air systems.

Journal, stats: bud light trans boycott figures: “Sales of Bud Light cases fell 10.7 percent for the week ending on April 8 and plunged by over 21 percent for the week ending April 15.”

From zerohedge

Retail sales of Bud Light have crashed as calls for a boycott have been heeded in the weeks following the brand’s partnership with Mulvaney, according to a Beer Business Daily report.

Tracking data on Bud Light sold in places like supermarkets and liquor stores—known as scanner volumes—fell by double-digit percentages during the first two weeks of the Mulvaney controversy. Sales of Bud Light cases fell 10.7 percent for the week ending on April 8 and plunged by over 21 percent for the week ending April 15.

“This is more than a beer company. It’s a movement of people who are speaking up and saying no,” Ultra Right CEO Seth Weathers told FOX Business. “We’re done. This is our line in the sand.”

Sales Skyrocketing

Weathers told FOX Business **the company has gained over 10,000 customers and sold 20,000 six-packs since the launch.**

The beer can be purchased on the company’s website and shipped to the majority of the United States. The website states the beer is currently in production and in a pre-sale period, with orders shipping approximately 30 days after ordering.

The company announced they were working with Big Kettle Brewing in Gwinnett County, Georgia, outside of Atlanta. Weathers also told FOX Business the company had generated $70,000 in T-shirt sales since its launch as well.

*Read more **here...***

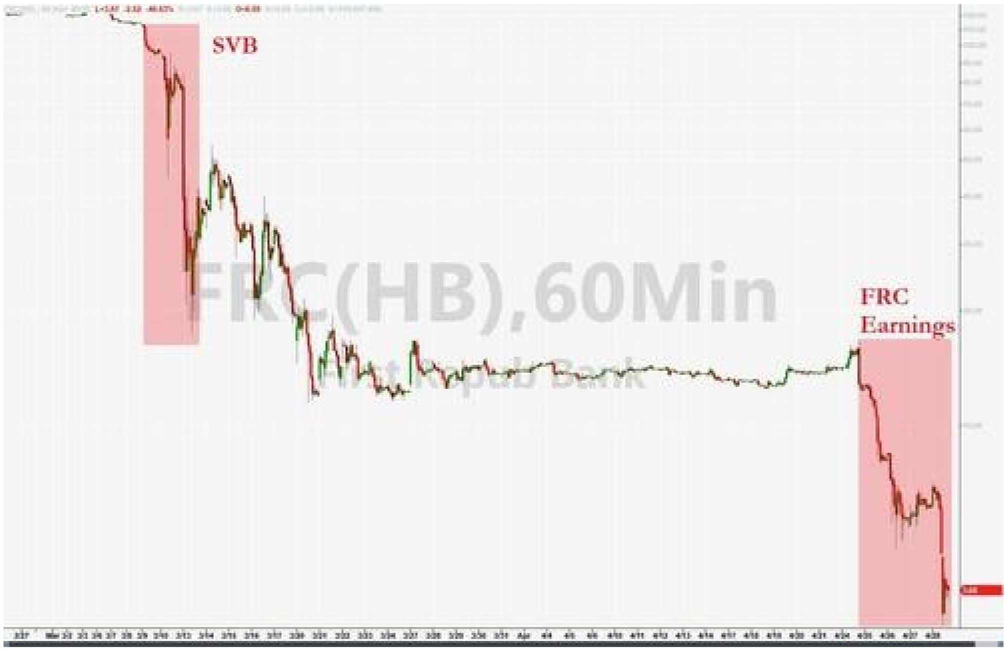
New 'Ultra Right' Beer Expected To See $1 Million In Sales As Backlash Against Bud Light Trans Partnership Continues | ZeroHedge

Journal, inflation: **banks look to be exhibiting same trend as all small to medium sized business: Large & Small US Banks See Deposit Outflows Continue, Small Bank Lending Growth Tumbled**

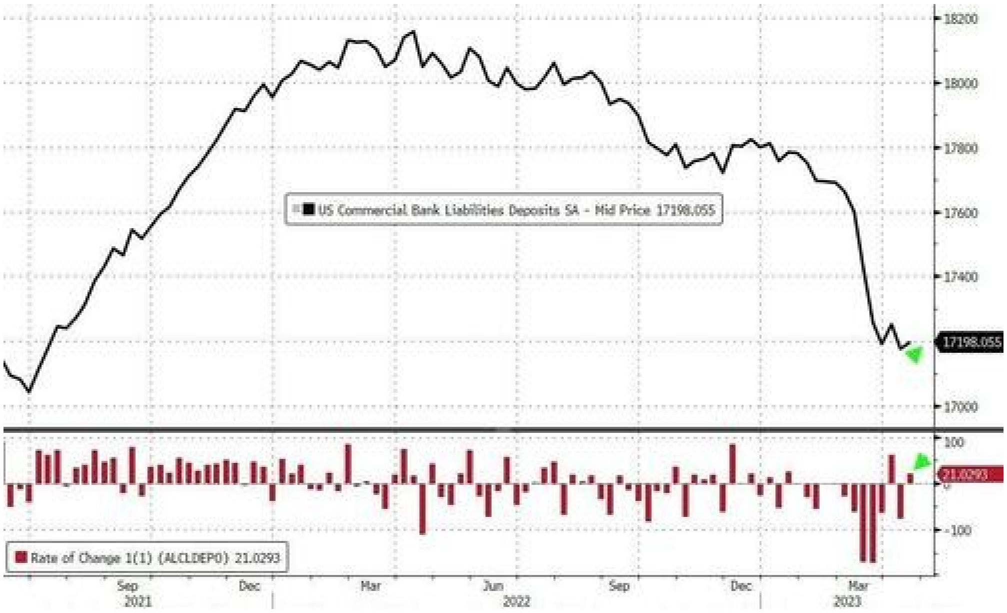
Large & Small US Banks See Deposit Outflows Continue, Small Bank Lending Growth Tumbled

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 28, 2023 - 06:30 PM

It's late on a Friday afternoon, after a total collapse in First Republic (which likely saw massive deposit outflows today as it stock collapsed to low single-digits), and we may get a hint of how bad it was heading into this chaos as [The Fed's H.8 (commercial bank deposit data) just dropped](#).

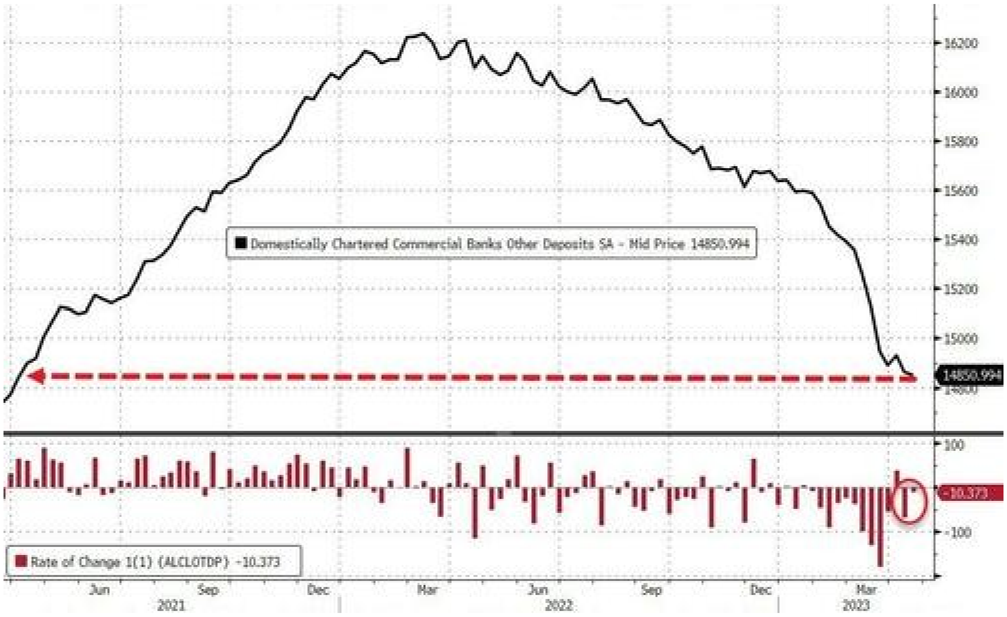


After [yesterday's report showed the Fed balance sheet shrinking but bank bailout facility usage higher](#), total US Commercial Bank deposits rose $21 billion during the week ended 4/19...



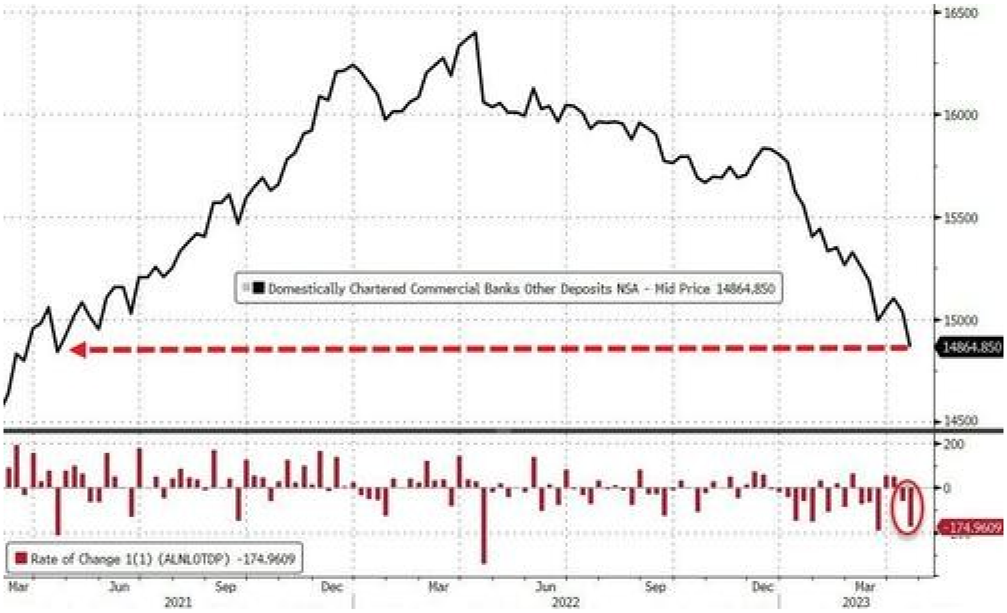
Source: Bloomberg

However, **US commercial bank deposits (ex-large time deposits) continued their freefall** *(during the week-ending 4/19),* **tumbling $10.4 billion (less than last week) to the lowest since April 2021...**



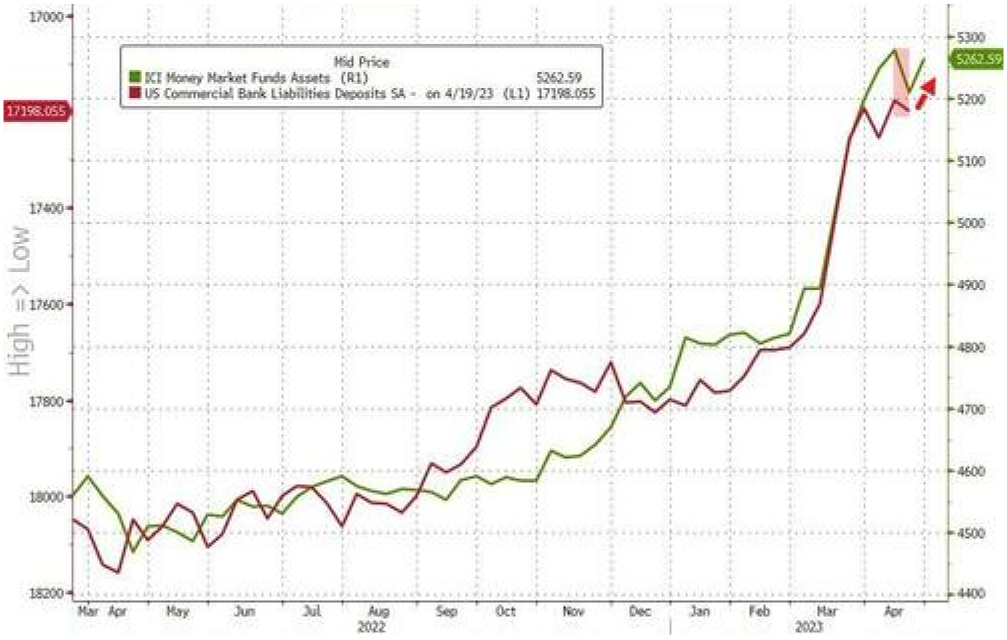
Source: Bloomberg

On a non-seasonally-adjusted basis, **US commercial bank deposits (ex-large time deposits) tumbled a massive $174 billion** (also at its lowest since April 2021)...



Source: Bloomberg

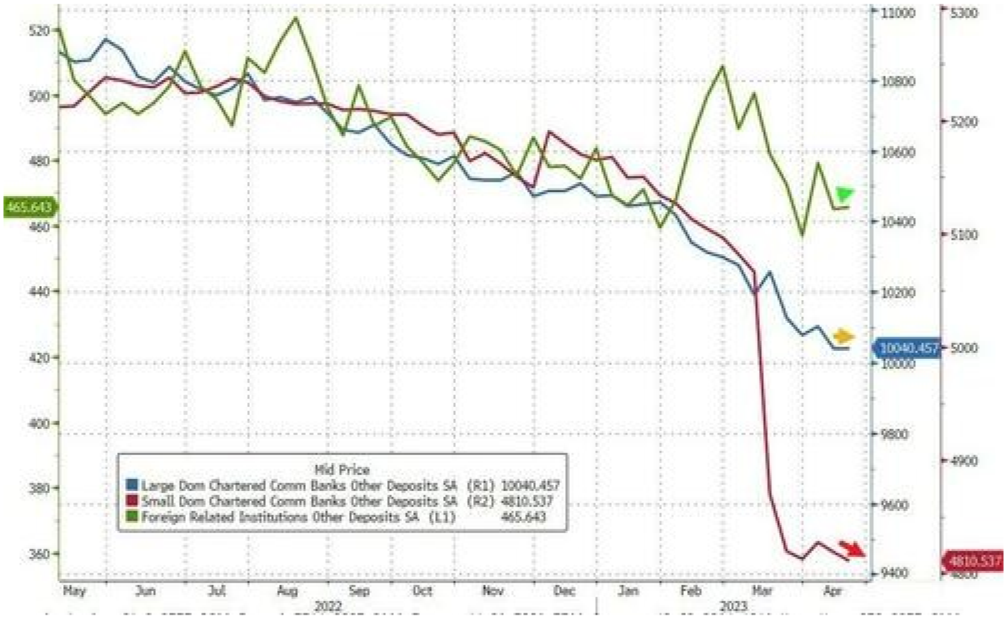
Yesterday's reported resumption of money market fund inflows hints strongly at ongoing outflows from commercial bank deposits



Source: Bloomberg

It is key to remember two things - 1) the deposit data is a week lagged to the MM flow data and 2) it's tax time and the total deposit outflows are likely driven by corporate tax payment demands...

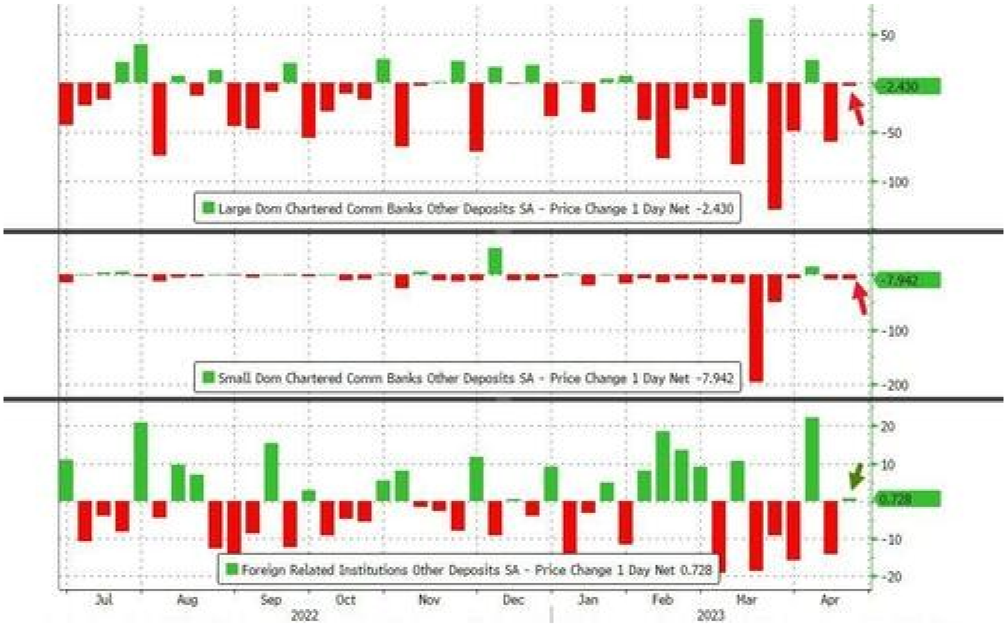
Both large and small US banks saw outflows last week while foreign banks saw inflows...



Source: Bloomberg

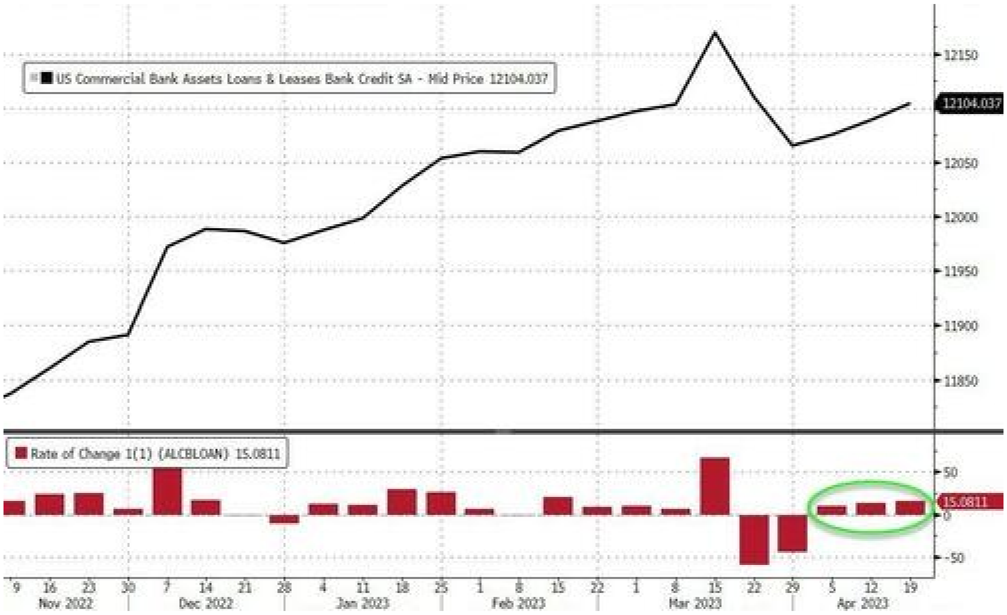
Small banks saw the largest outflows

- Large Banks -$2.43bn
- Small Banks -$7.94bn
- Foreign Banks +$0.728bn



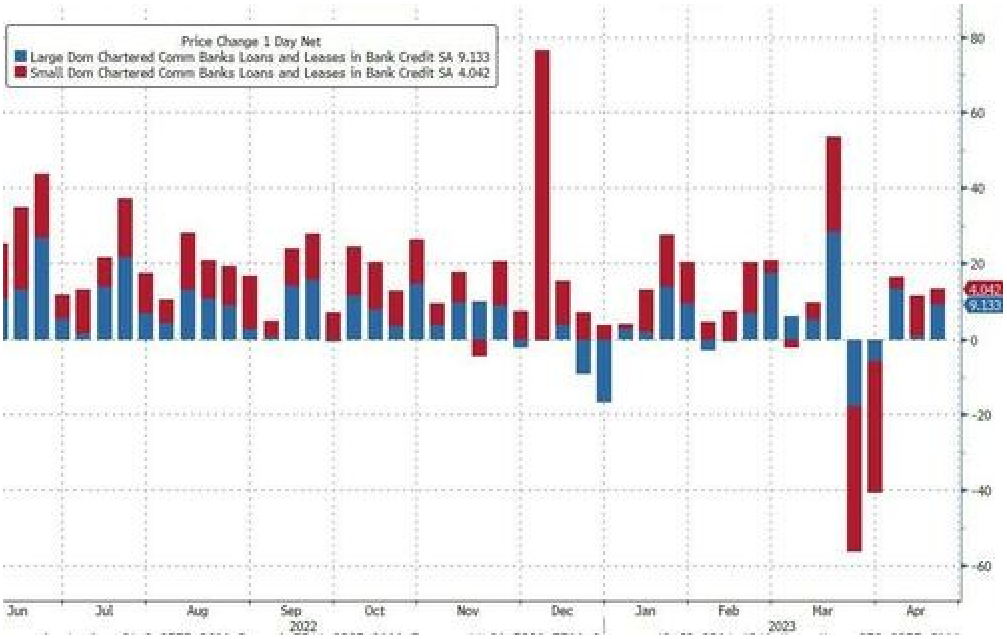
Source: Bloomberg

And on the other side of the ledger, **commercial bank lending rose $15.08 billion in the period** after increasing $13.8 billion in the prior week on a seasonally adjusted basis. On an unadjusted basis, loans and leases rose $20.9 billion after two weeks of loan contractions.



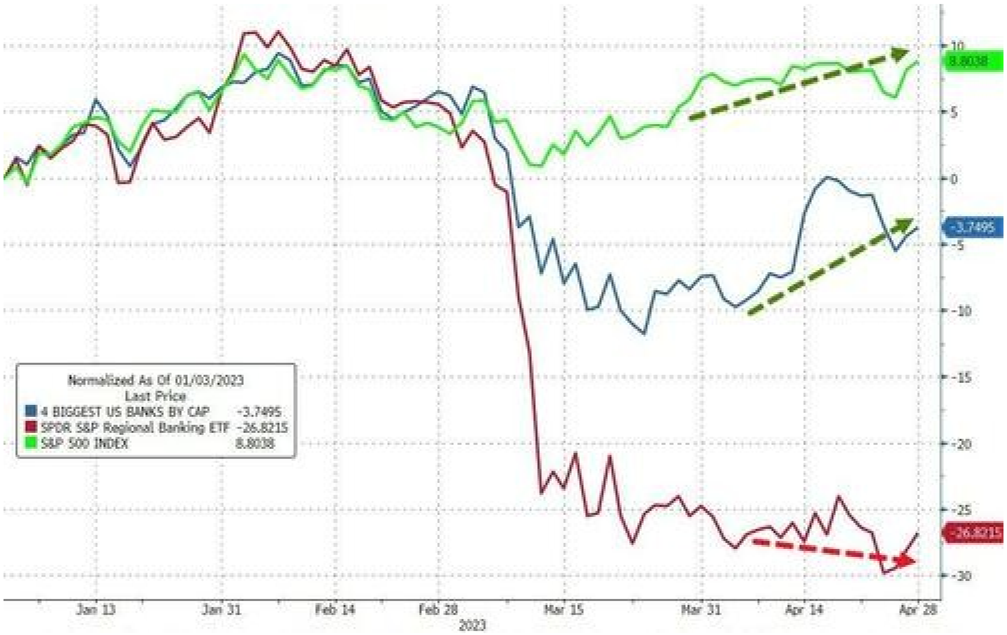
Source: Bloomberg

Small bank loan growth slowed notably with only $4.04bn lent (vs $10.4bn the prior week) while large bank lending re-accelerated to



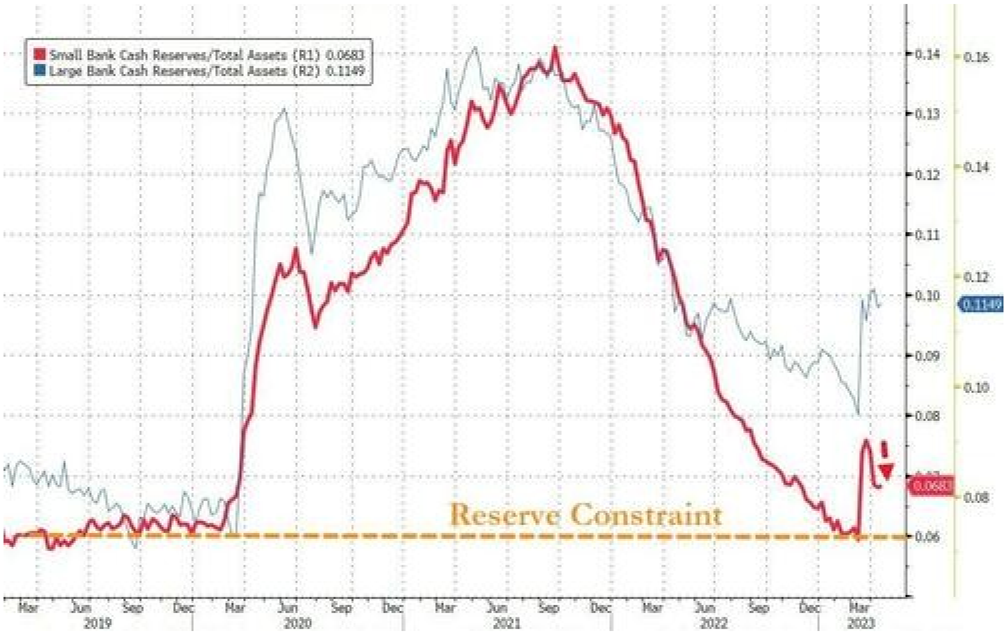
Source: Bloomberg

Finally, for those who think the crisis is over (and FRC and SVB were outliers), there's just one more thing. Wondering why regional banks just can't catch any kind of reasonable bid?



Source: Bloomberg

It's simple - as we detailed previously ([as far back as Nov]()) - **as long as we are above the reserve constraint level for small banks, there is stability courtesy of the Fed's massive reserve injection.**



Source: Bloomberg

It appears Small banks are moving back towards the critical level, and the closer we get to that level, the greater the risk of bank failures and Fed panic.

Finally, we remind readers, this data does not include this week's

potential problems (as the deposit and loan data is lagged by a week).

Narrative, journal; its almost like theyre playing into a culture class, but this time between genders..? Just an idea: Trans Mascot Dylan Mulvaney Says It Should Be Illegal To Misgender People

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 28, 2023 - 06:20 PM

How much participation should be required of the general public in the personal fantasies of transgender activists? How much "affirmation" should we be forced to offer in submission to the trans ideology? This is perhaps the biggest issue at the core of the debate over "trans rights" - It's not so much about rights, it's about how much special treatment trans activists can squeeze out of the populace.

While initially claiming that the use of preferred pronouns was more about common courtesy and that the movement would "never" try to demand legal recourse for the act of misgendering, gender ideologues are now pressing for the full force of government to strike down political opponents with consequences should they dare to point out biological facts.

Does dude look like a lady? One day it might be illegal to point these things out.

Canada's socialist government in particular (along with provincial governments) has been quick to embrace the trans movement and is now acting to punish misgendering as a human rights violation. **They are even calling for the banning of "offensive remarks" within 100 meters of any drag show.** In other words, the goal of the trans movement and the political left is to have arbitrary control of individual speech and to shut down all opposition. This sentiment has been repeated by the now notorious Dylan Mulvaney, a biological man that identifies as a woman who has somehow become a prominent mascot for trans activists simply by prancing around on TikTok.

Mulvaney gained global attention after Anheuser-Busch partnered with him in a disastrous promotional stunt for their Bud Light brand that resulted in the beer company losing billions in market value and their sales plunging. It was obviously not the kind of attention that Mulvaney intended and the activist is angry that numerous publications are referring to him as a "him."

Dylan believes that it should be against the law to misgender someone pic.twitter.com/3QM1uVZDpD

— Clown World ™ ▯ (@ClownWorld_) April 28, 2023

Should society be forced to perpetuate a lie and enable a delusion in the name of saving people from hurt feelings? Most trans people say yes, arguing that misgendering leads to trans suicides and that words are the same as violence. That is to say, the activists believe their fragility earns them privileges.

This has also been the messaging of the corporate media in response to the Mulvaney debacle; they do not seem interesting in debating the scientific or biological facts at hand when it comes to the trans issue. Rather, they focus on the "meanness" of Mulvaney's critics and the supposed harm that is being done to the mental health of activists through politically incorrect language. However, it's not the responsibility of the public or the government to protect the paper-thin egos of random citizens who are desperate to feel special.

Sometimes the truth hurts. No amount of plastic surgery or caked on make-up is going to change that. And, when it does hurt, it's not up to society to suppress the truth for the sake of weak people.

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journal, censorship; one of the few ill save from taibbi: Eleven Minutes Of Media Falsehoods, Just On One Subject, Just On One Station

Eleven Minutes Of Media Falsehoods, Just On One Subject, Just On One Station

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 28, 2023 - 05:20 PM

Authored by Matt Orfalea and Matt Taibbi via Racket News,

The plan was a comprehensive count. With a sizable team of smart temporary hires, each looking into a different area of the #TwitterFiles, we thought counting all the mainstream news stories that would need retracting or correcting in light of information found in Twitter documents would make for an easy little sidebar, something simple for the public to digest.

The idea seemed easy. We would take a Twitter doc raising questions about a news story and write a suggested note for the story's editor. In a lot of cases it wasn't clear the piece was wrong exactly, but that new information might require a call or two to clear up a quote, add an update about a source, correct a fact or two, etc.

In the Files there were around a few dozen discrete incidents in which Twitter had concerns internally, and where the public might want to know what those were. **The "Hamilton 68" fiasco,** in which a think-tank called the Alliance for Securing Democracy purported to track 600 Twitter accounts linked to "Russian influence activities” but turned out to mostly be following ordinary Americans, Canadians, and British, **was an example of a relatively easy fix for an editor.** If you used the Hamilton “dashboard” of accounts as a source for a story about “Russian bots,” you probably needed either to retract altogether, or add a note saying the Russian-ness and bot-ness of those accounts has since been called into question.

In a few cases, news organizations have already added editor’s notes as threads were released — we should commend *Mother Jones* for adding such updates to many of their articles which referenced Hamilton — which gave cause for optimism. **Maybe we could convince other reporters and editors to make the corrections ahead of time. How big of a job could that be?**

Too big, as it turned out. Once humorously obsessive Matt Orfalea got going on the project, he quickly fell into a funk. He started just by looking just for video clips of broadcast or cable outlets referencing Hamilton 68, and immediately started racking up ridiculous numbers.

The first time he mentioned he was having a fit/time problem with the video, I was skeptical. Orf wasn’t counting print stories at first, and didn’t venture initially into other incidents beyond Ham68. It didn’t seem possible there could there be too many instances to compile on video. But there were. A large part of his logistical problem involved MSNBC, whose extravagant on-air warnings of Russian bots were fattening his compilation. “I thought, ‘If I could only do this without MSNBC, I could get this down to a manageable size,’” he said.

That led to an idea of making a separate video that only chronicled MSNBC making Hamilton-inspired references to Russian bots. “I was relieved,” he said. “I thought, ‘This way, I might be able to make a video about everyone else.’”

The rest of the team eventually had to scrap the idea of counting *all* the reporting problems suggested by the #TwitterFiles. The amazing, agonizing video above shows why. During the time period in question — mainly the period between 2016 and 2022 — false innuendo generated either by government agencies or so-called “anti-disinformation” sites constituted such a huge part of everyday media coverage that it was almost easier to identify the stories *not* generated by this subterranean information cartel.

This is part of the new media strategy in the Censorship-Industrial Complex age: in addition to downgrading and deamplifying dissent, fringe political ideas, controversial takes, offensive speech, and, yes, even true errors and foreign propaganda, the CIC softens up audiences to accept certain ideas through sheer, unrelenting repetition. You're not hearing one or two stories about Russian bots or evil anti-vaxxers or even the treachery of Jill Stein and the Green Party, you're hearing hundreds just on one channel, and God knows how many more in other outlets and via social media. One's defenses wear down after a while, and there's a natural instinct to grow afraid of suggesting the opposite around friends after a while.

What was true of the bot story then is still true of other topics now. How many Ukrainian flag emojis have you seen? How many stories blaming everyone but the obvious suspect for the Nord Stream blast? How relatively nervous are you to say something even mildly counter-narrative about those subjects? Contrary to what we might imagine, conviction can be worn down by volume, like shingles cracking under years of weather.

Lastly, it's appropriate to use strong language to describe what MSNBC did with Ham68, because they have to have known for a while these reports were problematic. Even the release of the "new" Hamilton 2.0 in 2019, in which the think-tank said it would henceforth only cite sources that "we can **directly** attribute to the Russian, Chinese, or Iranian governments," should have been a red flag for anyone who did stories based on their earlier dashboard.

But MSNBC apparently didn't go back and examine prior claims then, and have repeatedly refused requests by me and others to do so since. They don't care, and as Orf shows, they don't care in high, high volume.

Video by Matt Orfalea

Kudos to Orfalea for having the patience and discipline to record all of this in one place with his trademark editing wizardry, creating a video that pounds the insanity of the period into your head so repeatedly that it just might prevent the otherwise inevitable memory-holing of this episode. Eleven minutes thirty! Imagine how much video it would have taken to capture the list we tried to make.

https://www.racket.news/p/eleven-minutes-of-media-falsehoods

Narrative, journal, vaccine, government: **US Officials Reject Compensation For People Diagnosed With COVID-19 Vaccine Injuries**

Letters from U.S. officials reviewed by The Epoch Times show officials contradicting doctors who treated patients as they turned down requests for payment.

Cody Flint, an agricultural pilot, was diagnosed by four doctors with a severe adverse reaction to Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine. Shortly after being vaccinated, Flint experienced intense head pressure, which led to problems such as perilymphatic fistula, the doctors said.

Flint sent a slew of medical files, including evidence of the diagnoses, to the U.S. Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (CICP), which compensates people who prove they were injured by a COVID-19 shot.

Flint and his doctors asserted in appeal letters that the barotrauma theory doesn't hold up because Flint flies low as he dusts crops. Flint's condition is "not from barotrauma," Flint's doctors told the CICP. "As an agricultural pilot, he does not fly more than a couple of hundred feet off the ground which is not of a magnitude to where he is at risk for barotrauma."

"**Elevated intracranial pressure has been recognized as a complication of COVID vaccination**, and given the sequence of events, more probable than not, it is the cause of Mr. Flint's elevated intracranial pressure, which had been documented on lumbar puncture," they added. "The elevated intracranial pressure led to his perilymphatic fistula. Elevated intracranial pressure is a cause for perilymphatic fistula and more probable."

The CICP determination was reviewed by a panel that sided with administrators. The panel found that the COVID-19 vaccine "did not cause Mr. Flint to develop bilateral perlympathic fistulas and related symptoms," Suma Nair, an administrator, told Flint in a final denial letter. "**There is no compelling causal connection between the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and the symptomology Mr. Flint experienced**; the more likely cause of Mr. Flint's symptoms is trauma from flying a plane, which would have developed over time."

Administrators cited no studies or other evidence in their letters.

Flint said that the determination was wrong, pointing to a number of papers detailing post-vaccination intracranial and other neurological issues. He also noted a study that said intracranial pressure can cause perilymphatic fistulas.

Nair also said the panel concluded: "given the timeline of symptoms, it was not plausible for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to have caused the otologic and vestibular issues experienced by Mr. Flint."

"It's just all comical to me," Flint told The Epoch Times. "I get the shot, I'm injured within 48 hours, and they say that that makes it implausible."

Agricultural pilot Cody Flint in a file image. (Courtesy of Cody Flint)

Difficulty Getting Compensation

The case highlights how people who experienced problems after vaccination have struggled to get money from the federal government, even when doctors diagnose vaccine injuries.

Flint is one of 76 people who were rejected as of April 1 because administrators determined they did not "show that a covered serious physical injury was sustained as the direct result of the administration" of a COVID-19 vaccine.

"**The CICP may only make such determinations based on compelling, reliable, valid, medical and scientific evidence**," the program says.

More than 8,100 applications, as of April 1, have been submitted to the CICP for compensation for a COVID-19 vaccine-induced injury or death. Three hundred and sixty-two in total have been turned down. Just 23 have been accepted. All but two are for a type of heart inflammation called myocarditis or a related condition known as pericarditis, both of which U.S. authorities say are caused by COVID-19 vaccination.

Documents on the denials and acceptances have been largely withheld from the public. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, successful in unearthing information about COVID-19 vaccine safety, have yielded few documents. Administrators located 652 records in response to one request seeking all claims and associated documents. They only released 52 heavily redacted documents, citing exceptions to FOIA. A similar request returned a single page that wasn't already public.

COVID-19 vaccine injuries fall under the CICP, a little-used program before the pandemic that was created by Congress in a 2005 bill, because of a Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act declaration entered during the Trump administration that has not yet been rescinded.

Most administered vaccines in the United States fall under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, enabling people with alleged or actual injuries to take their cases to federal judges in a no-fault system that paid out $4.8 billion between 1988 and 2022.

https://www.theepochtimes.com/in-depth-us-officials-reject-compensation-for-people-diagnosed-with-covid-19-vaccine-injuries_5216736.html?utm_source=partner&utm_campaign=ZeroHedge&src_src=partner&src_cmp=ZeroHedge

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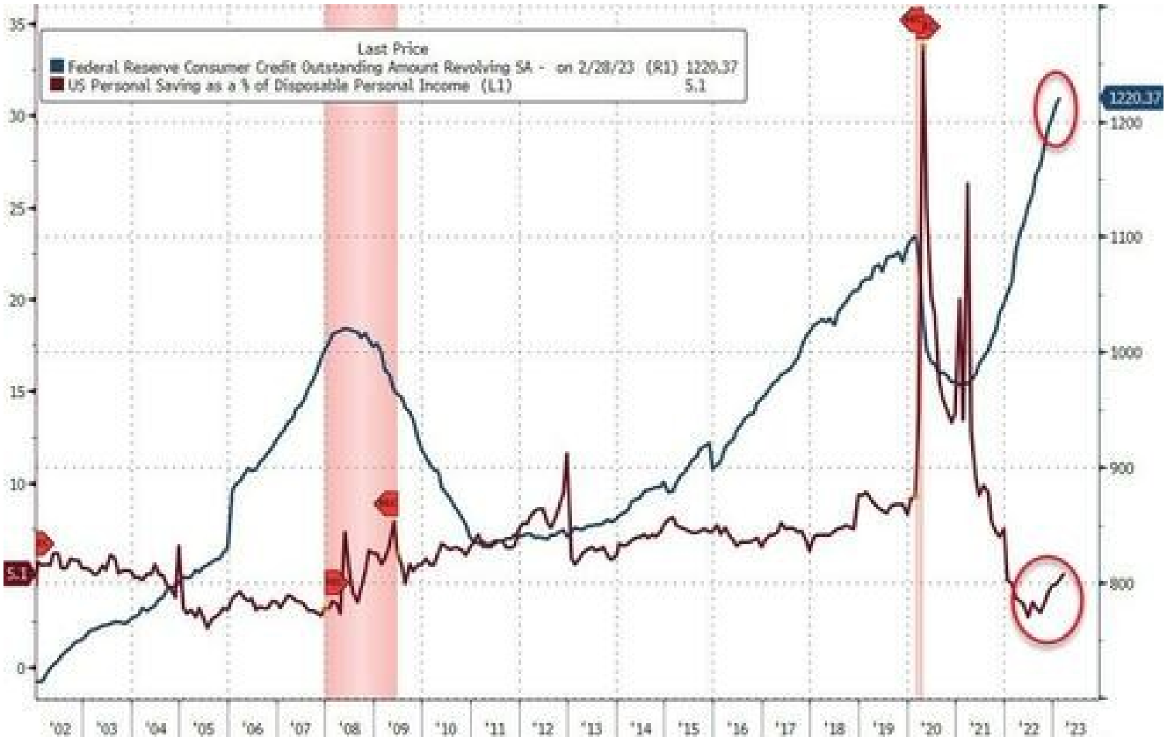
Capital One Expects Recession By Year-End, Hammered By Bad Debt Provisions

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 28, 2023 - 02:45 PM

So much for the "strength" of the consumer.

Capital One CEO Richard Fairbank just pulled the plug on the narrative that America's aggregate spending strength is anything but a mirage of extreme wealth thriving while a vast majority of Americans are struggling through amid core inflation pain.

We already know that **Americans have been leaning on their credit cards to make ends meet.**..



But now, Capital One's CEO has pointed out **the delinquency rate for customers at least 30 days late on payment rose 134 basis points from one year earlier to 3.66% - reaching the highest level since March 2019.**

And it's going to get worse, as charge-offs - the rate at which banks take on losses for debt they no longer believe will be paid off - haven't yet caught up to delinquencies.

Fairbank acknowledged it's likely they will also return to 2019 levels around the middle of the year - lagging a quarter or two behind the industry, as happened during the pandemic and global financial crisis.

Specifically, the **write-off rate in the firm's US credit-card portfolio soared to 4.04% in this year's first three months ($1.7 billion), almost double the rate a year earlier,** and the Virginia-based lender said provision for credit losses soared to $2.8 billion in the quarter ended March, up from $677 million a year ago.

The driver for that expected loss is simple - reality!

"We are assuming a material worsening of labor markets with the unemployment rate rising from today's very low levels to above 5% by the end of 2023," *the CEO told analysts on a conference call.*

“We are also assuming adverse effects from inflation and some further worsening of consumer profiles from the flip side of their extraordinary outperformance in the earlier period during the pandemic.”

Put another way - **Fairbank expects an imminent recession** as The Fed itself forecasts a 4.5% unemployment rate by year-end and calls that a "shallow recession"...

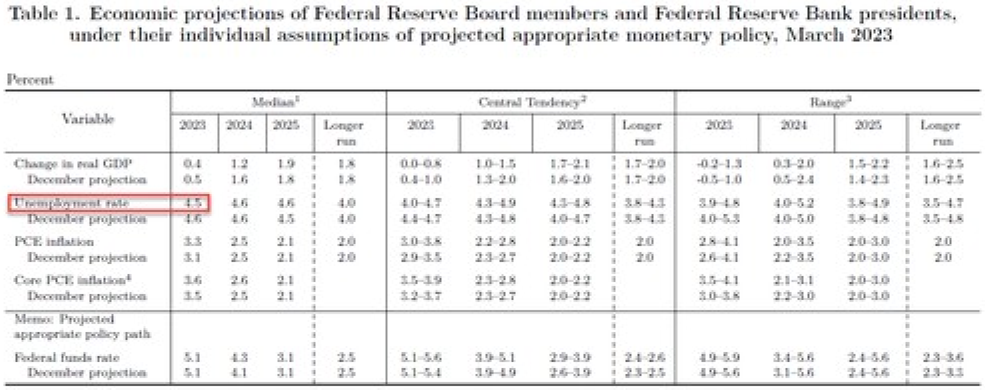


Table 1. Economic projections of Federal Reserve Board members and Federal Reserve Bank presidents, under their individual assumptions of projected appropriate monetary policy, March 2023

Percent

Variable	Median[1]				Central Tendency[2]				Range[3]			
	2023	2024	2025	Longer run	2023	2024	2025	Longer run	2023	2024	2025	Longer run
Change in real GDP	0.4	1.2	1.9	1.8	0.0–0.8	1.0–1.5	1.7–2.1	1.7–2.0	-0.2–1.3	0.3–2.0	1.5–2.2	1.6–2.5
December projection	0.5	1.6	1.8	1.8	0.4–1.0	1.3–2.0	1.6–2.0	1.7–2.0	-0.5–1.0	0.5–2.4	1.4–2.3	1.6–2.5
Unemployment rate	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.0	4.0–4.7	4.3–4.9	4.3–4.8	3.8–4.3	3.9–4.8	4.0–5.2	3.8–4.9	3.5–4.7
December projection	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.0	4.4–4.7	4.3–4.8	4.0–4.7	3.8–4.3	4.0–5.3	4.0–5.0	3.8–4.8	3.5–4.8
PCE inflation	3.3	2.5	2.1	2.0	3.0–3.8	2.2–2.8	2.0–2.2	2.0	2.8–4.1	2.0–3.5	2.0–3.0	2.0
December projection	3.1	2.5	2.1	2.0	2.9–3.5	2.3–2.7	2.0–2.2	2.0	2.6–4.1	2.2–3.5	2.0–3.0	2.0
Core PCE inflation[4]	3.6	2.6	2.1		3.5–3.9	2.3–2.8	2.0–2.2		3.5–4.1	2.1–3.1	2.0–3.0	
December projection	3.5	2.5	2.1		3.2–3.7	2.3–2.7	2.0–2.2		3.0–3.8	2.2–3.0	2.0–3.0	
Memo: Projected appropriate policy path												
Federal funds rate	5.1	4.3	3.1	2.5	5.1–5.6	3.9–5.1	2.9–3.9	2.4–2.6	4.9–5.9	3.4–5.6	2.4–5.6	2.3–3.6
December projection	5.1	4.1	3.1	2.5	5.1–5.4	3.9–4.9	2.6–3.9	2.3–2.5	4.9–5.6	3.1–5.6	2.4–5.6	2.3–3.3

None of this should be a surprise (to anyone who is simply not buying every word coming out of The White House).

"There are nascent signs of trouble brewing" in credit delinquencies, Glenmede's Jason Pride and Michael Reynolds warned in a research note this month, adding:

"An ever-larger share of credit balances have transitioned to early stages of delinquency, consistent with past periods of recession."

It appears the economic "pain" that Powell warned about is starting to strike the 'average joe'.

Last August, Powell said that “while higher interest rates, slower growth, and softer labor market conditions will bring down inflation, they will also bring some pain to households and businesses. These are the unfortunate costs of reducing inflation. But a failure to restore price stability would mean far greater pain.”

With the banking crisis re-escalating (cough FRC cough), the question is just how significant will this credit tightening be and how sustained will it be before The Fed is forced to fold?

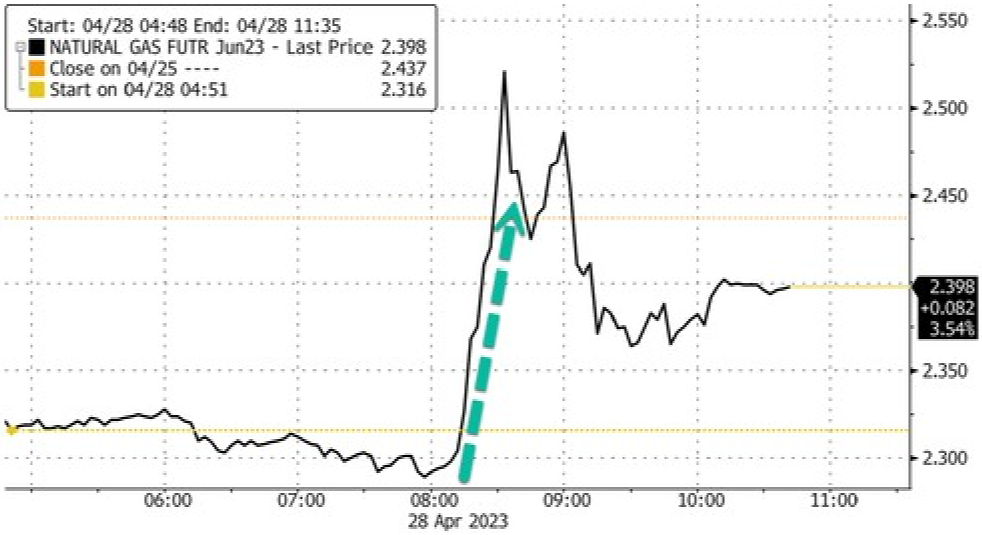
Planet, war, energy: Watch: Lightning Hits Columbia Gulf NatGas Compressor In Mississippi

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 28, 2023 - 02:15 PM

On Friday morning, natural gas futures soared following the news that a lightning strike had caused the shutdown of a Columbia Gulf compressor station in Mississippi.

A video posted on Twitter shows what appears to be a fire at the Corinth Compressor Station in Corinth, Mississippi.

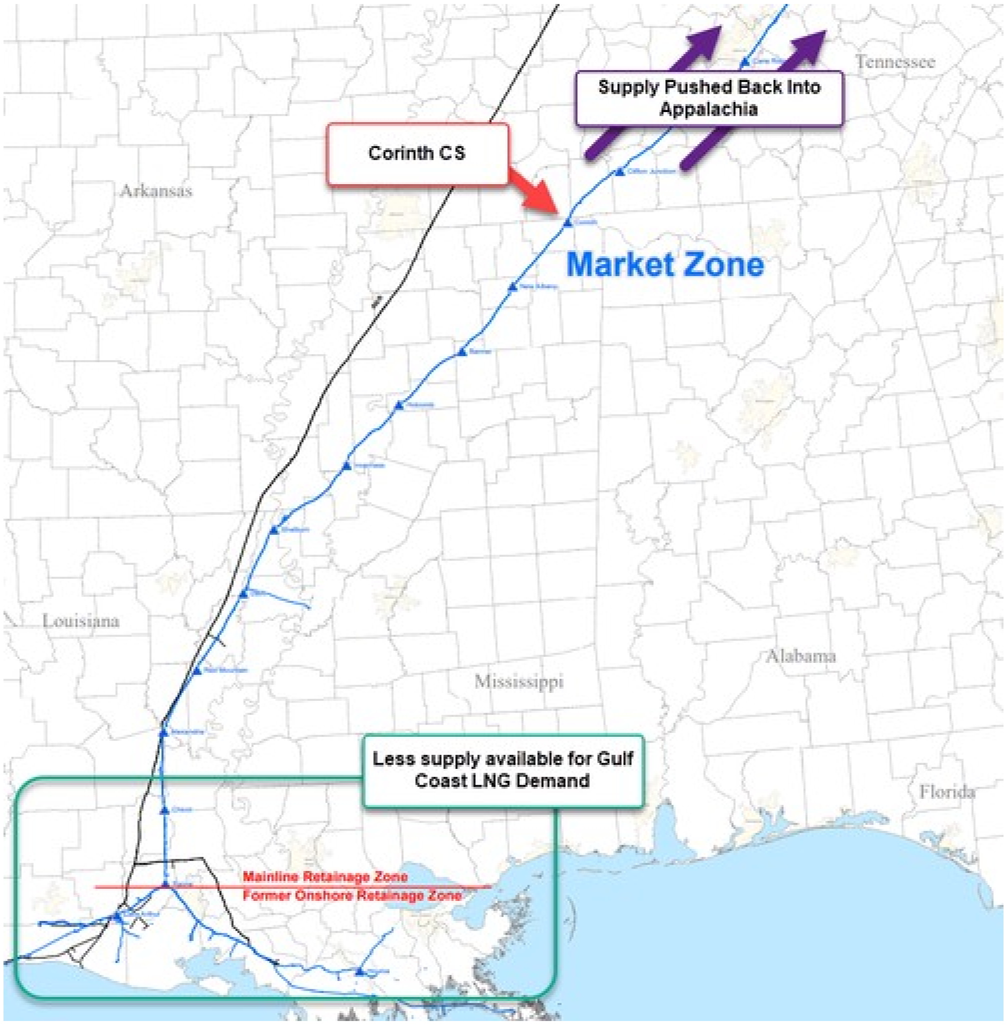
News of potential disruptions at Corinth Compressor Station sent NatGas futures soaring around 0800 ET from $2.300/MMBtu to $2.50. Prices have since subsided to $2.39.



Houston-based energy firm Criterion Research emailed clients about "the Columbia Gulf force majeure that was declared this morning at the Corinth Compressor Station."

We wanted to follow up on our prior alert and provide more details and graphics surrounding the Columbia Gulf force majeure that was declared this morning at the Corinth Compressor Station.

The high-level impact will be the loss of 0.4 Bcf/d in Southbound throughput on Columbia Gulf, which in turn will likely correlate to a drop in production receipts *on Columbia Gas (TCO) in Appalachia. We will now cover that idea in more detail.*

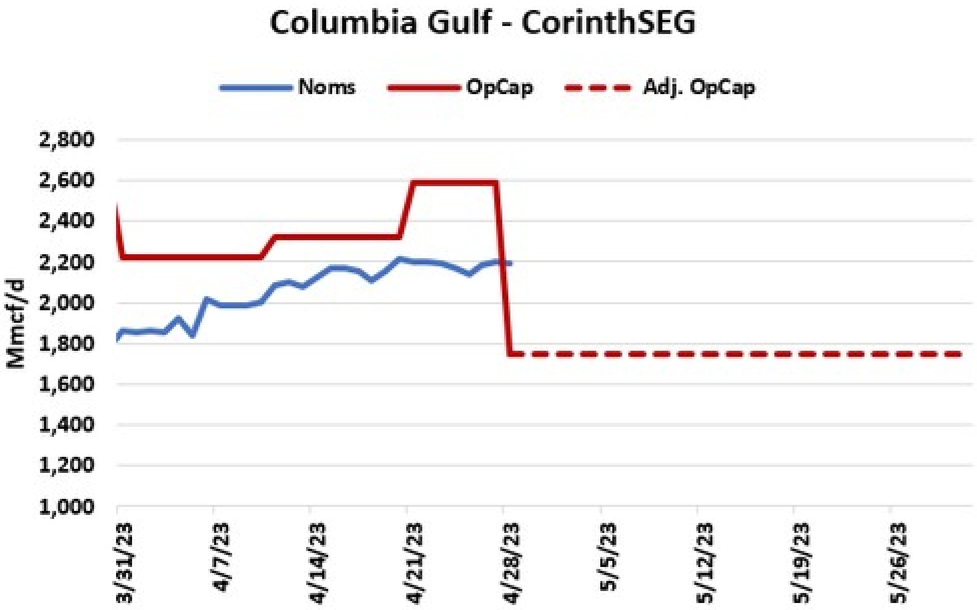

Tennessee
Supply Pushed Back Into Appalachia
Corinth CS
Arkansas
Market Zone
Louisiana
Mississippi
Alabama
Less supply available for Gulf Coast LNG Demand
Florida
Mainline Retainage Zone
Former Onshore Retainage Zone

A lightning strike hit the facility this morning in Mississippi, causing a fire onsite and the immediate shutdown of all physical flows to zero. Corinth's Southbound flows were approximately 2.19 Bcf/d with the early-cycle flows today, and the next cycle will likely see them revised to zero.

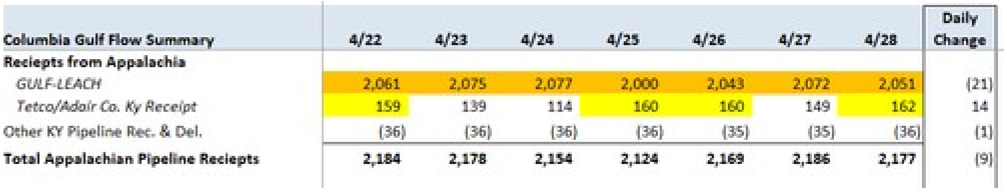
However, CGT says they are "in the process of making operational adjustments to allow a portion of volume to resume flowing through the impacted segment of the system." The early view by CGT is that the adjustments would allow CorinSEG backhaul capacity to be run at a reduced 1,750,000 Dth/d effective ID1 for Gas Day April 28, 2023.

The impact on firm service was estimated at 400,000 Dth/d and it's important to note that "the capacity setting through CorinSEG is subject to change based on operating conditions at Corinth Compressor Station during the Force Majeure."

Based on the past seven days of flows into Corinth, the outage will likely push 430 Mmcf/d back into Columbia Gas (TCO) in the Northeastern US.

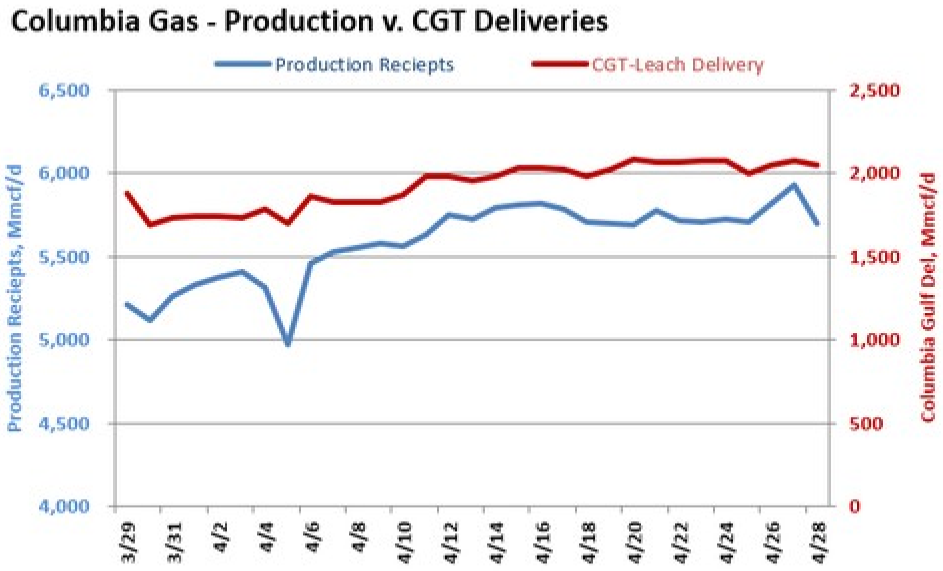


North of the CorinSEG, CGT receives a lion's share of its supply from Columbia Gas (TCO) at the Leach meter station, along with limited receipts from TETCO at Adair.

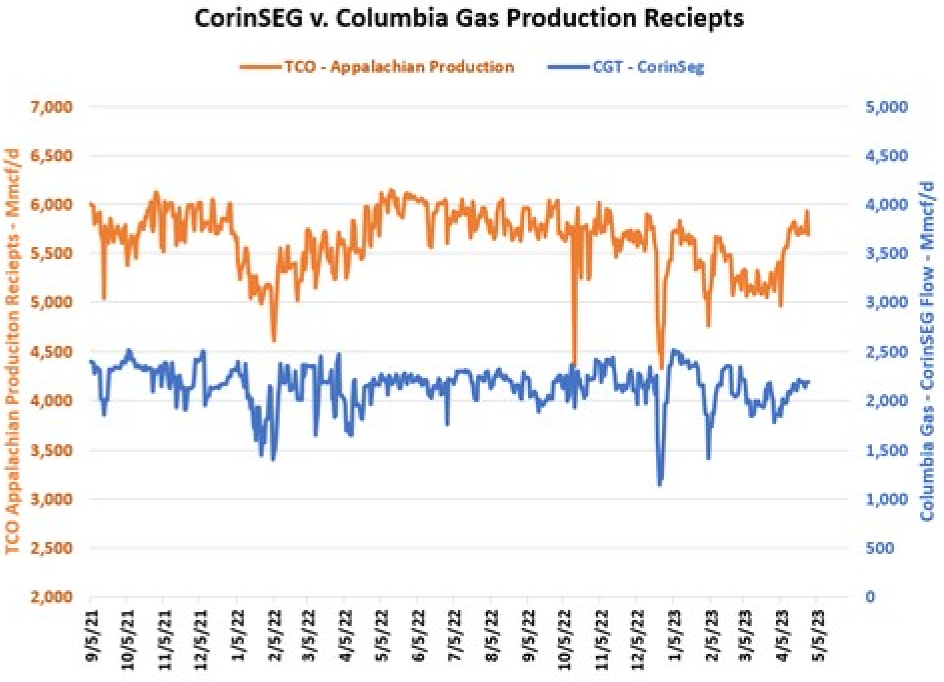


Columbia Gulf Flow Summary	4/22	4/23	4/24	4/25	4/26	4/27	4/28	Daily Change
Reciepts from Appalachia								
GULF-LEACH	2,061	2,075	2,077	2,000	2,043	2,072	2,051	(21)
Tetco/Adair Co. Ky Receipt	159	139	114	160	160	149	162	14
Other KY Pipeline Rec. & Del.	(36)	(36)	(36)	(36)	(35)	(35)	(36)	(1)
Total Appalachian Pipeline Reciepts	**2,184**	**2,178**	**2,154**	**2,124**	**2,169**	**2,186**	**2,177**	(9)

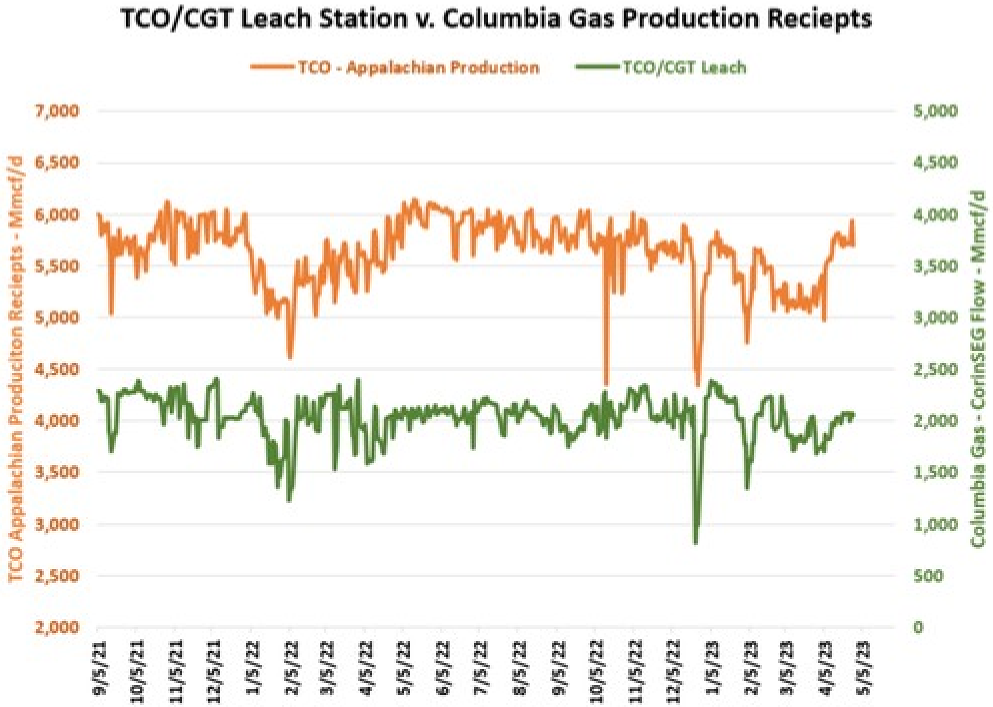
The TCO Leach meter station has been delivering >2 Bcf/d into CGT throughout the second half of April. With Corinth down, we would expect this point to drop in the near term.



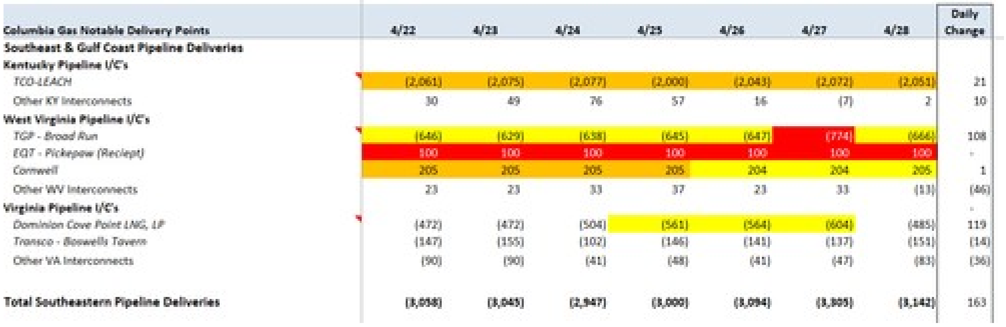
Historically, capacity restrictions on CorinSEG have directly correlated with production shut-ins on Columbia Gas, as you can see below.



The same correlation holds between TCO production and the Leach meter station that delivers into Columbia Gulf.

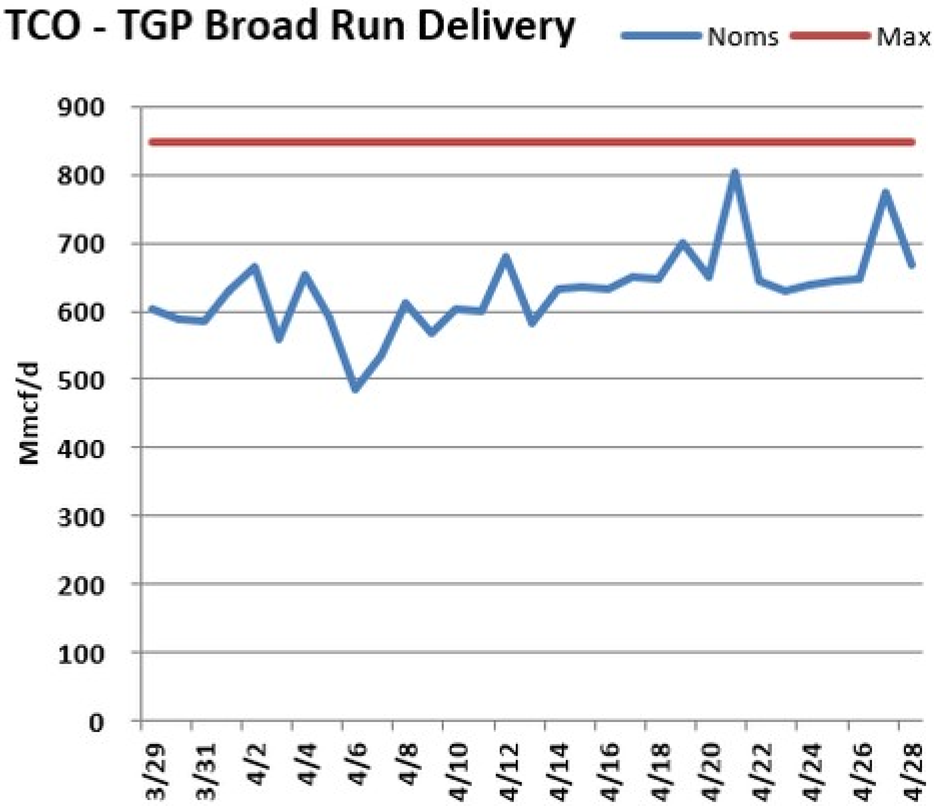


Columbia Gas delivers more than 3 Bcf/d of its daily supply to delivery points spread across Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia, and the Leach station accounts for a third of that flow. Other notable points where some gas could be diverted include TGP-Broad Run (0.1-0.2 Bcf/d in available capacity), Dominion Cove Point (0.1-0.3 Bcf/d in available capacity) and Transco-Boswells Tavern (0.1-0.2 Bcf/d in available capacity.)

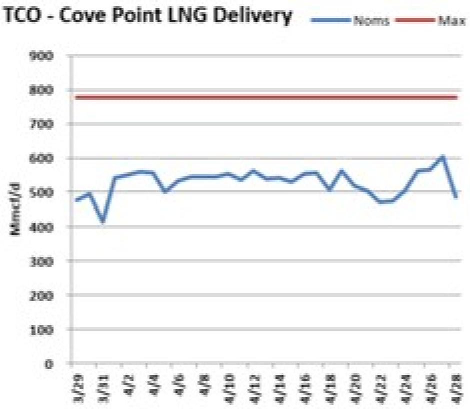


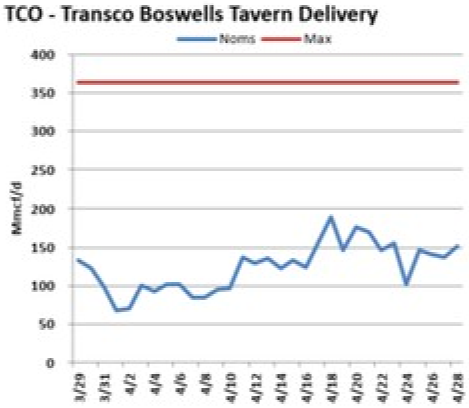
Columbia Gas Notable Delivery Points	4/22	4/23	4/24	4/25	4/26	4/27	4/28	Daily Change
Southeast & Gulf Coast Pipeline Deliveries								
Kentucky Pipeline I/C's								
TCO-LEACH	(2,061)	(2,075)	(2,077)	(2,000)	(2,043)	(2,072)	(2,051)	21
Other KY Interconnects	30	49	76	57	16	(7)	2	10
West Virginia Pipeline I/C's								
TGP - Broad Run	(646)	(629)	(638)	(645)	(647)	(774)	(666)	108
EQT - Pickepaw (Reciept)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	-
Cornwell	205	205	205	205	204	204	205	1
Other WV Interconnects	23	23	33	37	23	33	(13)	(46)
Virginia Pipeline I/C's								-
Dominion Cove Point LNG, LP	(472)	(472)	(504)	(561)	(564)	(604)	(485)	119
Transco - Boswells Tavern	(147)	(155)	(102)	(146)	(141)	(137)	(151)	(14)
Other VA Interconnects	(90)	(90)	(41)	(48)	(41)	(47)	(83)	(36)
Total Southeastern Pipeline Deliveries	(3,058)	(3,045)	(2,947)	(3,000)	(3,094)	(3,305)	(3,142)	163

Columbia Gas deliveries into TGP Broad Run tend to run fairly close to max observed rates, but there is some room left to divert gas.



Meanwhile, the more likely paths to move the stranded 430 Mmcf/d would be into the Dominion Cove Point station or Transco's Boswell Tavern Delivery meter.





**Developing*

Journal, crypto, government: may18

FedNow is the Beta version of what is meant to

become the Fed’s Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)

“There’s a new payment service coming to the financial industry this year. The Federal Reserve will offer instant payments that can be sent anytime.” Updated May 22, 2023

https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/banking/fednow

Censorship, narrative: Ex-US Army Psyops Expert: Fox News Fired Carlson To Maintain "Semi Lobotomized Quasi Retarded Population"

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 28, 2023 - 07:11 AM

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News,

A former US Army psychological warfare officer says that Tucker Carlson was fired by Fox News because of the regime’s agenda to maintain an “uninformed semi lobotomized quasi retarded population.”

Europe, Germany, Russia, war: LOT Polish Airlines Block Russian Tennis Player From Boarding Flight

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 28, 2023 - 06:00 AM

Via Remix News,

The Russian tennis player Vitalia Diatchenko was denied permission to board a LOT Polish Airlines flight from Cairo to Warsaw. LOT representatives stated that they acted in accordance with the law and cited regulations put into place after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Planet, markets, government, crypto, journal: May18 carbon credits markets going ballistic following EUs approval of carbon reduction plan

The world's first major carbon trading system has since 2005 forced power plants and factories to buy permits when they emit CO2, and has cut emissions from those sectors by 43%.

European Union members approved a deal agreed last year by negotiators from EU countries and Parliament, to reform the carbon market to cut emissions by 62% from 2005 levels by 2030, which is designed to deliver the EU's emissions-cutting targets.

After nearly two years of EU negotiations, the member states' approval means the policy will now pass into law. The EU Parliament approved the deal last week.

Of the 27 EU countries, 24 voted for the reform. Poland and Hungary opposed it, while Belgium and Bulgaria abstained.

Poland, which has previously called for the carbon market to be suspended or its price capped to ease the burden on industry, said EU climate policies set unrealistic goals.

The reform is set to hike the cost of polluting for sectors including cement manufacturing, aviation and shipping, while also raising billions of euros through CO2 permit sales, for national governments to invest in green measures.

EU gives green light to revamp of Europe's main climate policy | Reuters

The more emitters have to pay for EU carbon permits to cover each tonne of C02 they produce, the greater the incentive to invest in low carbon technologies and switch to less polluting fuels.

EU countries and lawmakers agreed reforms to the EU carbon market late last year, creating a bullish mood that has been heightened in recent weeks as companies approach an April deadline to buy and submit enough CO2 permits to cover last year's emissions.
Poland, which produces most of its electricity from coal, has blamed high CO2 prices on speculators and sought EU intervention to limit price spikes. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez last year called for a CO2 price cap to help tackle soaring inflation.

Traders also said expectations of cooler weather and low wind speeds increased demand for permits from fossil fuel power generators in recent days and buying by speculators also drove prices

Heavy industries will lose the free CO2 permits they currently receive by 2034, while airlines will lose theirs from 2026, exposing them to higher CO2 costs. Emissions from ships will be added to the scheme from 2024.

Countries also approved the EU's world-first policy to phase in a levy on imports of high-carbon goods from 2026, targeting steel, cement, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen.

YEARS OF WEAKNESS

The EU ETS was launched in 2005 and the price dropped to nearly zero in 2007 during the global financial crisis when the market was heavily over-supplied.

Years of weakness followed until CO2 prices began to recover in 2018 when the EU agreed to remove surplus permits from the market.

Prices rallied by 150% in 2021 when EU policymakers set out their latest CO2-cutting laws.

That increase helped to reduce emissions by prompting utilities to switch from coal to gas, which produces roughly half as much CO2 when burned, to avoid paying a bigger carbon bill - although soaring gas prices last year temporarily made coal generation cheaper.

The 100-euro level has long been cited as a price that could incentivise some of the expensive technologies seen as necessary to limit global warming.

Investments in hydrogen produced from renewable energy - instead of the conventional production method of using gas - could become economically competitive if CO2 prices stayed above 100 euros per tonne, said Mark Lewis, head of climate research at Andurand Capital Management.

"I wouldn't underestimate the symbolic importance of it. People will start realising we're in a new paradigm," Lewis added, but said reaching 100 euros once did not guarantee prices would remain above that level.

Such technologies could also receive a boost from new state aid or EU funding, as the bloc offers incentives to green industries, to avoid firms relocating to take advantage of U.S. subsidies on offer to companies who develop such technologies in North America.

The iron and steel sector is among those looking to green hydrogen to help with the difficult task of producing carbon-neutral steel.

Brussels plans to phase out the free CO2 permits that sectors including steel and cement currently receive and replace them with a world-first carbon border levy on the emissions of imported goods, to make firms abroad pay the same CO2 price as European industry.

Carbon costs vary greatly globally, with permits in China's scheme currently costing less than $10.

Analysts said the European carbon price could retreat from the 100 euro level as the European Union on Tuesday agreed to auction more carbon permits to help raise 20 billion euros to help countries wean themselves off Russian gas.

"Traders seem to neglect the short-term impact of additional supply entering the market.. and rather focus on the mid- to long-term picture," Marcus Ferdinand, head of analysis at Oslo-based environmental market firm Greenfact, said.

"I expect a correction as soon as the changes to auction calendars are announced," he said.

($1 = 0.9384 euros)

Reporting by Kate Abnett, Susanna Twidale, Nina Chestney and Nora Buli; Editing by Susan Fenton, Barbara Lewis and Tomasz Janowski
EU carbon hits 100 euros taking cost of polluting to record high | Reuters

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Sanctions, government, war: "Attack On Canadian Economy:" Vancouver Grain Export Terminal Hit With Strike

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 26, 2023 - 08:00 PM

A labor action by Canadian public sector workers threatens grain exports at a key terminal in Vancouver. The Wheat Growers Association calls the strike "an attack" on the Canadian economy and calls for "immediate action."

According to a news release by Wheat Growers, "striking federal workers had intentionally targeted" the Cascadia Terminal in Vancouver, which indicates grain exports can't be exported, and farmers don't get paid if the grain isn't sold.

"A strike is one thing, but to intentionally target a port that is critical to the lives of grain farmers and to the entire Canadian economy is the height of reckless irresponsibility," Wheat Growers president, Gunter Jochum, said about the labor action.

Jochum continued, "It's time for the federal government to intervene. The Wheat Growers are calling on the federal government to immediately amend the Canada Grain Act to authorize third-party weighing and inspection of vessels leaving Canadian waters. Let's get the grain moving and protect our sector."

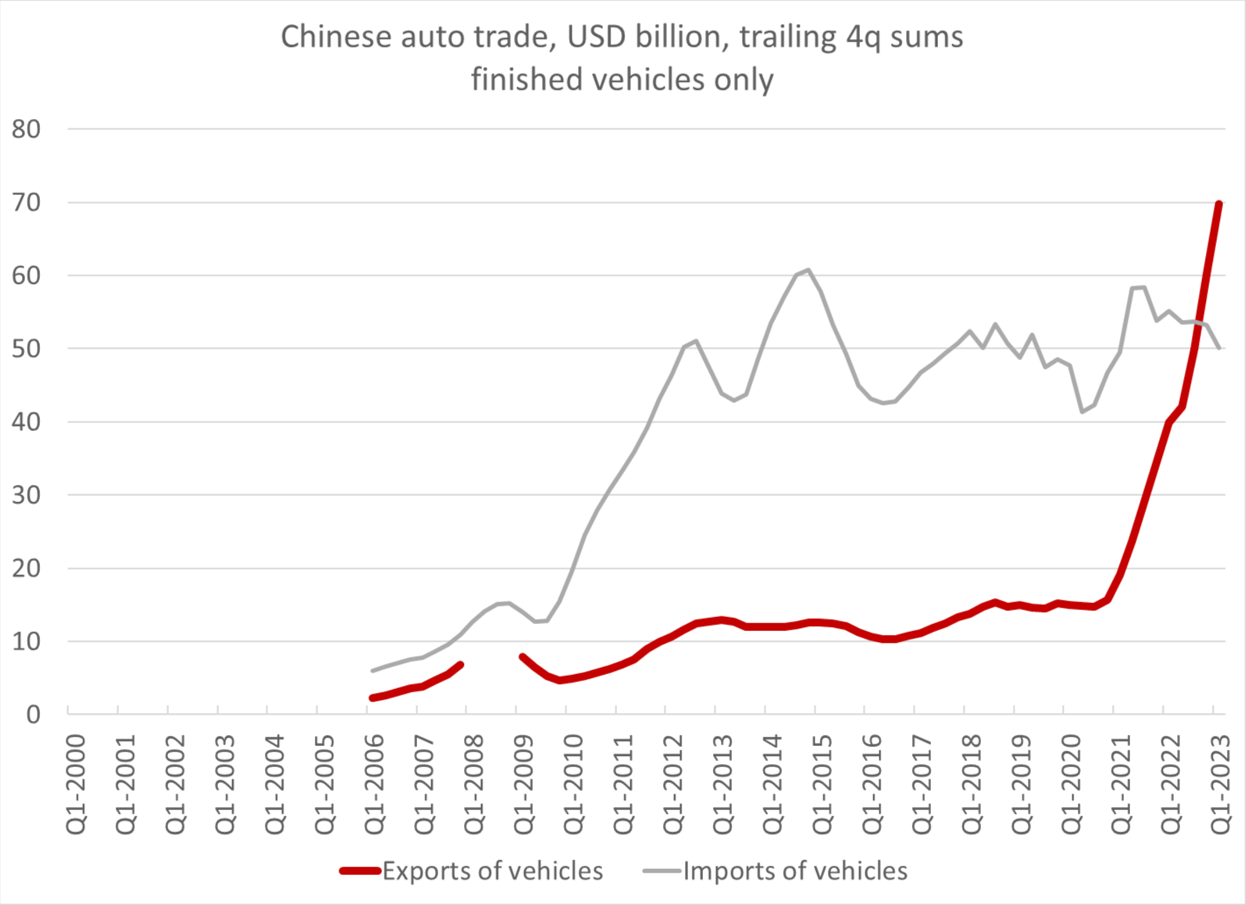
The strike could exacerbate the strain on global grain supplies, which the conflict in Ukraine has already impacted.

Global News said the strike at Cascadia Terminal involved at least 100 workers belonging to the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

"How long will be (at the terminal)? We'll be there for as long as we need to be, or we won't. I think our tactics are going to be changing every day," said Jamey Mills, PSAC's regional executive director.

Last week Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan and Keystone Agricultural Producers of Manitoba warned the labor action might disrupt shipments and sourcing of temporary workers into Canada ahead of the planting season.

China, energy, sanctions, stats: China Is Quickly Becoming One Of The Largest Automobile Exporters In The World



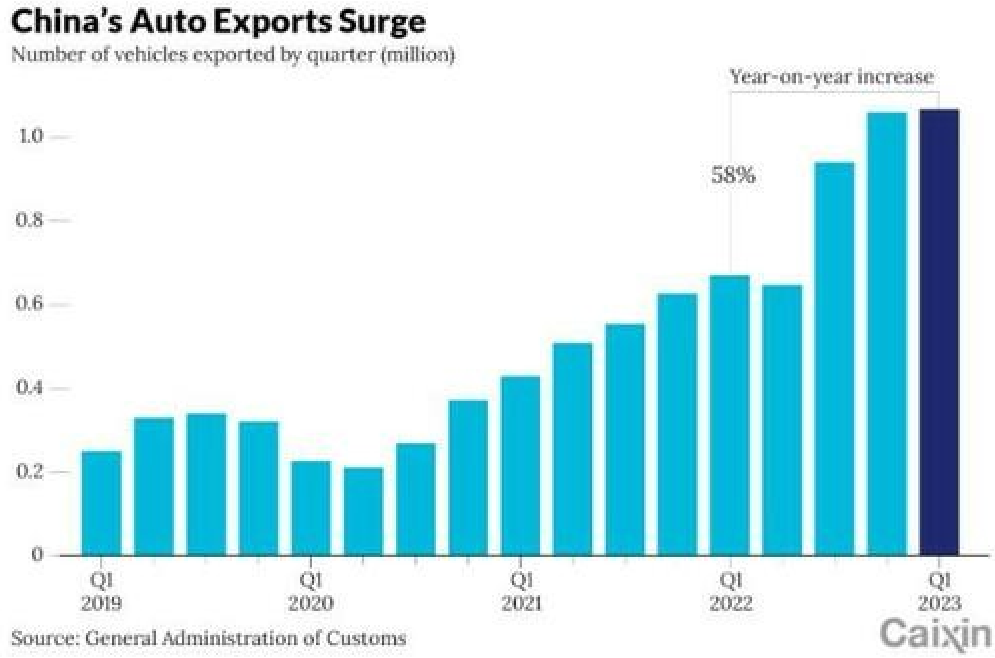
twitter/Brad_Setser/status/1650883009631903745/photo/1

China Is Quickly Becoming One Of The Largest Automobile Exporters In The World

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 26, 2023 - 06:40 PM

China is quickly becoming one of the largest automobile exporters in the world.

In the first quarter of this year, the country's exports were up almost 60% thanks to NEV shipments, Caixin wrote earlier this month. Data released mid-month by the General Administration of Customs showed that the country exported 1.07 million vehicles in Q1 - a rise of 58.3% from the year prior.



The rise can be attributed to overseas shipments of new-energy vehicles (NEV), the report notes. NEVs surged 110% to 248,000 units, year over year, according to China Association of Automobile Manufacturers data.

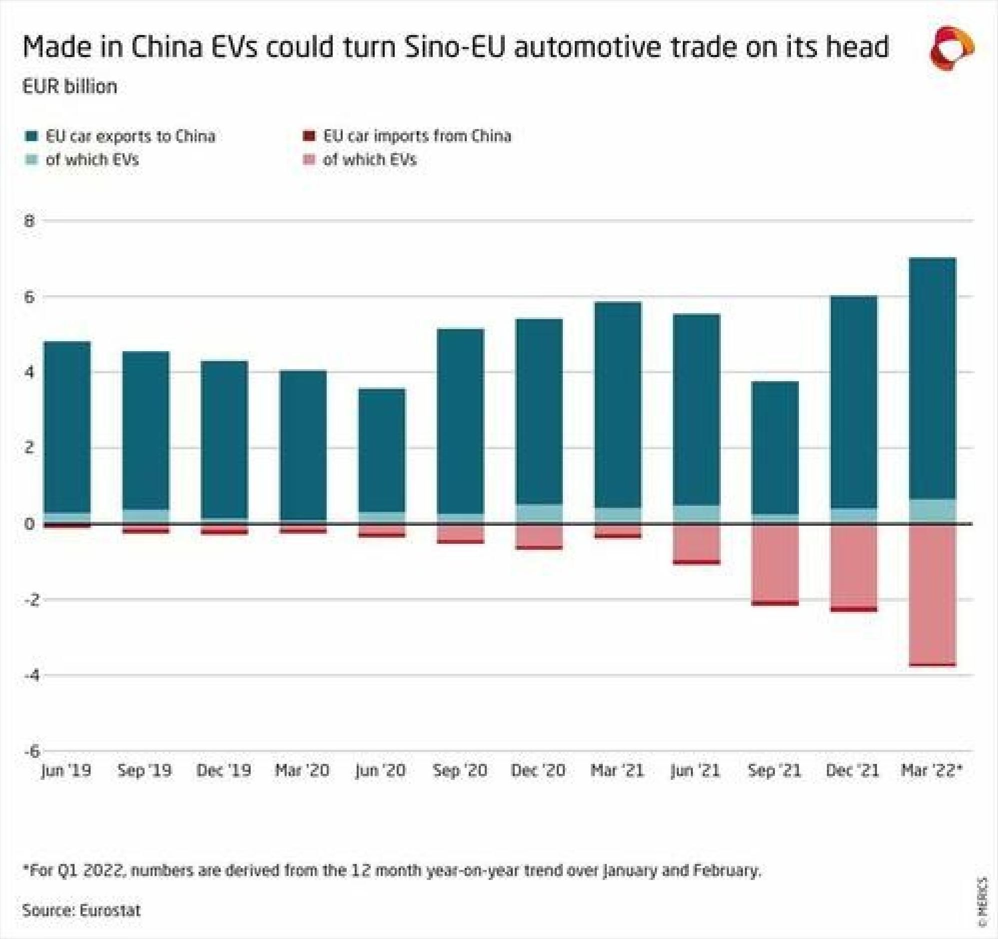
In the top spot was Tesla's Chinese unit, shipping out 92,000 units in Q1. It was followed closely by SAIC and BYD, who shipped out 56,000 and 39,000 units, respectively.

The strong Q1 comes after China overtook Germany in 2022 to become the second largest exporter of vehicles, according to DirectIndustry E-Magazine. China, which exported 2.529 million passenger vehicles, up 56.7% from 2021, now only sits behind Japan. That report also noted the importance that NEVs played.

“Ten years ago, Chinese car producers, were only involved in ICE cars. Chinese car producers had to compete with established producers from Japan and South Korea. So, the focus was more on the fast-growing domestic market, and as for exports, it was mainly to developing countries," said Bala Ramasamy, Professor of Economics, Associate Dean, China Europe International Business School.

“Expect exports to continue to climb and the number of EV exports to dwarf ICE exports, specifically in the EU/UK where they will ban the sale of ICE vehicles by 2035/2030,” said Tu Le, Founder, and Managing Director of Beijing-based Sino Auto Insights.

Ramasamy concluded: “I think the fact that the Covid pandemic was quite contained in China in 2021 could have also given China and its production capacity an edge against its rivals in South Korea and Japan.”



Journal, government, media, stats, narrative: Apparently, by volume, meta has rehired almost all of the employees hit by this recent round of tech layoffs, a topic that’s been trending for the past several months. In the article below, you can see ZH noting that the headcount, when compared to priors quarters--before the layoffs started—is only down by 1000 employees, a factoid that seems rather surprising when you

consider the amount of buzz the keyword “tech layoffs” has received in the media as of late.

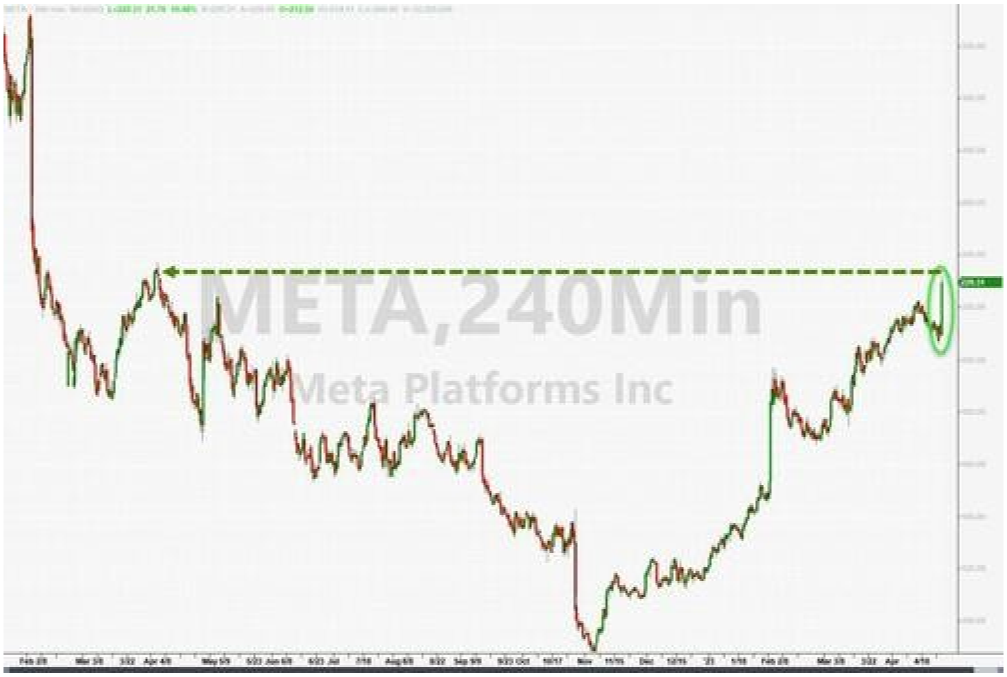
Surprisingly, given the significant layoffs that have been announced, **headcount was 77,114 as of March 31, 2023, a decrease of 1% year-over-year.**

Substantially all employees impacted by the layoff announced in November 2022 are no longer reflected in our reported headcount as of March 31, 2023.

Further, the employees that would be impacted by the 2023 layoffs are included in our reported headcount as of March 31, 2023.

So layoffs affected 13% of staff.. but the total headcount is down only 1% - that's a lot of hiring and firing in one year.

Meta shares are up 10% on the day now, at their highest since early April 2022...



Perhaps of most note, ***the word “metaverse” doesn’t appear until the boilerplate “forward looking statements” section at the bottom.***

Here is the full META earnings presentation (pdf link).

Journal, pretty sure it’s referring to how markets have been held up by AI news. Everything else has been weak otherwise: **zh premium article**

On The Verge Of Collapse: "Market Breadth Is Weakest Ever" JPM Finds, With Stock Leadership Narrowest On Record

"The market cap of the largest 10 stocks relative to S&P 500 is at a 96%ile (!) relative to history....Last quarter’s performance was led by the narrowest leadership ever in an up market."

Journal, media, stats, narrative: Duke Prof Calls For $14 Trillion In Reparations For Black Americans

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 26, 2023 - 01:45 PM

Via The College Fix,

A Duke University professor of economics **called for $14 trillion in reparations for the descendants of American slavery** this past week, which equates to approximately $350,000 per recipient.

Appearing on the “Dr. Phil” show, William Darity said **cash reparations should be designed to reduce the wealth gap between white and black Americans,** which currently stands “in excess of $840,000 per household,” according to Fox News.

As for where that prodigious amount of money would come from, Darity said the feds.

“It would be paid by the federal government in the same way in which the federal government has met the expenses that were paid out for the purposes of trying to deal with the great recession and also, most recently, with the economic downturn associated with the great pandemic,” Darity said.

The professor previously estimated that a total of $10 to $12 trillion would be necessary for reparations.

Darity, who also is a professor of public policy and African/African American Studies, responded to Dr. Phil’s worries about financial mismanagement by noting no one ever worries about that when it comes to payments to other communities.

Phil had said that “from a psychological perspective that if you take $350,000 or $840,000, and you write a check to any group of people […] and say, ‘There you go. Best of luck.’ You come back in six months. They’re going to be broke.”

As part of his point, Phil pointed to how much money was squandered during the COVID pandemic.

From the story:

“There is a substantial history of the United States government providing financial assets to white citizens, when it did not provide similar assets to Black citizens. Let’s go back to the period in which there was a promise made of 40 acre land grants to Black Americans,” [Darity] added. “At the same time, when that promise was not fulfilled, the U.S. government gave one and a half million White families in the United States 160 acre land grants in the western territories, under the Homestead Act of 1860. …

Political writer Joshua Ferguson responded, “First of all, the U.S. government doesn’t have money. All of their money comes from taxes. To say you’re not going to take it from people today, you’re right. You’re going to take it from future generations. That’s what’s going to happen.”

Author and civil rights activist Bob Woodson also criticized the plan, “I cannot think of any group of people who have been made wealthy by just transferring money to them.”

According to his faculty page, Darity was the founding director of Duke’s Research Network on Racial and Ethnic Inequality.

Amazon.com says that “From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the 21st Century,” Darity’s most recent book, “makes the most comprehensive case to date for economic reparations for U.S. descendants of slavery.”

In early 2021, Darity was one of several researchers who claimed slavery reparations would have reduced the number of black COVID deaths during the pandemic.

journal, this man should be fired: (In my entire life, I don’t think that Ive ever felt so angered by a news story.
He's a professor at duke university, one of the most prestigious universities in America. That such ignorance would exist in such a high ranking academic is truly shocking. All I can think is, “how could this even exist?”; and in America, not like, senegal or Beirut--America. Its enraging to me. 14 trillion? And hes serious….

Duke Prof Calls For $14 Trillion In Reparations For Black Americans

Bud Light Suffers "Staggering" Sales Decline As Boycott Intensifies

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 26, 2023 - 01:25 PM

New Bud Light sales data shows a "staggering" decline after the brewer attempted to position itself as the ~~king~~ queen of "woke" beers with the help of a transgender TikTok influencer partnership.

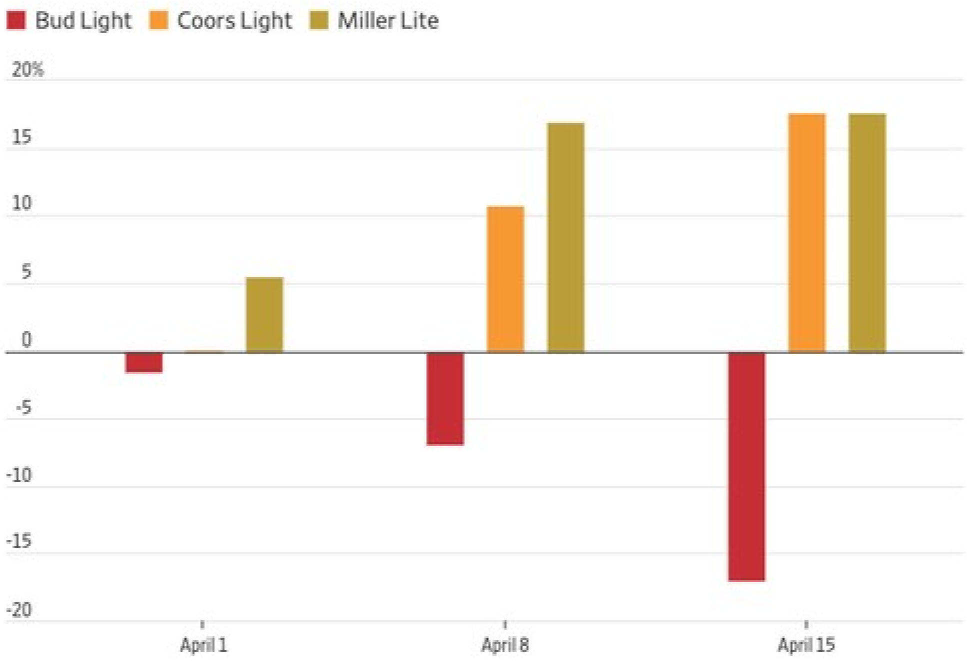
According to the New York Post, data from NielsenIQ and Bump Williams Consulting reveals a significant decline in Bud Light sales for the week ending on April 15, with a 17% plunge in revenue and a 21% slide in volume.

For the week ending April 8, the seven days following trans-TikTok influencer Dylan Mulvaney promoting Bud Light on April 1, sales fell 6%, and volume sank 11%.

__"These numbers are staggering__ ... and right now this is an __extremely difficult scenario for Anheuser Busch__, the Bud Light brand, and for AB distributors," according to an Insights Express report published on April 23, which focuses on the beer industry.

Meanwhile, the boycott of Bud Light has sent Coors Light and Miller Lite's sales surging, suggesting consumers' deep opposition to Bud Light's marketing mishap.

Recall on April 2. We were the first to report *"Did Bud Light Go 'Woke' With Trans-TikTok Star? Boycott Calls Intensify."*



Weekly retail-store dollar sales in the U.S., change from a year earlier*

*For the week ended each date
Sources: Analysis of Nielsen data by Bump Williams Consulting

Additional data from BeerBoard, a tech company that monitors 3,000 locations, such as Buffalo Wild Wings, TGI Fridays, and Hooters, found Bud Light pours were 6% lower than other light lagers from April 2 to April 15.

Bud Light made a series of moves late last week following the backlash and increasing boycott calls for its products. Alissa Heinerscheid, the vice president of marketing for Bud Light, was forced to take a leave of absence. Another top exec, Daniel Blake, is also stepping aside.

Fox News said Anheuser Busch hired consultants with experience in Washington, DC's conservative circles in an attempt to stop the hemorrhaging of sales.

Former Anheuser-Busch exec Anson Frericks told co-host Will Cain on "Fox & Friends Weekend" on Sunday that the brewer is seeking to restore its conservative base might be a "wrong bet" because many diehard drinkers won't forget the Mulvaney TikTok marketing blunder.

"That's the bet they're making. I think that's the wrong bet to make. And I think now is the time to go back and, for companies like Anheuser-Busch, to say that, 'Hey, moving forward for brands like Bud Light, we're not going to be political. We're not going to get involved in the environmental social governance movement because that's not what the customer wants,'" Frericks said.

Coors Light and Miller Lite are the biggest beneficiaries of Bud Light going super woke. Companies should avoid involving themselves in political matters.

Energy, government, china, sanctions, tech: Tesla's Base Model Y Is Now $759 Cheaper Than The Average New Vehicle In The US

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 26, 2023 - 12:45 PM

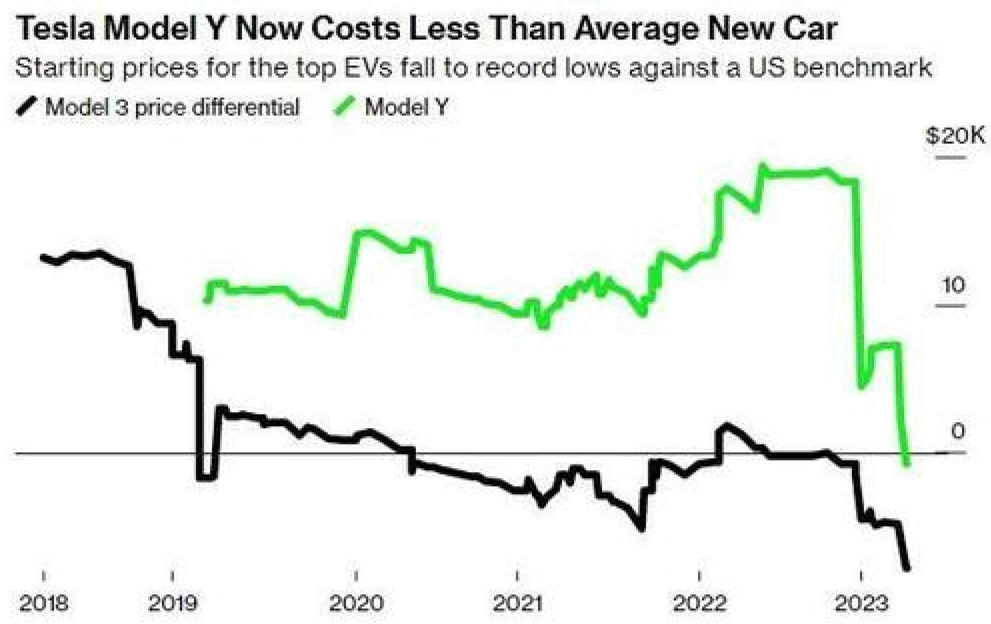
Tesla's latest round of price cuts on its Model Y - putting the base model of the crossover vehicle at $46,990 - has made the vehicle cheaper than the average new vehicle in the U.S.

In fact, it's now about $759 cheaper than the average price tag on any given car or truck, according to Bloomberg. The Model Y was the best selling EV in the U.S. last year, the report notes, stating about Tesla's price cuts:

"No carmaker has made such a dramatic a reduction to a high-volume vehicle in the modern age of the automobile."

Tesla is continuing what seems to be a completely schizophrenic pricing strategy, with reports out late last week that the automaker had raised the price of its Model X and Model S vehicles just hours after missing margin estimates on its earnings report.

The Model S Plaid and Model X Plaid now cost $107,490 from $104,990 earlier, Reuters reported last week. They also said the regular Model X is at $97,940, which marks about a 2.6% rise, and the Model S is at $87,490, marking a rise of about 2.9%.



Censorship, government, inflation, crypto: 'Rich Dad, Poor Dad' Author Warns "Dystopian" CBDCs Will Allow Government To Track All Purchases

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 26, 2023 - 12:25 PM

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News,

Rich Dad Poor Dad author Robert Kiyosaki has warned that the launch of "dystopian" CBDCs will allow the federal government to track all purchases.

Planet, inflation, media: Canadian Government Report Unveils Anti-Capitalist Agenda

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 25, 2023 - 06:05 PM

Authored by Mark Jeftovic via BombThrower.com,

Health Canada demands collectivism and an end to capitalism to fight climate change

"The hopes expressed by participants encompassed such a vision of collectivism"

*"there are 3 core values in western society, and for that matter, in global society, **that have to change**. **One core value is about growth** and materialism. **The second core value is liberty and individualism**, **which has to be rethought because the kind of individualism that is preached by neoliberals is part of the problem. It advances the individual over the collective**… it leads to a huge number of problems, and **it undermines the collective process***

"If we don't address capitalism, if we don't address colonialism, racism, the patriarchy, et cetera, we're going to tread water for a long time until we eventually drown …"

- excerpts from "Perspectives on Climate Change and Public Health in Canada"

Prologue: Merrickville, Ontario, 2007

It was called "The 3E Initiative".

A series of interviews followed by a meeting of members from Canada's Laurentian Elite that took place in Merrickville, Ontario in 2007. The agenda was figuring out a path for transitioning the country onto a climate change footing.

The pre-meeting interviewees and meeting participants comprised a who’s who of Canadian dynastic wealth, corporate power, politics – and media. They transcended party boundaries: Former Prime Minister Joe Clark, Justin Trudeau bagman Stephen Bronfman, Patrick Daniel (Enbridge), Stéphane Dion, former Quebec premiere Pierre Marc Johnson, WE Charity co-founder Mark Kielburger, the list goes on.

We can see in these “Strictly Confidential” memos (which are openly linked from a UCLA law professor’s web page) how Canada’s elite ruminated about the lack of action on climate change, and how untenable the required societal mobilization would be in a democracy:

“It is impossible to have real conservation in a democracy! What is needed is a benevolent dictator—globally, and in Canada.”

During the proceedings…

“…many speakers express a longing for an authoritative decision process that somehow takes the issue out of the political arena. Some express this as the need for a “benign dictator;”

Fast forward a quarter century, and it appears as though the core tenets of what the UCLA team called the “Canada Low Carbon Project” are no longer submarine policy initiatives but are now official state canon of Canada.

As noted in the National Post last week, Canada’s Public Health Agency released their core takeaways on the state of public health in Canada.

Government, markets, inflation, censorship: **Alphabet Surges On Across The Board Beat, Solid Google Cloud Results; New $70BN Stock Buyback**

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 25, 2023 - 05:31 PM

Moments after Microsoft reported solid earnings that beat on the top and bottom line, Alphabet - "Probably the most debated stock within the mega-cap universe " - followed suit and not only beat across the board, but more importantly demonstrated that the search advertising business is so far weathering the economic downturn and the alleged ChatGPT "competitive threats" from the likes of Microsoft's Bing.

Here is what the bank reported moments ago for Q1:

- Revenue $69.79BN, up 3% YoY, and ***beating*** est. $68.99BN
- Revenue Ex-TAC $58.07BN, ***beating*** est. $56.99BN
- Operating income $17.42BN, ***beating*** est. $16.19BN
- EPS $1.17, down from $1.23 YoY and ***beating*** est. $1.09

Narrative, media, health, government, censorship: **FDA: Vaccines Don’t Have To Prevent Infection Or Transmission**

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, APR 25, 2023 - 04:55 PM

Authored by Zachary Steieber via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Vaccines don’t have to prevent infection or transmission to be cleared in the United States, the country’s top regulatory agency said in a new document.

“It is important to note that FDA’s authorization and licensure standards for vaccines do not require demonstration of the prevention of infection or transmission,” Dr. Peter Marks, a top official at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), said in the document.

Marks was writing as he rejected nearly all recommendations from a group of experts that advised the FDA to update the labels for the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.

Vaccines are traditionally known as drugs that prevent an illness. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for years said a vaccine is a product that “produces immunity” while vaccination is an injection of an infectious organism “in order to prevent the disease.” The agency changed its definitions after people correctly noted that COVID-19 vaccines do not prevent infection.

The Coalition Advocating for Adequately Labeled Medicines, a group of experts, had called for the FDA to make clear that the COVID-19 vaccines don’t prevent infection or transmission.

“**There is a widespread (but inaccurate) notion that efficacy against infection and transmission have been established by substantial evidence**, and that these vaccines contribute to herd immunity,” the group said, pointing to claims from President Joe Biden, the head of the CDC, and Dr. Anthony Fauci that vaccinated people would not get sick or infected.

Biden, for instance, falsely said in 2021 that “you’re not going to get COVID if you have these vaccinations.”

“To remedy this situation, language clarifying that phase III trials were not designed to determine and failed to provide substantial evidence of vaccine efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 transmission or death must be added to labels,” the coalition said. SARS-CoV-2 causes COVID-19.

While it’s uncommon to include in product labeling what a product has not been proven to do, there are cases where it’s necessary due to inaccurate assumptions, the coalition said. They pointed to the FDA stating that the influenza medicine Tamiflu “has not been shown to previous serious complications of influenza” after the drug’s manufacturer said it reduced complications by nearly half.

Marks rejected the request, writing that the petitioners included “selected statements by U.S government officials suggesting that vaccination against COVID-19 may prevent infection or transmission” but omitted statements from Fauci and others that later acknowledged vaccines don’t prevent infection or transmission.

“In responding to your Petition, we are not agreeing or disagreeing with any of the statements that are selected in the Petition,” Marks said. “Rather, we are observing that the statements referenced by the Petition do not demonstrate a commonly held belief that the clinical trials provided substantial evidence of efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 transmission. We are not convinced that there is any widespread misconception about this.”

The head of the CDC, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, is among those maintaining to the present day **that the vaccines at one point completely prevented transmission and symptomatic illness.**

Trial data showed high efficacy against symptomatic illness but not 100 percent efficacy. Real-world data has shown lower effectiveness. The trials were not designed to measure transmission, the FDA has said in various documents.

*Read more **here...***

Stats, journal, war: Norway’s capital Oslo is banning Israeli settlement goods and services

The news from Norway followed an announcement on 25 April that the Belgian city of Liège has voted to end all ties with Israel citing its regime of “apartheid, colonization, and military occupation” against Palestinians. Liège now joins Oslo and Barcelona municipalities in ending complicity in Israel’s grave human rights violations.

(can’t find source link)

Journal, war, sanctions, holy roman empire: Belgian city jumps on the bandwagon of suspending ties with 'Israel'

- ByAl Mayadeen English
- Source: Agencies
- 25 Apr 23:41
- 3 Shares

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Liège is the latest city in Europe to suspend ties with "Israel" in solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

- People demonstrating in solidarity with the Palestinians in Brussels (*AFP*)

In yet another BDS victory, the Belgian city of Liège has voted to suspend its ties with "Israel" protesting its regime of “apartheid, colonization, and military occupation” against Palestinians.

Tech, planet, journal, stats: Ghost Particle: A Neutron That Could Solve The Mystery Of Existence

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 24, 2023 - 10:40 PM

Authored by Sumaya Hazarika via The Epoch Times,

“Truly the universe is full of ghosts, not sheeted churchyards specters, but the inextinguishable elements of individual life, which having once been, can never die, though they blend and change, and change again forever.”

- H. Rider Haggard

When we think about the universe, it simply seems vast with boundless space filled with large and minute particles unknown to human beings. Undoubtedly, there is a lot that we have come to understand about our planet, the universe, and also ourselves, but what if everything we know is only a fraction of the vastness that is the universe?

The study of “ghost particles,” or neutrinos, must make scientists feel the same way. We know everything and nothing at the same time. The ultimate paradox.

A neutrino, as the name suggests, is electrically neutral and a fundamental particle, which means it is not composed of other particles like electrons, quarks, antiquarks, etc. Because of its small mass (earlier considered to be zero), neutrinos have a very weak gravitational interaction making it able to pass through normal matter unimpeded and undetected.

Multi-wavelength compilation image of Kepler’s supernova remnant, SN 1604. (NASA/wikimedia)

They are the most abundant particles in the universe that least interact with any other matter.

To think about it, we are living in a world of countless trillions of neutrinos that can pass through us like we don’t exist. The combination of this ghostly presence and the important role they play in our universe is what’s captivating our physicists.

Proposed in 1930 and later verified in 1950, a neutrino is a cosmic mystery to scientists (pdf) even decades after its discovery, as to:

How much mass do they have? How many varieties of neutrinos exist? Do they have any magnetic properties? Are neutrinos their own antiparticles (antimatter)?

In their latest book, physicist Alan Chodos and science journalist James Riordon explore this perplexing particle.

“Ghost Particle: in search of the elusive and mysterious Neutrino” (2023) discusses the particle’s past and current discoveries, while they suggest it’s not just physicists who await those answers.

Riordon says “neutrinos are incredibly important both for understanding the universe and our existence in it.” In simpler words, neutrinos can reveal how matter evolved from simple particles into more complex ones, creating everything around us.

Are Neutrinos Their Own Antiparticles?

Every single property discovery of neutrinos has been baffling and also intriguing for our researchers, the biggest being, whether the ghost particle is its own antimatter.

If we are to believe in the Big Bang theory, the explosion should have created equal amounts of matter and antimatter, i.e the counterparts of electrons, protons and so on. Essentially, when matter and antimatter come into contact, they annihilate each other suggesting that our universe should be empty, but, evidently, that’s not the case. In contrast, the universe is filled with a lot of matter and a little antimatter, for reasons unknown.

Physicists are still trying to understand the manner in which neutrinos interact with other particles, which is a challenge, as the particle has neutral charge with very low mass.

Why Are Ghost Particles a Topic of Interest?

The same property of neutrinos that makes them difficult to detect, i.e their weak interaction with surrounding particles, interests physicists, as this feature can be useful in probing environments that other radiations such as light or radio waves cannot penetrate.

Another important role of a neutrino is in observation of supernovas, a luminous explosion of massive stars.

The core collapse phase of a supernova is highly energetic, and so dense that no known particle is able to escape its core front, except for neutrinos.

Neutrinos also have a crucial part to play in the research of “dark matter.” Its significance in probing cosmological phenomena is considered exceptional, and is thus a major focus of research in astrophysics.

History, journal, holy roman empire: french revolution created new

calendar, changing the gregorian calendar that had existed for centuries, if i remember correctly

the calendar of the French Revolution | France (abelard.org)

Stats, media, war, Russia: Watch: Russia Launches Video Campaign Calling For 'Real Men' To Fight In Ukraine

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, APR 20, 2023 - 06:20 PM

The Russian military is on a recruitment blitz at a moment the advance of its ground forces in Ukraine is mostly stalled - though at least 80% of the strategic city of Bakhmut is now said to be in Russian hands. If completely captured, it's expected to mark a major turning-point in the war.

President Putin has yet to order anymore military mobilization or drafts since last September's 'partial mobilization' - which saw as many as 300,000 reservists called up, and which proved to be deeply unpopular given the many thousands of young men that fled the country. But now the Kremlin is looking for more professional soldiers to fight in Ukraine on a voluntary basis, and toward that end has launched a new recruitment initiative based on **a video ad campaign which is gaining widespread attention**.

АРМИЯ РОССИИ
ПОБЕДА КУЁТСЯ В ОГНЕ

War, journal, Russia, Erdogan: Stoltenberg Visits Kiev In 1st Since War's Start, Stresses Ukraine Belongs In NATO

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, APR 20, 2023 - 03:25 PM

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has visited Ukraine for the first time since Russia invaded over a year ago, confirming in a tweet that he met with President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Stoltenberg further said that Ukraine should be in NATO. "**Ukraine's rightful place is in NATO, and over time our support will help to make this possible**. We stand by you today and for the long haul," the NATO chief said.

ootage of the visit via the Ukrainian presidency's office:

This visit of Jens Stoltenberg is the 1st since the full-scale war, being a sign of a new chapter in NATO-Ukraine relations.
Source: Volodymyr Zelenskyy pic.twitter.com/jpdNPUvep7

— UkraineWorld (@ukraine_world) April 20, 2023

For example when earlier this month Finland was formally inducted into the alliance at a ceremony in Brussels, Stoltenberg said the following:

*He added that Kyiv can win the war and **become a full-fledged NATO member one day**.*

*Responding to the Kyiv Independent at a news conference, Stoltenberg said that "NATO's position remains unchanged and that **Ukraine will become a member of the alliance**."*

*NATO's long-time leader emphasized that the "main focus" now is to ensure that Ukraine remains a sovereign, independent nation in Europe. "The first step toward any membership of Ukraine to NATO is **to ensure that Ukraine prevails**, and that is why the U.S. and its partners have provided unprecedented support for Ukraine," he added.*

Censorship, planet, war, government: TikTok To Censor Content That Challenges Global Warming Dogma

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, APR 20, 2023 - 01:45 PM

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News,

Another manifestation of the censorship-industrial complex is being entrenched as TikTok announced it would begin directly censoring videos that dispute man-made climate change.

"They're obviously just copying these policies straight from Google/YouTube," writes Chris Menahan.

"As a Chinese company, TikTok is responding to "market incentives" — which in this case is the US government threatening to ban them entirely."

Germany, Europe, Russia, war, erdogan: Massive Protest Sees Demonstrators Call For Czech Government's Resignation

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, APR 20, 2023 - 03:00 AM

Authored by Robert Semonsen via EuropeanConservative.com,

Amid mounting economic woes, thousands of flag-waving Czechs filled Prague's iconic Wenceslas Square on Sunday afternoon to demand the resignation of the country's five-party coalition government, with many urging peace in Ukraine and for the Czech Republic to leave NATO.

Organized by the new non-parliamentary party Law, Respect, Expertise (PRO), the rally, the second of its kind to take place in just over a month, saw thousands of people—under the banner "against poverty"—gather in the capital city's main square, before walking to the Straka Academy, the seat of the government, the online newspaper *iDNES* reports.

Protesters, most of whom accuse Prime Minister Petr Fiala's center-Right government of being overly concerned with Ukraine while neglecting the needs of Czechs, were seen carrying banners with the words ***"Away with NATO," "No war," and "Lying government and media."***

"We are here to stand up for our country and for our Czech Republic. We want to take down the five-coalition Fiala government with a non-violent civil protest," Jindrich Rajchl, a lawyer who serves as the head of the PRO party, said at the beginning of his speech.

"Collect the last remnants of your honor, realize that you are not up to [the task], and resign," he said, referring to Fiala's government.

Rajchl, the main organizer of the event, **called Czech Defense Minister Jana Cernochova "the biggest security risk for our country"** due to her pro-war stance. Rajchl rejected claims that he and his party are pro-Russian.

Protesters like Renata Urbanova, who traveled to Prague from the southern city of Pisek, told the press that Fiala's government is "full of warmongers" and complained that their policies are "making [Czechs] suffer." She complained that "energy is too expensive and so is food."

Since the onset of the war in February 2022, Fiala's government has been among the European Union's most fervent proponents of the collective West's sanctions against Russia, despite the serious damage they have inflicted on the Czech economy. Additionally, the Czech government is among the top providers of military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, and has taken in massive amounts of refugees, both of which place a further strain on the country's economy.

Having granted temporary protection to some 400,000 Ukrainian refugees—with its relatively small population of 10.5 million—the Czech Republic hosts the most Ukrainian refugees per capita in the world. The country's inflation rates are among the highest in the European Union, registering at 17.5%, 16.7%, and 15%, in the first three months of this year, respectively.

Narrative, media, vaccine: "The Dollar Is Really In Trouble" - Charles Nenner Warns "30% Of Global Population Will Die In Next War Cycle"

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 19, 2023 - 04:00 PM

Via Greg Hunter's USAWatchdog.com,

Renowned geopolitical and financial cycle expert Charles Nenner has been warning his war cycles are going up. Nenner also predicted a few years back that, at some point, the U.S. dollar cycle would be headed down—way down.

The future is here, and Nenner explains, “We have known each other for many years, and I said the dollar is going to hold up, but not anymore, not anymore..."

" ***It is really in trouble. There is actually no reason to be in the dollar.*** *They especially underestimate this BRICS situation, and all the countries will be forming an anti-dollar. . . . Saudi Arabia is coming onboard, and that means the end of the dollar as the reserve currency.”*

Nenner says his cycles see, “The dollar going down to 70 on the dollar index.” It’s a bit over 100 now, but it gets worse. Nenner points out,

“I don’t want people to get depressed, but I am really worried. If the U.S. does not rule the world any more... They think they can still tell the world what to do.

Physically, the Americans are in danger, and they don’t seem to understand that...The economy is really going to suffer*.*

 If the dollar goes really low, we could have a small bounce in the economy because it’s good for exports.

That’s just a fooling bounce for people. Longer term, it’s just finished.*”*

Nenner says the signs are clear in the cycle that:

“America is at the end of empire... The United States is going backwards, and it is not number one anymore.”

On the war cycle, Nenner has been forecasting a huge loss of life coming. Nenner is predicting:

“**30% of the people on Earth will die in the next war cycle. . . . We are like at the end of civilization of the United States.** It’s not that we are all going to drop dead, but it’s the end of civilization. The same issues that finished other countries like bad education, too many outstanding loans and people will become too lazy to really do hard work. That usually means the end of an empire.”

Nenner also talks about the top in the real estate market and why commercial and residential are on their way down for a long time.

Nenner also **talks about a “coming Great Depression style crash” in the no-so-distant future.** Nenner also brought up that **big banks are contacting him to consult on buying physical gold because “they want to survive what is coming.”**

Nenner says big banks are building their own vaults to make sure governments do not confiscate their yellow metal.

Nenner gives a sign to look for when the economy is going into a recession that has a 100% track record.

Finally, Nenner predicts,

"We are going to have a bad dollar. That usually means people are going to dump their securities...

If you have China and Russia dumping their U.S. bonds, you are going to have a problem.

What I see on my cycle is...The rates that went up stop in June... ***I am getting very worried because there might be a run for safety.****"*

Nenner is worried about war, and not just in Ukraine. Nenner is looking at war in Taiwan, South Korea, and the Middle East with Iran. Nenner says,

"I think you could have all these wars at the same time. . . . It's endless possibilities. . . . I think they will all act at the same time. Wouldn't you? You are waiting for the right moment, and if the United states get weaker and busy. . . .   That's the time to do whatever you want."

Nenner points out, ***"Warren Buffett sold most of his Taiwan semiconductor manufacturing shares last week."***

There is much more in the 37- minute interview.

Join Greg Hunter of USAWatchdog.com as he goes One-on-One with renowned cycle analyst and financial expert Charles Nenner. (4.18.23)

Narrative, media, vaccine: Some Americans Shouldn't Get Another COVID-19 Vaccine Shot, FDA Says

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 19, 2023 - 01:30 PM

Authored by Zachary Steiber via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Some Americans cannot receive another COVID-19 vaccine dose, U.S. regulators said on April 18, as they made sweeping changes to the vaccine system.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the changes, including replacing the old Pfizer and Moderna vaccines with updated bivalent shots that had previously only been available as boosters.

Stats, media, censorship, journal: Canadian Broadcasting Corp said they're 'less than 70% government-funded'

https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/canadas-cbc-says-twitter-not-serious-after-69-government-funded-media-label-2023-04-18/

Journal, censorship, government: Hilarious article about Canada from zh

Massive Strike Hits Canada As Inflation Discontent Spreads Around The World

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 19, 2023 - 12:50 PM

The mushroom cloud of central bank monetary destruction keeps growing, and is increasingly fueling discontent among workers whose standards of living are eroding along with the purchasing power of their wages.

Europe has already seen a wave of strikes aimed at securing inflation-offsetting pay raises. Now it's Canada's turn: At midnight, **more than 155,000 Canadian federal government workers went on strike in what's being described as the largest walkout against a single employer in the country's history.**

The strike was called by **the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) union, which has been in negotiations for a new contract since 2021.** This strike primarily encompasses two groups of federal employees: 120,000 at the Treasury Board and 35,000 at the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Union reps for the Treasury Board employees have been asking for a 13.5% pay hike over three years. **The CRA staffers want an immediate 9% raise *and* 20.5% over three years**. The PSAC also wants the government to curtail contract work and make remote work more broadly and uniformly available.

The most hilarious PSAC demand? In what has to make many of its members groan with dread, the union is demanding ***more*** **anti-racism training.**

“We truly hoped we wouldn’t be forced to take strike action, but we’ve exhausted every other avenue to reach a fair contract,” said PSAC President Chris Aylward on Tuesday evening. **The union has ordered members to show up at picket locations -- or else** be hit with union fines and the loss of strike pay and member privileges.

The strike makes for dicey politics for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose government has increased the ranks of public employees by more than 33% since 2015. The labor-aligned New Democratic Party is a key backer of Trudeau's ruling coalition, but disruption of services to Canadian citizens and markets is likely to fuel public ire.

At the same time, the strike also promises spillover effects across the Canadian economy, as it may inspire more strikes against private employers.

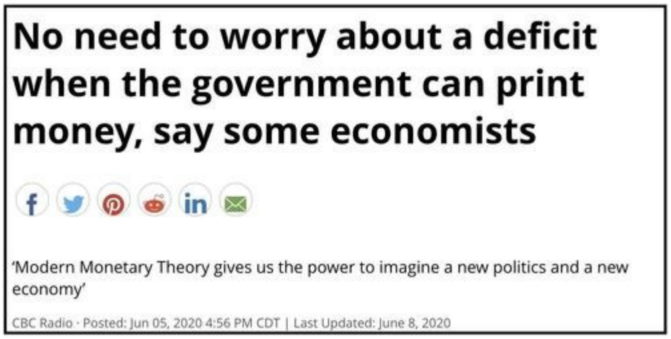
Since government workers are among the first to receive newly-created money -- and thus, in accordance with the Cantillon effect, among the principal beneficiaries of central bank inflation -- **there's something darkly amusing about seeing government staffers lead Canada's rebellion against the ongoing loss of purchasing power**.

Though "idle federal employees" may sound like a redundancy, **the strike promises to affect individual Canadians in a variety of ways,** to include tax refunds and filing guidance ahead of the May 1 deadline, and slowed or halted processing of applications for passports and veterans benefits.

About 47,000 of the employees included in the strike are considered "essential" to the safety or security of the public, and will report to work. **The union requirement for members to show up at picket locations raises a challenge** for the legions of employees who were hired mid-pandemic, have always worked remotely -- often from rural locations -- and have no office to picket.

The walkout will involve two-thirds of the Canadian Grain Commission's employees, and a majority of grain-export inspectors. Watch for a ripple in markets for wheat and canola -- two of Canada's principal agricultural exports.

While the Bank of Canada helped set the stage for the inflation-fueled strike, a spokesman told *Bloomberg* that the strike won't materially affect its operations. That is to say, **the money printer will keep going *brrrr*.**



No need to worry about a deficit when the government can print money, say some economists

'Modern Monetary Theory gives us the power to imagine a new politics and a new economy'

CBC Radio · Posted: Jun 05, 2020 4:56 PM CDT | Last Updated: June 8, 2020

Stats, media, government, latin America: “illegal coca plant cultivation in South America reached a new high in 2021, increasing sharply by 35 percent from 2020.”

Cocaine Cultivation Reaches New High In 2021

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 19, 2023 - 05:15 AM

According to a recently released report by the UN, illegal coca plant cultivation in South America reached a new high in 2021, increasing sharply by 35 percent from 2020.

Energy, war, pipeline: Germany Closes Its Last Nuclear Power

Plants - Electricity Bills To Spike Up To 45%

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 19, 2023 - 03:45 AM

One might say that the timing could not be worse for the implementation of "net zero" climate goals given the already boiling economic instability across the western world. Then again, maybe the timing is perfect for the people in power?

With stagflation still running rampant in the US and Europe the last thing anyone should be worried about is a less than 1°C rise in global temperatures in the past 100 years. There is no concrete evidence of any significant climate crisis, and all the people who tell us a crisis is right around the corner do so while raking in billions in funding dollars from governments and think-tank institutions with a vested interest in reinforcing the hysteria. In other words, there is no basis for exponential restrictions on "greenhouse gas" emissions. The climate crisis claim is a sham.

When the policies of the climate cult are examined with a clear head, it becomes obvious that saving the planet is not a primary concern. Rather, the purpose of the agenda is to increase power to government bureaucracies on a level not seen since the feudal empires of centuries past. Get ready for the return of the peasant lifestyle...

Inflation, government, housing: California's 'Dream For All' Home Down Payment Program Ran Out Of Money In 12 Days

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, APR 18, 2023 - 11:05 PM

Authored by Travis Gillmore via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Demand for California’s new downpayment assistance program overwhelmed the system and depleted its $300 million budget in less than 12 days, with applications put on pause effective April 7, according to the housing finance agency.

Censorship, government, journal: Elon Musk Says US Government Had Access To Private Twitter DMs

Saudi foreign minister meets Syria’s Assad in Damascus | Politics News | Al Jazeera

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, APR 18, 2023 - 05:44 AM

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News,

During an upcoming appearance on Tucker Carlson’s show, Elon Musk reveals that the US government had full access to people’s private Twitter DMs.

…… Matt Taibbi characterized the cozy relationship between the social media network, NGOs and the US government as the “censorship-industrial complex.”

According to Taibbi, the system worked as “a bureaucracy willing to sacrifice factual truth in service of broader narrative objectives,” acting as an insult to the principles of a free press.

Crypto, markets, inflation, sanctions: London Stock Exchange Says It'll Clear Crypto Trades, Services are expected to go live in Q4 2023

https://www.lch.com/resources/press-releases/lch-sa-provide-clearing-services-bitcoin-index-derivatives-gfo-x

Censorship: Michigan State University Language Police Warn Of Offensive Words Like 'America', 'Female,' 'Wreaths'

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, APR 17, 2023 - 01:20 PM

Submitted by Mark Pellin via Headline USA (emphasis ours),

"The origins of seemingly innocuous idioms or words may be racist, sexist or ableist in nature," the guide claimed, dinging phrases and words like **"hold the fort," "cake walk," "bonkers," "addict," "founder" and "America" as examples of bigoted language.**

America, the guide instructed, should be referred to as the "United States."

Words deemed offensive for "Indigenous stereotyping and colonial language" included "tribe," "low man on the totem pole," "powwow," "sitting Indian style," "bury the hatchet," "on the warpath," "shaman," "rain dance," "savage," "barbarian," "off the reservation," "spirit animal," "scalped," "peace pipe," "hold down the fort," "frontier."

The term Spartan, the university's mascot, escaped the purge.

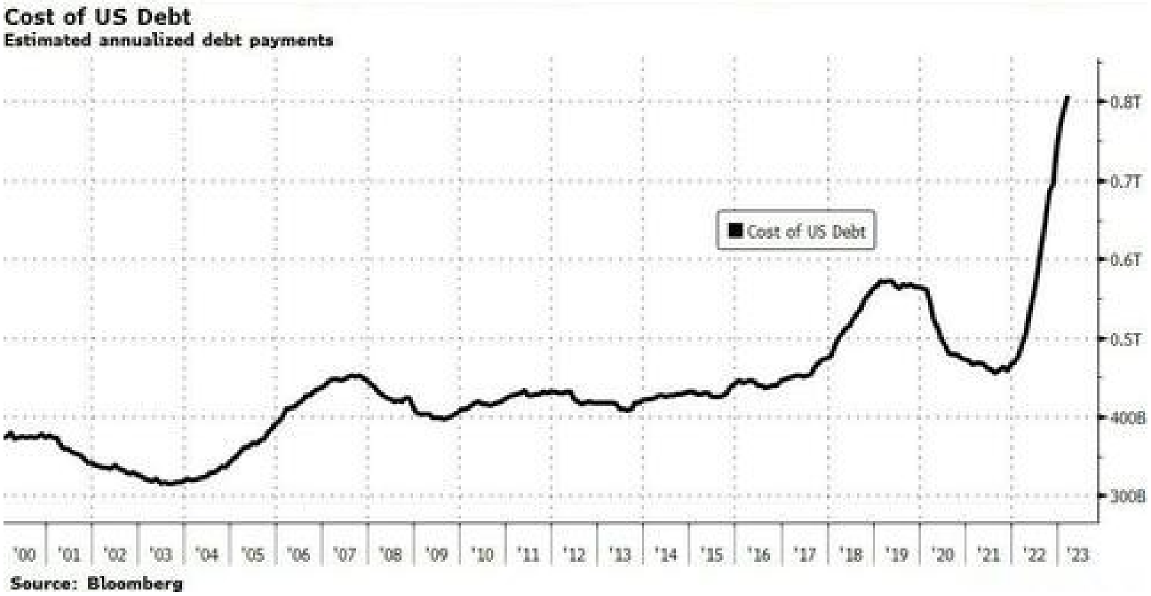
"**Don't use the shorthand 'POC' for people of color, 'BIPOC' for Black, Indigenous and people of color or 'QTBIPOC' for queer, transgender, Black, Indigenous and people of color unless in a direct quote**; when used, explain it," the guide instructed. "These are vague terms that may unintentionally leave out race and ethnicity groups or create hierarchy."

Stats, inflation, markets, government, journal: US Annualized Debt Costs Exceed $800 Billion

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 17, 2023 - 10:00 AM

Authored by Mark Cudmore, Bloomberg macro strategist,

It's a very different situation now. *US debt is above 120% of GDP and, far more importantly, the estimated annualized payments to service that debt rose to $773b, as of the end of January. Even more worryingly, they are rising at an almost parabolic rate due to what's happening to yields -- that number is has risen by more than $300b in just a year!*



Cost of US Debt
Estimated annualized debt payments

Source: Bloomberg

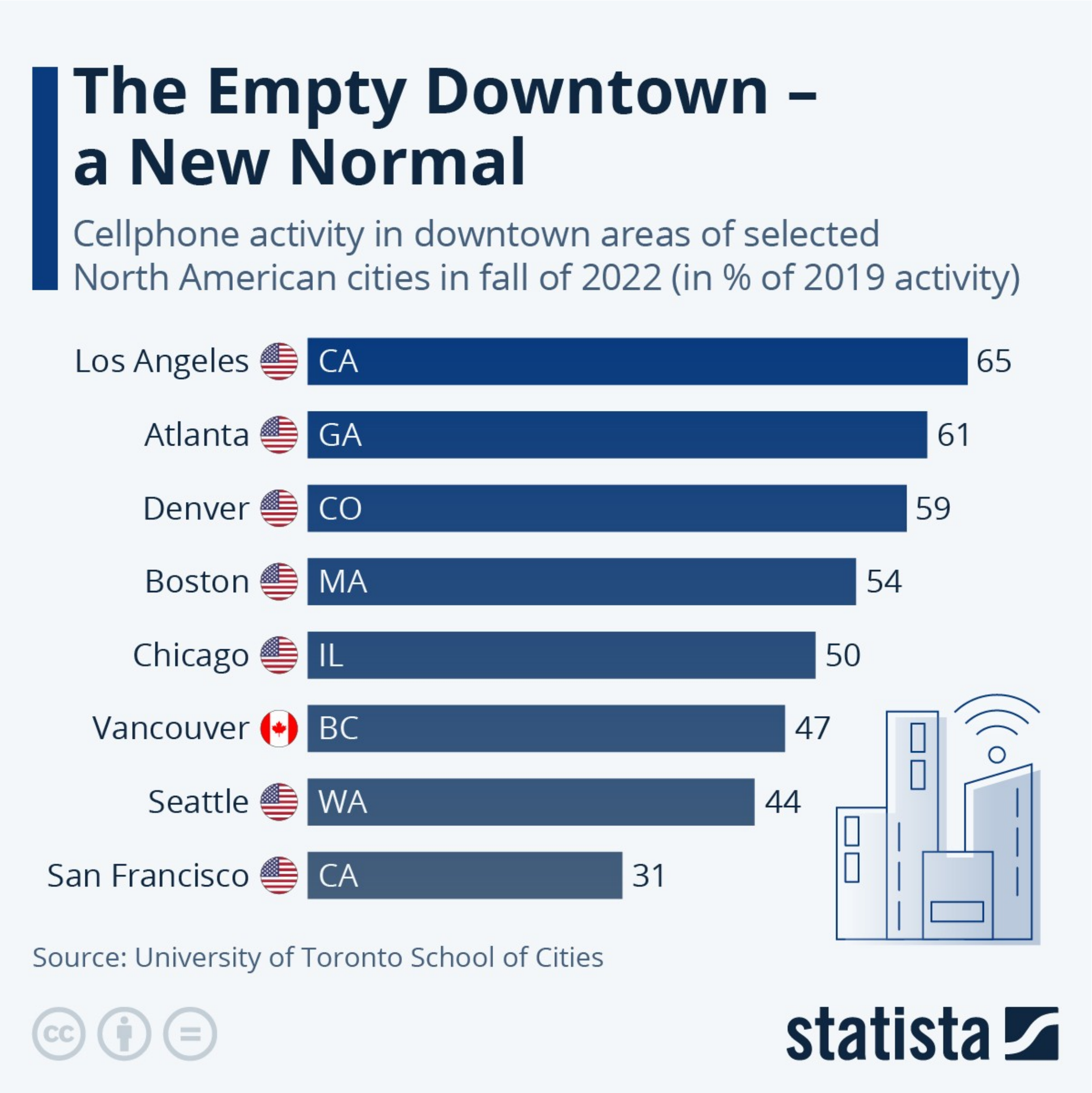
Stats, media, ai, vaccine, journal, inflation, house: The Empty Downtown - A New Normal?

BY TYLER DURDEN

SUNDAY, APR 16, 2023 - 02:00 PM

Three years after the coronavirus pandemic began, **the situation of North American downtowns remains fundamentally changed**.

As Statista's Katharina Buchholz reports below, while most people's lives have returned to normal, the legacies of the lockdown era continue to affect formerly bustling city centers to a point that could cause a downwards spiral.


The Empty Downtown – a New Normal

Cellphone activity in downtown areas of selected North American cities in fall of 2022 (in % of 2019 activity)

Source: University of Toronto School of Cities

According to reporting from the San Francisco Chronicle, at home in the most affected city in the analysis, **it all started with workers that did not return to downtown offices after the pandemic ebbed, instead preferring (and convincing their employers) to work fully remote, either from a cheaper suburb or from outside of any urban center.** This is causing vacant office blocks, decreasing ridership on public transport and less money spent on lunchtime or after-work activities, decreasing business revenue and in turn, the cities' tax income.

Europe, sanctions, markets, government, journal: EU Condemns 'Unilateral' Ban On Ukrainian Grain By Poland & Hungary

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 17, 2023 - 06:45 AM

This weekend Poland and Hungary both took the drastic step of banning Ukrainian grain and other food product imports after cheap goods have flooded both countries.

The Polish prime minister’s office called the drastic action a necessary measure **"to protect the Polish agricultural market against destabilization."** Hungarian Agriculture Minister István Nagy also announced a temporary ban on import of grain and oil seeds, along with other foods, which he said is needed "in the absence of meaningful EU measures."

Migrant, Europe, erdogan: Italy's Meloni Declares 'State Of Emergency' As Illegal Immigration Quadruples

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 17, 2023 - 03:00 AM

Authored by John Cody via Remix News,

Italy could see up to 50,000 migrants arriving a month if current trends hold...

According to the Italian Interior Ministry, the most common countries of origin for illegal immigrants are Ivory Coast (17 percent), Guinea (13 percent), Pakistan (11 percent), Egypt and Tunisia (8 percent each), Bangladesh (7 percent), Cameroon (5 percent) and Syria (4 percent). Another 22 percent are from other countries or have unclear status.

Stats, government, markets: In 2022, the global bond market totaled $133 trillion.

These Are The Largest Bond Markets In The World

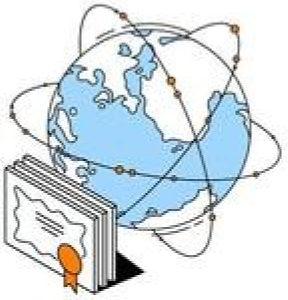
BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 16, 2023 - 11:00 PM

In 2022, the global bond market totaled **$133 trillion**.

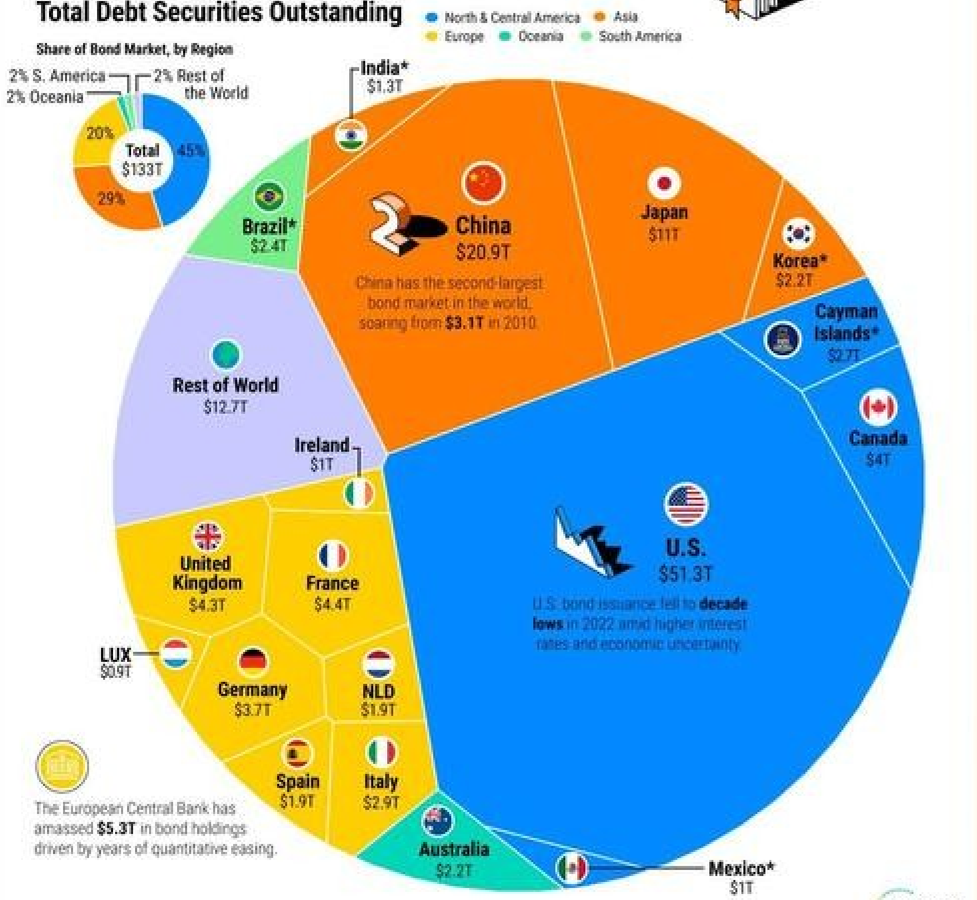
As one of the world's largest capital markets, debt securities have grown sevenfold over the last 40 years. As Visual Capitalists Dorothy Neufeld details below, government and corporate debt sales across major economies and emerging markets have fueled this dramatic growth. Over the last three years, China's bond market has grown 13% annually.

The Global Bond Market

Together, the U.S. and China make up **55%** of the global bond market. We show the largest bond markets in the world based on data from the Bank for International Settlements.



Total Debt Securities Outstanding



China has the second-largest bond market in the world, soaring from **$3.1T** in 2010.

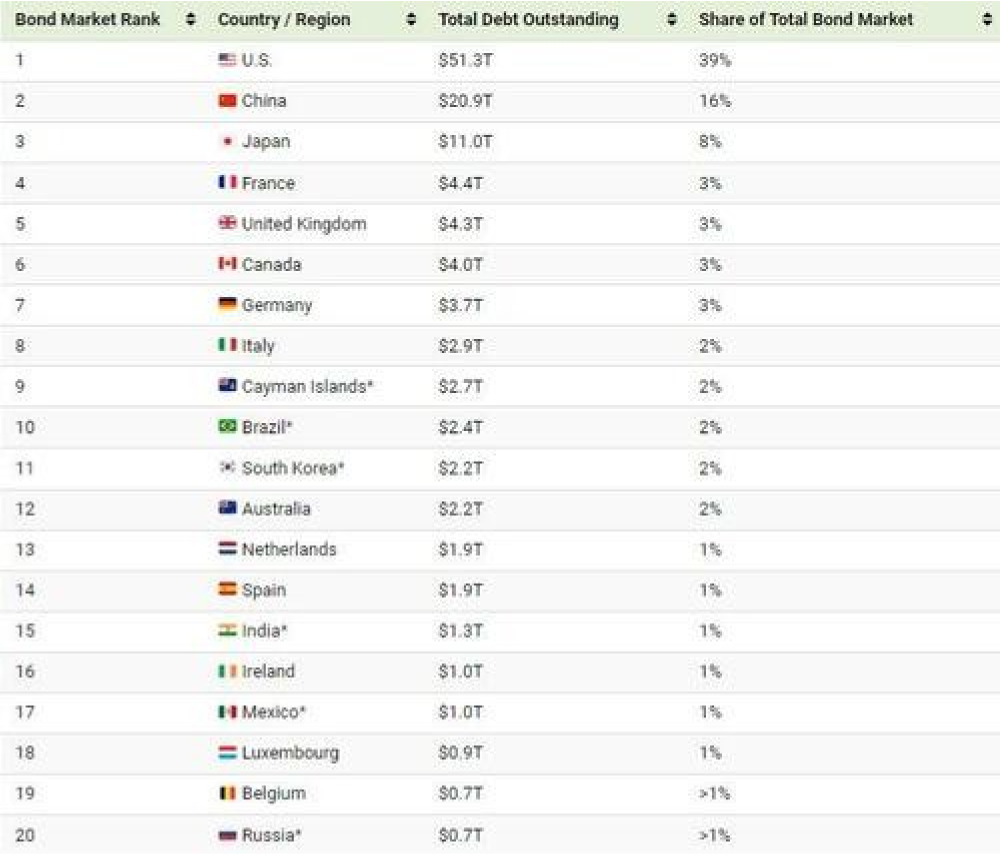
U.S. bond issuance fell to **decade lows** in 2022 amid higher interest rates and economic uncertainty.

The European Central Bank has amassed **$5.3T** in bond holdings driven by years of quantitative easing.

*Represent countries where total debt securities were not reported by national authorities. These figures are the sum of domestic debt securities reported by national authorities and/or international debt securities compiled by BIS. Data as of Q3 2022. Source: BIS, Reuters, Eastspring Investments.

MARKETS IN A MINUTE

VISUAL CAPITALIST RESEARCH + WRITING Dorothy Neufeld | DESIGN VC



Bond Market Rank	Country / Region	Total Debt Outstanding	Share of Total Bond Market
1	U.S.	$51.3T	39%
2	China	$20.9T	16%
3	Japan	$11.0T	8%
4	France	$4.4T	3%
5	United Kingdom	$4.3T	3%
6	Canada	$4.0T	3%
7	Germany	$3.7T	3%
8	Italy	$2.9T	2%
9	Cayman Islands*	$2.7T	2%
10	Brazil*	$2.4T	2%
11	South Korea*	$2.2T	2%
12	Australia	$2.2T	2%
13	Netherlands	$1.9T	1%
14	Spain	$1.9T	1%
15	India*	$1.3T	1%
16	Ireland	$1.0T	1%
17	Mexico*	$1.0T	1%
18	Luxembourg	$0.9T	1%
19	Belgium	$0.7T	>1%
20	Russia*	$0.7T	>1%

Is Free Speech Killing Us? FDA Commissioner Declares "Misinformation" A Medical Risk

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 16, 2023 - 10:30 PM

Authored by Jonathan Turley,

Last year, we discussed the declaration of WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus that censorship was needed to combat what he called the “infodemic.” It was a jarring position given the censorship of experts and scientists who have now been vindicated in raising questions over mask protection to natural immunities to school closings to the origins of Covid 19. Nevertheless, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Robert Califf added his own voice to call for censorship. Califf declared that life expectancy rates are being suppressed due to “misinformation.” His call for action against ill-defined “disinformation” or “misinformation” is being echoed throughout the Biden Administration.

In a CNBC interview, Califf lashed out at “health misinformation” which he said was one of his top priorities to address through “specific authorities at FDA, FTC and other areas.”

Califf noted:

“You think about the impact of a single person reaching a billion people on the internet all over the world, we just weren’t prepared for that. We don’t have societal rules that are adjudicating it quite right, and I think it’s impacting our health in very detrimental ways.”

He does not elaborate on what would be those “societal rules” for “adjudication” of access to information. However, it holds a familiar ring for free speech advocates.

In recent months, the Twitter Files revealed an extensive and secret effort by the FBI and other agencies to censor citizens on social media. I testified on that effort. New emails uncovered in the ongoing *Missouri v. Biden* litigation reportedly show that the Biden Administration’s censorship efforts extended to Facebook to censor private communications on its WhatsApp messaging service.

We also know of backchannel communications with the CDC and other agencies.

As officials like Califf call for continued crackdowns, there is no recognition of how the government worked to silence opposing views that have been vindicated in recent months.

For years, scientists faced censorship for even raising the lab theory as a possible explanation for the virus. Their reputations and careers were shredded by a media flash mob. The Washington Post declared this a “debunked” coronavirus “conspiracy theory.” The New York Times’ Science and Health reporter Apoorva Mandavilli was calling any mention of the lab theory “racist.”

When a Chinese researcher told Fox News that this was man-made, the network was attacked and the left-leaning *PolitiFact* slammed her a “pants on fire rating.”

The mask mandate and other pandemic measures like the closing of schools are now cited as fueling emotional and developmental problems in children.
The closing of schools and businesses was challenged by some critics as

unnecessary. Many of those critics were also censored. It now appears that they may have been right. Many countries did not close schools and did not experience increases in Covid. However, we are now facing alarming drops in testing scores and alarming rises in medical illness among the young.

The point is only that there were countervailing indicators on mask efficacy and a basis to question the mandates. Yet, there was no real debate because of the censorship supported by many Democratic leaders in social media. To question such mandates was declared a public health threat and what the WHO called our "infodemic."

A lawsuit was filed by Missouri and Louisiana and joined by leading experts, including Drs. Jayanta Bhattacharya (Stanford University) and Martin Kulldorff (Harvard University). Bhattacharya previously objected to the suspension of Dr. Clare Craig after she raised concerns about Pfizer trial documents. Those doctors were the co-authors of the Great Barrington Declaration, which advocated for a more focused Covid response that targeted the most vulnerable population rather than widespread lockdowns and mandates. Many are now questioning the efficacy and cost of the massive lockdown as well as the real value of masks or the rejection of natural immunities as an alternative to vaccination. Yet, these experts and others were attacked for such views just a year ago. Some found themselves censored on social media for challenging claims of Dr. Fauci and others.

The media has quietly acknowledged the science questioning mask efficacy and school closures without addressing its own role in attacking those who raised these objections.

What is most striking about Califf's comments is the failure to address how censorship in the last three years may have increased public health risks by suppressing opposing or dissenting scientific views. Indeed, just this week, a new British study came out directly refuting CDC guidance on masks and suggesting that, while not appreciably reducing the risk of serious Covid symptoms, masks may have caused health problems. Other studies have rejected the mask efficacy argument though this remains a matter of intense debate.

The point is that there is now a debate after social media companies allowed people to discuss these views and the media is no longer labelling dissenters as conspiracists or racists.

Before we continue to make these government efforts a top priority, we should have a public debate over the means used to combat

misinformation and what constitutes misinformation. That should start with a full investigation of past government efforts to censor or blacklist individuals or groups.

Media, stats: All Hell Breaks Out In Chicago As Hundreds Of Teenagers Wreak Havoc

BY TYLER DURDEN

SUNDAY, APR 16, 2023 - 08:00 PM

A trend of lawlessness has unfolded in cities run by progressive leaders this spring. The latest incident occurred on Saturday night in Downtown Chicago, where hundreds of teenagers wreaked havoc by smashing car windows and destroying public and private property. They also attempted to enter Millennium Park, which prompted a significant police response. There was even a shooting that resulted in multiple injuries.

FOX 32 Chicago reported massive crowds of teenagers that unleashed chaos in the downtown district last night. Besides the rogue kids smashing and breaking anything in their sight, there were reports of shots fired and two teenagers wounded by gunfire near the corner of Madison and Michigan.

Even FOX 32 said the chaos last night was "unsafe to keep our news crew on the scene." There was even footage of kids jumping on top of a bus.

Africa, war: Sudan: All-Out War Erupts In Clash Of Rival Military Forces - Casualties Mount

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 16, 2023 - 08:35 AM

Smoldering tensions between rival armed forces erupted into all-out warfare in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum on Saturday, leaving at least 50 dead and 600 injured. What began as a peaceful clash over Sudan's political future is now a war for control of Africa's third-largest country .

The battles pit **the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)** led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan against **the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** of General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo -- who's also known as Hemedti and has served as Burhan's deputy head of state.

The two generals united in a 2021 coup to take shared control of the country. However, recent months have seen mounting tensions between the SAF and RSF, as the generals have clashing positions in negotiations for the establishment of civilian government -- something the country's been trying to achieve since a 2019 revolution overthrew the 30-year reign of President Omar al-Bashir.

To say things have soured among the two former allies would be a major understatement: After fighting erupted, **Hemedti has reportedly said that "Burhan will be captured or he will die like a dog."** Meanwhile, in a gesture that seems comically empty given the state of affairs, Burhan issued a decree commanding the RSF to disband.

War, Russia, china, planet: Stunning Satellite Images Show Rare "Superbloom" Blanketing California's Hillsides

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 15, 2023 - 10:00 PM

After a deluge of atmospheric rivers that dumped 78 trillion gallons of water on California, effectively ending a severe multi-year drought within several months, a rare superbloom has emerged in the state's southern region across hillsides, and it's even visible from space.

CBS News reported new photos via NASA's Landsat 9 satellite show a rare wildflower superbloom in Southern California after years of drought. The wet conditions spurred the germination of flower seeds all at once, leading to large swaths of land covered in various colors.

The rare desert botanical phenomenon has captured the attention of Southern California residents. Many have taken day trips to see the colorful hillsides.

Although severe drought conditions have largely subsided and wildflowers blanket the hillsides, this abundance of vegetation could potentially serve as fuel for fires when drought conditions reemerge.

Censorship, government: SEC Sides With Conservatives Over Launching PayPal Discrimination Probe

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 15, 2023 - 04:30 PM

Authored by Kevin Stocklin via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) sided with conservative investors this week in their request to investigate what they say is **PayPal’s systematic political and religious discrimination against customers.**

Journal: Wagner Chief Calls On Putin To Declare End Of War, "Gain Firm Foothold" On Held Territories

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 15, 2023 - 01:00 PM

Head of Russia's most prominent mercenary firm Wagner Group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, has issued an unexpected call for the Kremlin to **declare an end of the war in order to consolidate territory already gained**.

A Friday statement by Prigozhin released by his press service suggested it's time to declare 'victory' and to focus on fully establishing Russian control over the occupied territories of Ukraine.

"For the authorities [of the Russian Federation – ed.] and for society as a whole, **it is necessary to put some kind of bold full stop in the 'special military operation'**," the Wagner chief said [emphasis ours].

War, Russia, Europe, pipeline: Finland Unveils 1st Section Of Russian Border Fence After Joining NATO

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 15, 2023 - 12:00 PM

Following Finland's April 4th entry into NATO, the Scandinavian country has this week unveiled completion of its first section of a 200-km long border fence with Russia.

The nearly half-billion dollar fence is expected to be completed by 2026, and is topped with barbed wire and has a height of three meters (or nearly 10-feet tall).

Media, crypto: Cash App Founder's Death Sprang From Dispute Over Suspect's Sister: Court Docs

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 15, 2023 - 09:45 AM

The murder of Cash App creator Bob Lee on a dark San Francisco street sprang from **trouble between Lee and accused killer Nima Momeni -- who was agitated over Lee's socializing with Momeni's sister.**

This and other new alleged details emerged Friday afternoon with the filing of a motion to detain Momeni without bail, which summarized the initial findings of the investigation into Lee's death by stabbing at around 2:30 am on April 4.

According to his LinkedIn profile, Momeni is an "IT consultant/entrepreneur." **His sister, Khazar Elyassnia, is married to a prominent San Francisco plastic surgeon**, Dino Elyassnia.

Germany, Europe, Russia, china, war: Germany Approves Poland's Request To Send 5 Fighter Jets To Ukraine

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 15, 2023 - 09:10 AM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com, The German government has approved Poland’s request to export five Soviet-made MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine that **originally came from Berlin’s stockpile**.

Poland and Slovakia have already delivered some MiG-29s to Ukraine, making them the first NATO countries to provide Kyiv with fighter jets, an escalation of military support that German Chancellor Olaf Scholz previously warned against.

War, china: Japanese PM Evacuated After Blast Rocks Campaign Event

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 15, 2023 - 08:35 AM

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was evacuated from a campaign appearance after a man threw what's believed to be a smoke bomb. The incident happened at around 11:40 am local time, just as Kishida was about to begin speaking in support of his ruling party's candidate in a local election.

The event, at the Saikazaki fishing marina in Wakayama prefecture, was **rocked by a loud "boom" that sent spectators scrambling and screaming.**

The scare comes **less than a year after Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated** by a man wielding a crude, homemade shotgun, stunning the nation and causing a scandal over the security failure.

China, government, media, stats, journal: China's 'M&A King' Bao Fan Vanished, Rocking Country’s Financial Sector

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 15, 2023 - 12:00 AM

Authored by Shawn Lin and Olivia Li via The Epoch Times *(emphasis ours),*

China’s “M&A King” Bao Fan has been missing for over 50 days, sending shockwaves throughout the country’s financial and political circles.

On April 3, China Renaissance Group, the company Bao founded, announced a trading halt, suspending trading from 9:00 am that day. The release of its annual performance report for 2022 has also been deferred as the auditors cannot issue an audit report in Bao’s absence.

Bao is the company’s chairman, executive director, chief executive officer, and controlling shareholder.

On Feb. 16, the company’s board of directors announced that **they had been unable to contact Bao**, and on Feb. 26, they revealed that he was “cooperating” with authorities’ investigations.

If we take Feb. 16 as the starting date, Bao has been missing for over 50 days.

Journal, stats, media: Sex Toys, Cotton Candy, Red Piano: Influencers Write Off Ridiculous Items

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 14, 2023 - 10:20 PM

Becoming a successful social media influencer is one of the biggest dreams among the younger generation. As millions of influencers create content across various social media platforms, an inevitable challenge arises: explaining their expenses to both tax preparers and the Internal Revenue Service.

According to a recent Adobe Inc. report, 14 million people in the US generate income by posting content on social media. Many of these folks are purchasing some of the most outrageous items for content creation.

WSJ spoke with influencer Ali Spagnola, who has been compiling receipts for thousands of dollars worth of supplies, including 15,000 Lego pieces, 40 pounds of cotton candy sugar, and a red baby grand piano.

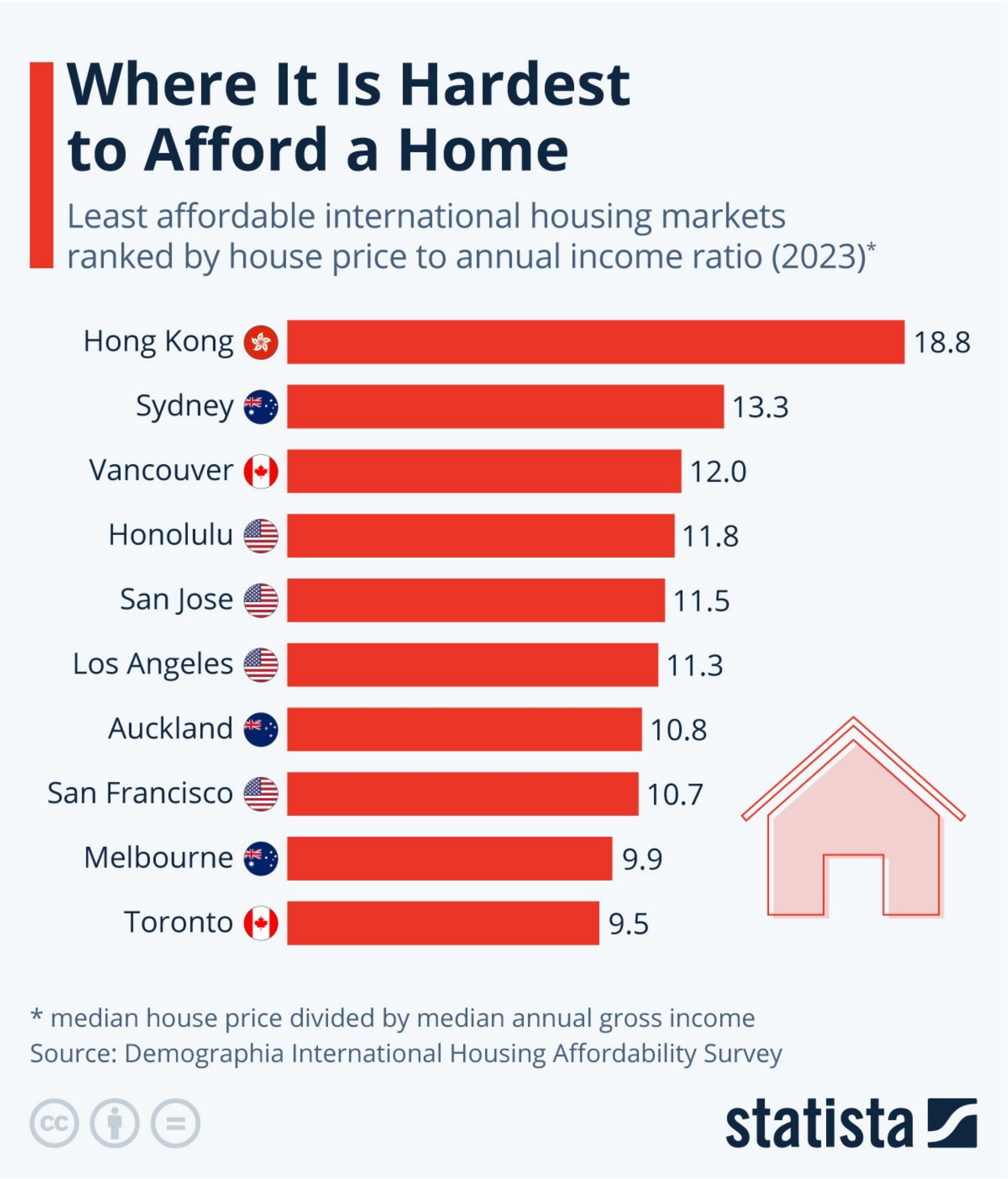
Stats: Where It's Hardest To Afford A Home

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 14, 2023 - 09:40 PM

Big cities like Hong Kong or Los Angeles are well-known for their expensive real estate markets.

But, as Statista's Katharina Buchholz notes, there are also a lot of housing markets you wouldn’t necessarily expect among the least affordable – that includes several in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

According to the 2023 International Housing Affordability Survey by Demographia, **three out of the 10 least affordable housing markets are in Australia and New Zealand, two are in Canada and four more are located in the United States**.



Energy, sanctions: Russian Oil Now Trades Consistently Above $60: Will

The West Pretend Its Sanctions Are Still In Force

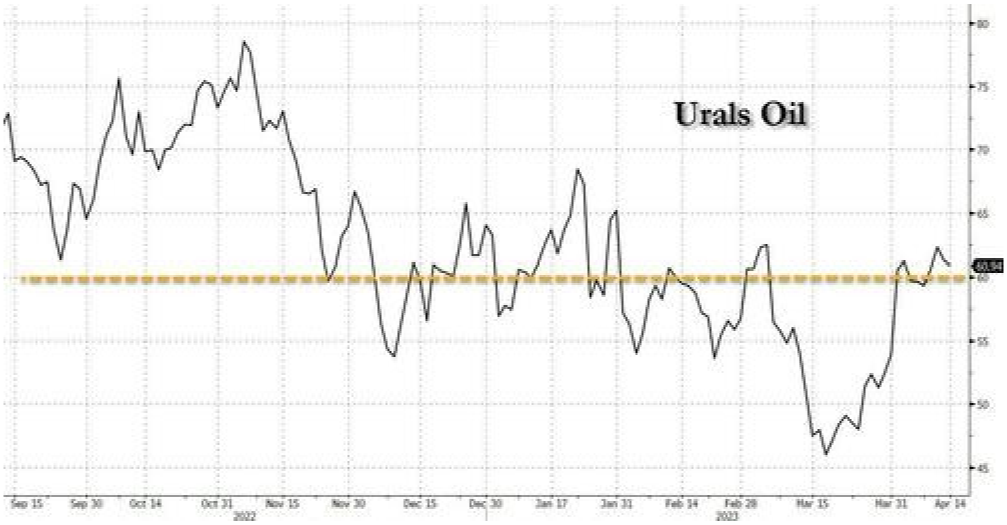
BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, APR 14, 2023 - 01:00 PM

Two weeks ago, in the aftermath of the surprise Saudi/OPEC production cut which took out well over 1 million barrels in supply from the market and sent the price of oil sharply higher, we warned that with Russian Urals oil about to rise above the western price cap threshold of $60, any further increases in its price mean that virtually everyone in the anti-Russian west would be cutoff from Putin's oil if they were to follow the imposed sanctions (and not be exempted from them like, say, Japan).

Fast forward to today when Bloomberg's Alaric Nightingale confirms that the average price of Russian oil has — effectively for the first time — risen above a cap that was imposed by the G-7 industrialized nations.

The International Energy Agency, upon whose data the G-7 relies when reviewing the threshold, said in its monthly oil-market report earlier on Friday that **Russian oil has been above the cap level of $60 a barrel since April 5.** Its numbers are based on three-day rolling averages, weighted by volumes of barrels shipped.



The cap was imposed on Dec. 5 and, in theory, that level was exceeded at around that time, the IEA’s data show.

However, the reason for the spike back then was a brief slump in loadings of Urals, Russia’s flagship grade. That artificially skewed the average because Urals is cheaper than other Russian varieties of oil.

The increase in price above $60 means both that the cap is starting to fail and also shows that traders, buyers and shippers are getting increasingly more comfortable with handling Russian barrels and **flouting western sanctions.** It also demonstrates that a large and surprising cut in oil output by members of the OPEC+ producer alliance boosted the prices that Russian barrels are fetching (just as Russia and OPEC+ intended).

Journal, china, war, Europe: Polish PM Mocks Macron For Favoring 'Severing Ties' With US To Appease China

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 14, 2023 - 12:20 PM

It's been no secret that US and Poland ties, particularly on the level of military coordination, have greatly accelerated in recent years. This has been especially on display since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Poland's prime minister on Thursday lashed out at French President Emmanuel Macron's controversial China comments which came just after his visit with Xi Jinping. Mateusz Morawiecki openly mocked the French leader's call for European 'strategic autonomy', which included follow-up comments about not being **Washington's "vassals"**.

"**European autonomy sounds fancy, doesn't it?** But it means shifting the center of European gravity **towards China and severing the ties with the US**," Morawiecki said in response.

Censorship, government, media, journal (men produce testosterone in the testes. Testosterone is considered by the medical community to be an Anabolic, Androgenic Steroid (AAS)) : SFSU Athletic Director: "Common Mistake" To Think Men Have Physical Advantages Over Women

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, APR 13, 2023 - 06:00 PM

Authored by Dave Huber via The College Fix,

You have to hand it to San Francisco State University - they're ***really*** **trying**...

In the wake of swimmer and "Save Women's Sports" activist Riley Gaines' appearance at the school at which she was physically assaulted and essentially held hostage by an unruly crowd of political opponents, school officials and far-left activists would have you deny reality.

First, SFSU Vice President for Student Affairs Jamillah Moore sent out a **memo** **thanking activists for "peacefully" taking part in the anti-Gaines protest** ... and even called them "brave."

Then, the president of the SFSU student government said that ***Gaines*** **was at fault for her assault** and the screaming protesters due to her "hateful rhetoric." Indeed, Karina Zamora also pinned blame on the campus police for their "confrontational behavior."

Now, the SFSU athletic director has joined the fray saying she doesn't understand what Gaines' problem is in the first place — that **it's a "common mistake to believe people might have a competitive advantage due to their physical abilities."**

Stephanie Shrieve-Hawkins *(pictured)*, who according to her faculty page has "over 20 years of experience in collegiate athletics," said that ***"some athletes can see competition as an enhancer of negative thoughts against trans***

people, making some forget about other issues like inclusivity,” *Golden Gate Xpress* reports.

Censorship, war, Germany, pipeline: Hersh: CIA Knows Zelensky & Top Generals Are Skimming Hundreds Of Millions In US Aid

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, APR 13, 2023 - 05:20 PM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com,

On Wednesday, Investigative journalist Seymour Hersh published a report on Substack that **alleged the CIA was aware of widespread corruption** in Ukraine and the embezzlement of US aid.

The report said the Ukrainian government has been using US taxpayer money to purchase diesel from Russia to fuel its military. Hersh said Zelensky "has been buying the fuel from Russia, the country with which it, and Washington, are at war, and the Ukrainian president and many in his entourage have been **skimming untold millions from the American dollars earmarked for diesel fuel payments**."

Crypto, stats, media: Fellow Tech Executive Arrested In Stabbing Death Of Cash App Founder Bob Lee

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, APR 13, 2023 - 05:00 PM

A tech executive named Nima Momeni was **arrested by San Francisco police Thursday morning** in the April 4 killing of Cash App founder Bob Lee, after conducting an operation outside the city's borders, *Mission Local* reports.

Stats, planet, war: 'Once-In-A-Millennia' Rain Event Swamps South Florida

BY TYLER DURDEN

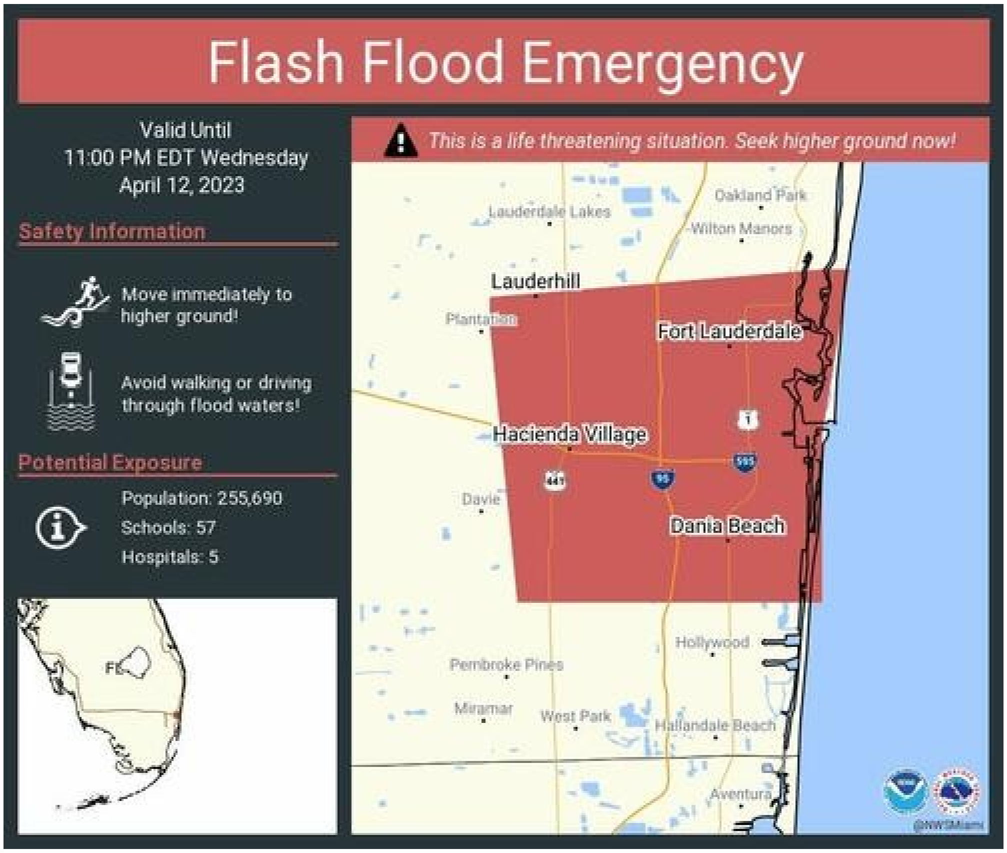
THURSDAY, APR 13, 2023 - 10:30 AM

Update (1152ET):

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport is flooded.

A 1-in-1,000-year rainfall event swamped South Florida Wednesday, flooding streets and even closing an airport. A flood warning remains in effect through Thursday morning.

According to the latest update from the National Weather Service office in Miami, between 14 and 20 inches of rain has been dumped on the Fort Lauderdale metro area since Wednesday afternoon.



Flash Flood Emergency

Valid Until
11:00 PM EDT Wednesday
April 12, 2023

Safety Information

Move immediately to higher ground!

Avoid walking or driving through flood waters!

Potential Exposure

Population: 255,690
Schools: 57
Hospitals: 5

This is a life threatening situation. Seek higher ground now!

Lauderdale Lakes
Oakland Park
Wilton Manors
Lauderhill
Plantation
Fort Lauderdale
1
Hacienda Village
441
95
595
Davie
Dania Beach
Hollywood
Pembroke Pines
Miramar
West Park
Hallandale Beach
Aventura
FL
@NWSMiami

"This amount of rain in a 24-hour period is incredibly rare for South Florida," NWS meteorologist Ana Torres-Vazquez told CNN.

Torres-Vazquez described the rain event as a "1-in-1,000-year event, or greater," implying the odds of happening in any given year are just .1%. She said the amount of rainfall in one day has been equivalent to a high-end hurricane.

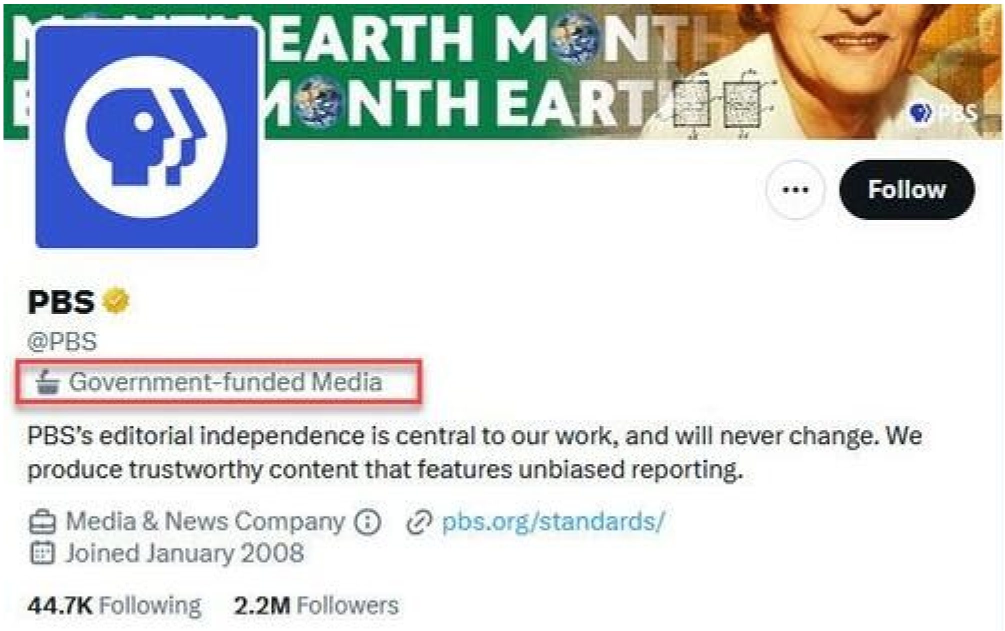
Hollywood Mayor Josh Levy told CNN the rain storm is the "most severe flooding that I've ever seen."

Censorship, media: Publicly Funded PBS Joins NPR In Quitting Twitter

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, APR 13, 2023 - 09:55 AM

First, it was the National Public Radio (or is that Ratio) that stormed off Twitter in a huff after being declared "government-funded media" (it says it right there in the company's title folks, *National* and *Public*) and now it is another ***Public (****as in* ***non-private)*** company that doesn't like being called out for what it is that has decided to make a dramatic exit stage left: the ***Public Broadcasting Service*** has followed National Public Radio in rage quitting Twitter after the social media network labeled both organizations as government-funded media.



PBS
@PBS
Government-funded Media

PBS's editorial independence is central to our work, and will never change. We produce trustworthy content that features unbiased reporting.

Media & News Company ⓘ pbs.org/standards/
Joined January 2008

44.7K Following **2.2M** Followers

“PBS stopped tweeting from our account when we learned of the change and we have no plans to resume at this time,” PBS spokesman Jason Phelps said in an email. “We are continuing to monitor the ever-changing situation closely.”

Government, inflation: Feds borrowing $6 billion per day, budget group says

(The Center Square) – The U.S. Congressional Budget Office said Monday the federal government has accumulated more than a trillion dollars in debt only six months into the fiscal year.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget released a report pointing out that those figures amount to an average of $6 billion per day so far in fiscal year 2023.

Feds borrowing $6 billion per day, budget group says | Washington Examiner

China, russia, war: Toxic Indiana Fire Will Spew Smoke, Soot, And Ash For Days; Officials Say

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 12, 2023 - 10:40 PM

Authored by Caden Pearson via The Epoch Times,

A “serious, large-scale” industrial fire spewing toxic smoke that forced the evacuation of more than 2,000 residents of Richmond, Indiana, on Tuesday will burn for several days, authorities say.

As of late Tuesday night, the blaze was under control and not expected to spread.

Government, censorship: Mayor Adams And NYPD Unveil Dystopian Robot Dog To Fight Crime

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, APR 12, 2023 - 10:20 PM

Mayor Eric Adams and the New York City Police Department have reintroduced the controversial robotic dog for surveillance patrols, and there's another surprise this time: an R2-D2-style robot. These robots are set to debut in Times Square, making this already bustling area of the city appear even more than dystopian ever.

According to local news ABC 7, Mayor Adams said Tuesday he is modernizing the NYPD with the latest technology to fight crime.

"We are scanning the globe to find technology that will assure this city is safe," the mayor said.

The return of the $74,000 Boston Dynamics' four-legged robotic dog called "Digidog" is set to assist the NYPD in investigating high-risk or hazardous incidents. Digidog first appeared on the streets in 2020 and was shelved months later after civil rights advocates called the technology 'aggressive policing.'

…….The introduction of these new technologies coincides with a rise in crime in New York City amid a worsening police shortage.

Stats, markets: Ken Griffin Donates $300 Million To Harvard

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, APR 12, 2023 - 09:40 PM

Citadel founder Ken Griffin is making a monster, $300 million donation to his alma mater, Harvard University. Griffin first started his hedge fund while at the university in his dormatory, Yahoo wrote this week, and the donation brings his total gifts to the school to over $500 million.

The school's 150-year-old Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) will be on the receiving end of the donation. The FAS oversees undergraduate and PhD programs, as well as athethics, museums and libraries, the report said. The FAS will be renamed the Harvard Kenneth C. Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the report says.

Harvard President Larry Bacow (pictured depositing the check below) said: "Ken's exceptional generosity and steadfast devotion enable excellence and opportunity at Harvard."

"Burned Alive:" Explosion Kills 18,000 Cows In Texas

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 12, 2023 - 09:00 PM

A dairy farm in Texas was rocked by a massive explosion that resulted in the deaths of thousands of cattle, reported local media outlet KFDA.

Fire crews in Dimmitt, Texas, responded to an explosion and fire that engulfed multiple building structures at South Fork Dairy on Monday evening. Reports suggest over 18,000 cattle were killed in the blaze.

Castro County Sheriff Sal Rivera said the fire resulted from an explosion that spread to the building where the cows are housed before bringing them into the milking area and holding pen.

KFDA quoted the Animal Welfare Institute, saying this is the deadliest barn fire in Texas since 2013.

"We hope the industry will remain focused on this issue and strongly encourage farms to adopt commonsense fire safety measures.

"It is hard to imagine anything worse than being burned alive," Margie Fishman, Public Relations Manager with AWF.

Videos of the explosion are absolutely shocking.

Add this explosion to the long list of unexplainable fires at food processing plants in the past 12 months.

War, china: All Eyes On Ukraine-Related Talk As Lula Arrives In China, But Trade To Dominate

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, APR 12, 2023 - 07:40 PM

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has arrived in China Wednesday where he's expected to meet with President Xi Jinping and **join Beijing's to push for peace in Ukraine**, which Washington officials have dismissed as an insincere and empty ploy (that is, Xi's 12-point peace plan), given Russia and China's political closeness of late.

Brazil is China's biggest trading partner, thus it could prove Lula's most consequential foreign trip of his presidency. The two leaders are expected to sign **at least 20 bilateral agreements** during Lula’s two-day stay - a trip that will also be watched closely in the West.

Inflation government:

FOMC Minutes Show Staff Expect 'Mild Recession', All Members Backed Continued QT, 25bps Hike

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, APR 12, 2023 - 03:55 PM

Summary (via Newsquawk):

March Meeting

- **Several** participants noted they considered whether it would be appropriate to **leave rates unchanged** at this meeting. However these participants noted actions taken helped calm conditions and lower near-term risks, allowing them to judge an increase as appropriate.

- **Prior to banking stresses many had seen the appropriate policy path as being somewhat higher** than in December.
- Pre-meeting data indicated slower than expected progress on inflation.
- Participants agreed there was **little evidence pointing to disinflation** for core services excluding housing.
- Participants assessed labor demand as substantially exceeding supply.

Europe, china, war: Macron Makes 'No Apology' For China Trip Comments As EU Leadership Warms To 'Anti-US' Message

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 12, 2023 - 12:05 PM

French President Emmanuel Macron's message of building "strategic autonomy" away from the United States - which to Washington's dismay he voiced loudly during his visit with Xi Jinping in China (at a very awkward moment too given Taiwan happenings) - is naturally gaining positive reception in Europe, where chair of the European Council Charles Michel hailed "a leap forward on strategic autonomy compared to several years ago."

But Macron has still created confusion and division among some European allies, particularly ones like Poland - who responded by saying "more America is needed in Europe" amid the Ukraine war. Despite his comments angering allies, but which were to the delight of Beijing (a "parting gift to Xi" as we noted), an Élysée official has stressed in the face of the controversy that President Macron **"makes no apology for what he's said"** during the China trip.

Journal, stats: perfect example of what goes wrong when nobody shows up to your auction: an immediate 30% reduction to your valuation.

Subway Sale Auction Draws Little Attention And Lower Valuation Than Expected

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 12, 2023 - 07:30 AM

Here's one surefire, time-tested economic indicator that assures an incoming recession: a planned auction of Subway sandwich shops, announced to be up for sale several weeks ago, isn't drawing in the bids that the chain expected.

The chain is now being valued at just $7 billion, far below the $10 billion it was originally looking for from the auction, according to the NY Post.

The company never set a deadline for a second round of bidding after a first round in February passed, the report says. Offer deadlines are being pushed back until later this month in order to "give suitors more time to conduct due diligence, according to sources close to the process", the report reads.

In other words, it appears that *no one is interested.*

And the large brands that would have normally been expected to participate in the offering - including names like Yum Brands, owner of Taco Bell and KFC; and Burger King owner Restaurant Brands International - aren't even participating in the sale, the report says.

Court, stats: Walmart Abandons Unprofitable Chicago Stores After

Investing "Hundreds Of Millions" In City

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, APR 12, 2023 - 06:48 AM

After two decades of losses and "hundreds of millions of dollars" invested in Chicago, **Walmart is shuttering four unprofitable stores in the metropolitan area**, reducing its store footprint by half in the crime-ridden city.

"The simplest explanation is that collectively our Chicago stores have not been profitable since we opened the first one nearly 17 years ago – these stores lose tens of millions of dollars a year, and their annual losses nearly doubled in just the last five years," Walmart wrote in a press release.

Indeed, Walmart has soured on Chicago - the Democratic stronghold that went from a once beautiful metro area into an absolute hellhole. According to Walmart, the decision came after considerable investment in the town.

Vaccine, narrative, media: 22-Year-Old National Guard Soldier Suffers Two Heart Attacks, Neurological Issues After Moderna Vax

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 11, 2023 - 07:20 PM

Authored by J.M. Phelps via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

A 22-year-old Army National Guard member has suffered an array of health issues—including two heart attacks that pushed her to the brink of death—after receiving two doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Karolina Stancik once considered herself “very healthy,” playing multiple sports from adolescence through early adulthood. At 21 years old, she chose to serve the country by joining the U.S. Army in February 2021.

“**We were told that it was going to be required and we should take it before we shipped out to basic training**,” she said, which was before Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin’s August 2021 announcement of the military vaccine mandate.

This messaging, according to Stancik, made the new recruits feel like, “You’re a bad person if you don’t get the vaccine, and you don’t care about the people around you.”

“As a young, new soldier, I and a lot of others around me, did what we were told,” Stancik said.

“We were too new to know all the rules and possible loopholes,” she added. “**I pretty much blindly took it because I didn’t know you could get exemptions” for medical or religious reasons.**

Stancik ended up taking the Moderna vaccine in March and April 2021; since then, “**life has been an uphill battle**,” she said.

First, came the breathing issues.

“**I was dealing with what doctors considered asthma at the time without a diagnosis, and I had never had any lung issues at any other point in my life**,” she said.

Stancik also experienced what felt like a cold or sinus infection, pressure in her head, and dizziness.

Next came a fever, as well as numbness and tingling throughout her body. But she was told by a doctor that these symptoms were normal.

At one point, her command threatened to accuse her of insubordination for not participating in physical training. However, “a doctor’s order kept me from getting in trouble with my command,” she said. The Epoch Times viewed that order, as well as other medical documentation and Stancik’s Army permanent medical profile, to corroborate her claims.

Problems with visual processing and what she described as neurological issues began in October 2021. These included numbness, tingling, stabbing pains throughout her body, loss of motor function, tremors, and more.

“**It all progressively got worse, and never stopped**,” Stancik said.

Vaccine, journal: Biden Signs Bill Formally Ending COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, APR 11, 2023 - 06:20 PM

Three years and one month after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Covid-19 outbreak a global pandemic, President Joe Biden on Monday **signed a bill which formally ends the public health emergency** in the United States.

> *Former President Donald Trump first issued a national emergency declaration regarding the coronavirus in March 2020, as the virus that was discovered in Wuhan, China, in late 2019 ripped through America.*
>
> ***The emergency was extended over and over, making it easier to expand health services and for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to mobilize personnel and fundin**g to help state governments combat the virus. But the American public is unlikely to see any major changes in their day-to-day lives from its termination. -Washington Times*

War, middle east: Egypt Secretly Planned To Send 40,000 Rockets To Russia: Leaked Doc

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 11, 2023 - 05:40 PM

Egypt is typically closely behind Israel in terms of countries receiving the highest amount of US foreign aid each year. For example a State Department fact sheet has reviewed that "Since 1978, the United States has provided Egypt with **over $50 billion in military and $30 billion in economic assistance**."

This is why the US administration was likely livid when it learned that Washington's ally, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, was **moving to ship tens of thousands of rockets to Russia** as the Kremlin executes its war in Ukraine.

Stats, censorship, tech: Musk Folds Twitter Into "X Corp" , Fueling Speculation Over 'Everything App'

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 11, 2023 - 03:40 PM

While there's been no official announcement, **Twitter owner Elon Musk has folded the social media giant into a newly formed shell company called "X Corp,"** fueling speculation that he's going to integrate his $44 billion acquisition into an "everything app" that could - similar to China's WeChat, include everything from payment processing, to booking events, to messaging.

Early Tuesday morning, Musk tweeted "X" - in what *Bloomberg* assumed was a direct reference to the move.

Stats, energy, war, pipeline: Leaked U.S. Intelligence Suggests Canadian Pipelines Targeted By Russian Hackers

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 11, 2023 - 03:20 PM

By Charles Kennedy of OilPrice.com

A leaked package of intelligence information from the Pentagon has suggested that Canada’s natural gas pipeline network may have been targeted by Russia-linked hackers, the Canadian Press has reported.

House, inflation government: “According to Scott Evans, EVP of Cross Country Mortgage, "The state of California can give up to 20% for a down payment and closing costs. It’s a 0% interest rate. The payments are deferred for the entire life of the loan," adding "**When you sell the property or refinance the loan, they take up to 20% of the appreciation. The homeowner gets to keep 80%**."”

California To Front 20% Down Payments With 0% Interest For Homebuyers With Incomes Up To $211,000

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 11, 2023 - 07:11 AM

California homebuyers making up to $211,000 annually **will be able to receive a 20% down payment, and all closing costs**, at a 0% interest rate.

While the state has long-offered homebuyer assistance through the state's Housing Finance Agency (Cal HFA), a new program, the California Dream For All Shared Appreciation Loan program will give the state a proportionate interest in the property they're helping with, according to *KPBS*.

That said, it's not an unlimited offer - as there is only $300 million available right now. With thousands of Californians anticipated to apply, it may not last long.

Stats, court, censorship, war: Baltimore Mayor Calls For Citywide Curfew After All Hell Breaks Out

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 11, 2023 - 06:44 AM

All hell broke out on Sunday night in Baltimore City's Inner Harbor district when gunshots were heard, causing hundreds of spring break youngsters to scatter through the streets. The mayhem, captured on video, resembled an apocalyptic scene. As a result, Mayor Brandon Scott has proposed a citywide curfew for minors during the upcoming summer months.

Baltimore City Police Commissioner Michael Harrison said more than 200 "young people" went running after gunfire rang out just 50 feet from police officers, according to Fox Baltimore. A 14yo and a 16yo suffered gunshot wounds.

Erdogan offers free gas pre-election after first Black Sea field shipment

Natural gas was first discovered in the Sakarya field off the coast of Zonguldak in 2020, and in Caycuma-1 field next to it last year, with total volume having since been estimated at 710 billion cubic metres (bcm).

Stats, inflation, government: Rutgers University Faculty Workers Strike For First Time In 257-Year History

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 10, 2023 - 11:40 PM

For the first time in its 257-year history, academic workers at Rutgers University, including faculty and postdoctoral associates, intend to strike at the institution's three campuses – New Brunswick, Camden, and Newark. This decision comes after a Sunday vote approving the labor action, following almost a year of unsuccessful negotiations with the university to raise salaries in line with inflation.

"We have bargained and bargained and bargained and bargained and bargained, and we are not getting anywhere, and we need to do something more," said Rebecca Givan, president of Rutgers AAUP-AFT. "We will take this momentous step."

Rutgers AAUP-AFT represents 8,000 workers across the three campuses that failed to agree with the school administration for a new contract that would boost pay, provide job security, and implement race and gender equity initiatives, among other demands.

"A Parting Gift To Xi": Western Allies Furious At Macron's Call To Stay Out Of Taiwan Crisis

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 10, 2023 - 08:20 PM

Both the content and timing of French President Emanuel Macron's statements to the press coming off his China trip wherein he urged Europe to step aside from US-China quarrels over Taiwan is driving anger among some Western officials and pundits. As we highlighted yesterday, the statements were widely seen as very 'China-friendly', causing fury especially in Washington at a moment Chinese PLA jets and warships have again conducted encircling drills threatening the democratic-run island.

Macron's articulating a concept of strategic autonomy for Europe was 'enthusiastically endorsed' by Xi and the CCP, who have been focusing on the notion that the West is in decline while China rises, and that weakening the transatlantic relationship will accelerate this trend. "The paradox would be that, overcome with panic, we believe we are just America's followers," said Macron. "The question Europeans need to answer ... **is it in our interest to accelerate [a crisis] on Taiwan? No.** The worse thing would be to think that we Europeans must become followers on this topic and take our cue from the U.S. agenda and a Chinese overreaction."

Some pundits were quick to call Macron's remarks "spineless and naive" - while others pointed out that what was articulated has always fundamentally been the French position.

One analyst who pointed out the many ways Macron's positions will be taken as a slap in the face and distancing from core US-allied policies is Eurasia Group's Mujtaba Rahman. The below is Rahman's Twitter thread reacting to the fresh interview statements of Macron [emphasis ours]...

* * *

Emmanuel has angered many people (again) by urging Europe to stand aside from US-China quarrels over Taiwan. “We don’t want to get involved in bloc v bloc logic,” he said. The EU should eventually aim to become a “3rd bloc”, strategically independent of BOTH China & US. But his timing is poor. To make these remarks as Chinese military exercises encircled Taiwain – and just after his state visit to China - was a mistake. **It will be interpreted as appeasement of Beijing and a green light to Chinese aggression**.

The remarks were made to selected journalists on the Presidential plane. Most of the angry reactions – especially in the US – have been to the truncated (but accurate) version published by Politico. The full interview in Les Echos is more nuanced – but will doubtless still anger many people.

Fresh Missile Attack On US Base At Syria's Conoco Gas Fields

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 10, 2023 - 02:52 PM

A new rocket attack has reportedly taken place against **an American military base at the Conoco gas fields** in eastern Syria, near the city of Deir ez-Zor on Monday.

US occupation forces have been coming under increased pressure and sporadic attacks from likely Iran-backed militant groups. It's also possible that forces linked to the Syrian government are seeking to force the Pentagon out of sovereign Syria territory.

Few details were issued in the immediate aftermath, but the fresh attack comes after the biggest flare-up in tit-for-tat attacks between "Iran-backed" fighters and the US which took place at the end of March.

Those March rocket attacks left one US contractor dead and at least six injured with that defense officials described as "traumatic brain injuries" which resulted from the blasts.

It seems that ever since China brokered a restoration of ties deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran, the rocket and drone assaults on US positions have intensified.

For years US forces have occupied the major oil and gas installations in Syria's east, as part of broader Washington efforts to choke the Assad government into submission. Syria and Iran have remained defiant, however, and could be seeking to impose enough of a cost on US forces so as to pressure Washington and the American public to desire a pull-out from the region.

Government, inflation: US Bank Lending Slumps by Most on Record in Final Weeks of March

- Loans by commercial banks declined by nearly $105 billion
- Deposits at US banks decreased for a 10th-straight week

By
Alexandre Tanzi
April 7, 2023 at 5:28 PM ADT*Updated onApril 7, 2023 at 7:06 PM ADT*

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US bank lending contracted by the most on record in the last two weeks of March, indicating a tightening of credit conditions in the wake of several high-profile bank collapses that risks damaging the economy.

bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-04-07/us-bank-lending-declines-sharply-for-a-second-straight-week

Macron Says Europe Should Reduce Dependence On US Dollar, Seek 'Strategic Autonomy'

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 09, 2023 - 03:00 PM

As the United States combats a recent flood of countries 'de-dollarizing' - trading commodities in *other* currencies, the last thing that was needed was **French President Emanuel Macron amplifying this message**.

After spending around six hours with Chinese President Xi Jinping as part of a three-day state visit to China, Macron made extremely clear that **France wants nothing to do with WWIII**, emphasizing that Europe must employ "strategic autonomy," presumably led by France, to become a "third superpower," according to *Politico*.

While speaking with reporters aboard COTAM Unité, France's Air Force One, the French President said that the "great risk" facing Europe right now is that it "**gets caught up in crises that are not ours, which prevents it from building its strategic autonomy.**"

This isn't the first time Macron has suggested reducing dependence on the US. In November, the French President **called for a "single global order"** while discussing the power interests of Russia and China and the threat of war.

"**We are in a jungle and we have two big elephants trying to become more and more nervous**," he said.

"If they become very nervous and start a war, it will be a big problem for the rest of the jungle. **You need the cooperation of a lot of other animals, tigers, monkeys and so on,**" added Macron.

China agrees

Macron's concept of strategic autonomy was 'enthusiastically endorsed' by Xi and the CCP, who have been focusing on the notion that the West is in decline while China rises, and that **weakening the transatlantic relationship will accelerate this trend**.

"The paradox would be that, overcome with panic, we believe we are just America's followers," said Macron. "The question Europeans need to answer … **is it in our interest to accelerate [a crisis] on Taiwan? No.** The worse thing would be to think that we Europeans must become followers on this topic and take our cue from the U.S. agenda and a Chinese overreaction."

*Just h**ours after his flight left Guangzhou headed back to Paris, China launched large military exercises around the self-ruled island of Taiwan,** which China claims as its territory but the U.S. has promised to arm and defend.*

Those exercises were a response to Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-Wen's 10-day diplomatic tour of Central American countries that included a meeting with Republican U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy while she transited in California. People familiar with Macron's thinking said he was happy Beijing had at least waited until he was out of Chinese airspace before launching the simulated "Taiwan encirclement" exercise. -Politico

Macron's submissive statements come after he and Xi 'intensely' discussed Taiwan, according to French officials who accompanied the president.

Meanwhile, an interesting footnote...

*As is common in France and many other European countries, the French President's office, known as the Elysée Palace, insisted on checking and "proofreading" all the president's quotes to be published in this article as a condition of granting the interview. This violates POLITICO's editorial standards and policy, but we agreed to the terms in order to speak directly with the French president. POLITICO insisted that it cannot deceive its readers and would not publish anything the president did not say. The quotes in this article were all actually said by the president, but **some parts of the interview in which the president spoke even more frankly about Taiwan and Europe's strategic autonomy were cut out by the Elysée.***

Israel Strikes Syria After Rare Rocket Attack On Golan Heights

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, APR 09, 2023 - 01:00 PM

On the heels of the most intense exchange of fire across the Israel-Lebanon border since 2006, **violence erupted on a different front over Saturday night, as a rare rocket attack on the Israel-occupied Golan Heights** was carried out by Palestinian militants in Syria.

The Al Quds Brigade claimed responsibility, according to a Beirut television station. The Palestinian militia headquartered in Damascus said **the volley of rockets was an act of retaliation for a brutal Israeli police raid on the Al Aqsa Mosque** in Jerusalem earlier in the week.

Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria during the 1967 War. It unilaterally annexed it in 1981, prompting the UN Security Council to adopt Resolution 497, demanding that Israel rescind the annexation, as "the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible" under the UN Charter and "the principles of international law."

In 2019, **President Trump recognized Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights**, as he steadily worked his way through a checklist of foreign policy aspirations of billionaire mega-donor Sheldon Adelson, which most notably included moving the US embassy to Jerusalem.

China, Russia, Europe, war: NATO To Hold Its Largest-Ever Air Exercises In June

BY TYLER DURDEN

SUNDAY, APR 09, 2023 - 08:00 AM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com,

NATO is preparing to hold its largest-ever air exercises this June, known as Exercise Air Defender, that will involve **220 aircraft and 10,0000 personnel from 24 nations**.

The drills will include a massive deployment of aircraft from the US Air National Guard, which is tasked with defending the homeland but, according to *Defense One*, also maintains units for **"prompt mobilization during war."**

Sweden Agrees To Extradite Turkish National In Bid For NATO Entry

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 08, 2023 - 10:20 AM

Via The Cradle,

Sweden agreed on Thursday to **extradite a Turkish national that is wanted by Turkey's government**, in a bid to acquire Ankara's approval to join the US-led military alliance NATO.

This comes a day after Finland joined NATO, becoming its 31st member. Sweden and Finland requested to join the military alliance in the wake of Russia's operation in Ukraine due to apprehension that the war would expand into Europe. Despite Stockholm's agreement with Ankara to extradite the **alleged associate of a Kurdish group linked to a failed 2016 coup attempt**, Sweden rejected Turkey's request to extradite more suspects.

Middle east, war, Erdogan: US Blindsided By Saudi-Iran Normalization: CIA Director

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 08, 2023 - 08:00 AM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com,

CIA Director William Burns visited Saudi Arabia earlier this week to express frustration over Riyadh's surprise normalization deal with Tehran that was brokered by Beijing, *The Wall Street Journal* reported Thursday.

According to the *Journal*, Burns told Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman that the US **"has felt blindsided"** by Riyadh's rapprochement with Iran as well as Syria, **two nations under crippling US economic sanctions**.

Health, court: Liberal Outrage After Abortion Pill Blocked Nationwide By Order From Texas Judge

BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, APR 07, 2023 - 10:10 PM

In a decision which the liberal media called an "unprecedented" decision, late on Friday a federal judge in Texas issued an order that will shut down the prescription and distribution of mifepristone in seven days, one of two drugs used for medication abortions that has been on the market in the U.S. for more than two decades. However, it wasn't immediately clear if it was the decision that was *unprecedented,* or that a member of the judicial branch did something that wasn't immediately prompted by generous funding from George Soros.

“The Court does not second-guess FDA’s decision-making lightly,” Kacsmaryk said in his decision. “But here, **FDA acquiesced on its legitimate safety concerns — in violation of its statutory duty — based on plainly unsound reasoning and studies that did not support its conclusions.”**

The judge said the FDA’s stance had likely lead to death and injury among women taking the drug. “Whatever the numbers are, they likely would be considerably lower had FDA not acquiesced to the pressure to increase access to chemical abortion at the expense of women’s safety,” Kacsmaryk wrote.

The conservative group behind the lawsuit argues that the agency didn’t follow the appropriate protocol when it first authorized the use of mifepristone in 2000 and failed to study the safety of the drugs as required, putting “politics over science.”

FDA officials have refuted that characterization in public statements and court filings, arguing that the agency followed procedure when approving the medication and “extensively reviewed” the scientific evidence at hand to determine its safety and efficacy.

Mifepristone was first approved in 2000 for use through the first seven weeks of pregnancy. In 2016, the FDA extended that window to 10 weeks. It is the first pill used in the two-drug regimen most used to terminate a pregnancy and blocks a hormone called progesterone that is needed to support a pregnancy. It is followed by misoprostol, which prompts contractions that expel the contents of the uterus.

Journal, censorship, government, tech: recent clearview scandal proves that theyre collecting our pictures without our consent

Clearview AI Scraped Billions Of Facebook Photos For Facial Recognition Database

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 07, 2023 - 09:45 PM

Facial recognition firm Clearview has built a massive AI-powered database of billions of pictures collected from social media platforms without obtaining users' consent.

In late March, Clearview AI CEO Hoan Ton-That told BBC in an interview that the company had obtained 30 billion photos without users' knowledge over the years, scraped mainly from social media platforms like Facebook. He said US law enforcement agencies use the database to identify criminals.

Ton-That disputed claims that the photos were unlawfully collected. He told Bussiness Insider in an emailed statement, "Clearview AI's database of publicly available images is lawfully collected, just like any other search engine like Google."

However, privacy advocates and social media companies have been highly critical of Clearview AI.

"Clearview AI's actions invade people's privacy which is why we banned their founder from our services and sent them a legal demand to stop accessing any data, photos, or videos from our services," a Meta spokesperson said in an email to Insider.

Ton-That told Insider the database is not publicly available and is only used by law enforcement. He said the software had been used more than a million times by police.

"Clearview AI's database is used for after-the-crime investigations by law enforcement, and is not available to the general public. Every photo in the dataset is a potential clue that could save a life, provide justice to an innocent victim, prevent a wrongful identification, or exonerate an innocent person."

According to critics, using Clearview AI by the police subjects everyone to a "continuous police line-up."

"Whenever they have a photo of a suspect, they will compare it to your face," Matthew Guariglia from the Electronic Frontier Foundation, told BBC. He said, "It's far too invasive."

The AI-driven database has raised privacy concerns in the US to the point where Sens. Jeff Merkley and Bernie Sanders attempted to block its use with a bill requiring Clearview and similar companies to obtain consent before scraping biometric data.

In 2020, the American Civil Liberties Union sued Clearview AI, calling it a 'nightmare scenario' for privacy. The ACLU managed to ban Clearview AI's products from being sold to private companies but not the police.

Clearview AI is a massive problem for civil liberties. The easiest way to prevent Clearview AI from scraping photos from your social media accounts is to not be on social media. Alternatively, if you wish to maintain a social media presence, ensure that the images you post are not publicly accessible on the web.

History, war, middle east, censorship, stats: Oops! Deleted Tweet By Israel's Former PM Disclosed Nuke Arsenal

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, APR 07, 2023 - 12:20 PM

In a major faux pax in US-Israeli relations, **former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak acknowledged the existence of the country's nuclear weapon arsenal via Twitter** -- then deleted the tweet, presumably after realizing he'd violated the long-standing US-Israeli practice of pretending that arsenal doesn't exist.

Barak's Tuesday tweet addressed **growing worries about the growing presence of ultra-nationalist and ultra-religious factions in Israel's government.** Finance minister Bezalel Smotrich and his Religious Zionism party, for example, openly aspire to turn Israel into a theocracy.

Barak wrote:

"In conversations between Israelis and Western diplomatic officials, there are deep concerns raised of the possibility that **if the coup in Israel succeeds, a messianic dictatorship — that possesses nuclear weapons and fanatically wishes for a confrontation with Islam centered on the Temple Mount — will be established** in the heart of the Middle East."

Thanks in part to a former nuclear technician's 1986 revelations, Israel is widely known to have a nuclear arsenal, with one estimate sizing it at 90 warheads. However, **it's never joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons** (NPT). It's just one of only five countries in the world that haven't done so, along with North Korea, India, Pakistan and South Sudan.

That combination of facts means ***every* dollar of US aid to Israel breaks American law**. As Brian McGlinchey explains at *Stark Realities:*

"U.S. aid to Israel [is] illegal under the Symington Amendment of 1976, which **bars economic and military assistance to countries that acquire nuclear reprocessing technology without submitting to international safeguards** and inspections."

Israel has never officially acknowledged its nuclear power, and **the United States government caters to Israel's policy of so-called "nuclear ambiguity."** However, there have been several occasions where US documents or officials have acknowledged the fact, typically either under pointed questioning or in communications they thought would be kept secret.

For example, in a 2015 email to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that was published by Wikileaks, an assistant secretary of state said, **"What Israeli military leaders really worry about—but cannot talk about—is losing their nuclear monopoly."**

Only rarely does the Washington press corps confront US officials about their ongoing conspiracy to break American law where billions of dollars of annual aid to Israel are concerned. Journalist Sam Husseini is a welcome and repeat exception to that sad pattern. In February, he treated us to this grilling of State Department spokesman Ned Price:

Journal, war, middle east: On Thursday and Friday, Israel-Lebanon experienced its worst border hostilities since 2006

(didn’t include link, unable to find source in search engine)

“The exchange represents a troubling new escalation of **regional warfare that erupted Tuesday night, after Israeli police raided Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque, smashing windows and brutally beating worshippers** who'd locked themselves inside. They arrested hundreds more who'd stayed on the compound after Israel-specified visiting hours.

Al Aqsa is the third-holiest site in Islam, and it's situated on land also revered by Jews, who call it the Temple Mount. **Israel's actions sparked outrage across the Muslim world**, garnering condemnations from the governments of Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Soon after the Israeli police raid, militants in Gaza fired rockets at southern Israel, most of which were reportedly intercepted by the US-subsidized Iron Dome system. Israel responded with air force strikes on Gaza.

Thursday brought warfare on a different frontier and with higher intensity, as northern Israel faced a barrage of 34 rockets fired from southern Lebanon. An Israeli military source told *Reuters* that mortars were also fired across the frontier. It's said to be the largest such attack from the territory since 2006 and Israel's war with the Lebanese political and militant group Hezbollah.

While Israel said most of the rockets were intercepted, others caused moderate damage in the northern border town of Shlomi. There were several injuries, but no reported fatalities.

De-escalation will also require moderation of Israel's actions against Palestinians observing Ramadan. **“Aqsa is a red line for all Muslims,”** Kassem Kassir, a political analyst close to Hezbollah tells the *New York Times*. “The rocket attack is a message to Israel that we won’t be silent about all this escalation. **If the**

escalation continues, the 20 rockets might become 1,000 in the coming days.””

Russia, war, pipeline, censorship: Sweden: Investigation Shows State Actor Behind Nord Stream Blast

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, APR 06, 2023 - 07:40 PM

In yet more evidence on the side of Seymour Hersh's reporting, Sweden has announced Thursday that amid its ongoing investigation into the Nord Stream pipeline sabotage, it has **concluded that a state actor is the likeliest culprit**.

Swedish Public Prosecutor Mats Ljungqvist, who heads the ongoing investigation, stated **"The clear main scenario"** is that a **state-sponsored group** was behind the explosions.

Europe, china, war: “China has effectively frozen high-level contacts with US officials”

Blinken Can't Reschedule Trip To China After Canceling Over 'Spy Balloon'

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, APR 06, 2023 - 04:48 PM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com,

Secretary of State Antony Blinken is looking to reschedule his trip to China that he canceled over the Chinese balloon that wound up floating over the US, but Beijing is rebuffing the effort, *Politico* reported Wednesday.

The Politico report said China has **effectively frozen high-level contacts with US officials**. An unnamed US official said that the Biden administration is also trying to schedule a call between President Biden and President Xi Jinping and send other high-level officials to China but isn't having any luck.

Censorship, media, stats: Supreme Court Rejects West Virginia Ban On Transgender Athlete From Girls' Track Team

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, APR 06, 2023 - 04:20 PM

The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected West Virginia's emergency request to ban a **12-year-old transgender individual from competing in their middle school's girl's track team** while the state's litigation makes its way through lower courts.

The case marks the first time the Supreme Court has reviewed the issue of biological men who routinely dominate biological women in various sports.

The order relates to a single student, Becky Pepper-Jackson, who runs on the cross-country and track teams at a middle school in Bridgeport, W.Va.

In February, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, in Richmond, Va., blocked a lower-court order allowing Becky to be removed from the team *under West Virginia's Save Women's Sports Act while litigation over the law proceeds.*

Almost 20 states have passed laws **restricting biological males from participating in female events**, the *Wall Street Journal* reports.

Inflation, government: IMF Warns Global Growth Outlook Weakest In Over 30 Years

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, APR 06, 2023 - 01:25 PM

The IMF's managing director warned this morning that its **outlook for global economic growth over the next five years is the weakest in over 30 years**.

Speaking in Washington ahead of the spring meetings next week, Kristalina Georgieva said the **world economy would expand at an average annual rate of around 3 per cent over the next five years** (the lowest medium-term growth forecast since 1990 and **less than the five-year average of 3.8% from the past two decades**).

War, china, Europe: Xi Pledges Active Peace Role After Macron Urges Him "Bring Russia To Its Senses"

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, APR 06, 2023 - 12:45 PM

French President Emmanuel Macron is currently in Beijing urging his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping to "bring Russia to its senses" over the war in Ukraine.

The French leader has made it crystal clear that his purpose is to dissuade China from offering any level of support to Moscow, whether political, economic or military. **"I know I can count on you to bring Russia to its senses and everyone to the negotiating table,"** Macron told Xi during a bilateral meeting as part of the 3-day visit.

A joint statement to follow emphasized their mutual call for peace talks "as soon as possible" as well as reaffirming opposition to nuclear weapons threats or use.

The Chinese leader then said in the following in a press conference, per the NY Times:

> *Mr. Xi, addressing journalists later, went some way toward responding positively. He said that "together with France, we appeal for restraint and reason" in the conflict, adding that China was seeking "**a quick return to peace negotiations in the quest for a political settlement**, and the building of a European architecture that is balanced and lasting."*
>
> *The Chinese leader, flanked by Mr. Macron, said that China "appeals for the protection of civilians. **Nuclear weapons must not be used, and nuclear war must be avoided**."*

Macron had previewed his trip by touting he could play a "major role" in forging a path to peace, based on China's "willingness to commit to a resolution".

Xi is of course coming off a very 'friendly' state visit to Moscow last month where he met with President Vladimir Putin, with China's 12-point peace plan in hand. While little to no concrete breakthroughs resulted from that meeting, there was hope among European officials that China could at least get the ball rolling toward future peace negotiations.

Macron implores China to put "pressure" on Putin regarding the Ukraine invasion:

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censorship, journal: New Zealand's Lockdown Queen Becomes Internet Authoritarian

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, APR 05, 2023 - 10:44 PM

Remember New Zealand's crazy ex-Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who not-so-subtly (as in, completely) got off on forcing Kiwis to follow draconian, unscientific "Covid-Zero" lockdown rules?

A quick reminder;

- "COVID Zero" New Zealand Has Completed Its Transformation Into A Full-Blown Police State
- "We've Been Locked Up For Almost 50 Days" - 1000s Rally Against Auckland Lockdown As Public Opposition Grows
- New Zealand Approves Orgies Of Up To 25 People As Part Of New COVID Rules
- New Zealand High Court: Vaccine Mandate Not "Demonstrably Justified", Breach Of Rights

The WEF acolyte also **was adamant about quashing non-approved narratives** which questioned the safety or efficacy of vaccines, masks, lockdowns, or other government mandates.

Then when 'covid fascism' failed miserably, she demanded that angry citizens 'respect' vaccine fanatics.

Now, after a tearful resignation, the 'covid fascist' has fully transitioned to internet authoritarian - and will be in charge of 'combating online extremism.'

As *Breitbart* reports;

> *Jacinda Ardern, who stepped down as New Zealand's prime minister in January,* ***will begin an unpaid role this month combating online extremism.***
>
> *New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, who took over as leader from Ardern, announced Tuesday* ***he'd appointed Ardern as Special Envoy for the Christchurch Call.*** *Hipkins said Ardern would begin the part-time role this month, right after she leaves Parliament and that she'd declined to accept any pay. He said the role would be reviewed at the end of the year.*

The stated goal of the organization is to eliminate 'terrorist and violent extremist content online' by partnering with governments and tech companies, including Facebook parent company Meta, Amazon, Google, Microsoft, YouTube, Zoom and Twitter. The group claims to have had success developing online safety systems.

"The Christchurch Call is a foreign policy priority for the government and Jacinda Ardern is uniquely placed to keep pushing forward with the goal of eliminating violent extremist content online," said Hipkins, to whom Ardern will report directly.

Of course, Ardern has been working this angle for a while.

New Zealand Prime Minister Calls For A Global Censorship System

And of course, this is a pattern...

> *It's now clear that heads of state around the world, from the U.S. and Canada to Britain and New Zealand, are working together to censor their political opponents, lie to the public, and crack down on free speech — all in the name of fighting "disinformation," "extremism," and "hate."*
>
> - *In the U.S., President Joe Biden's administration proposed a "Disinformation Governance Board" and was caught pressuring Facebook to censor accurate covid vaccine information.*
> - *In Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is funding government contractors to demand censorship of social media platforms and is close to passing a new law that would expand government censorship of speech online.*
> - *In New Zealand, departing Prime Minister Jacinda Arden has announced she will now focus on fighting "extremism" online.*
>
> *There is a pattern. Those urging censorship of "misinformation" are spreading it. Those who condemn "extremism" demand extreme policies. And those who denounce "hate" are filled with loathing for their political enemies.*
>
> *...*
>
> *When you listen to their United Nations speeches, read their reports, and read their emails,* ***it's clear that the leaders of the Censorship Industrial Complex are waging an "influence operation," like the kind the U.S. military waged abroad for decades.*** *Governments are funding third-party contractors, e.g., "think tanks," to smear their enemies as "conspiracy theorists" who are "spreading hate" and causing "real world harms" so that they can censor and discredit them. -Public*

Shocker, we know. We're sure Klaus is pleased.

Middle east, war, energy: Top Saudi, Iranian Diplomats To Meet In

China: "Era Of US Involvement In Region Is Over"

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, APR 05, 2023 - 10:20 PM

A major meeting of top envoys from Saudi Arabia and Iran is expected to happen in Beijing on Thursday, as the next significant step in the China-brokered rapprochement and normalization of ties between the longtime enemies takes shape.

As *Reuters* underscores, "The meeting between Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amirabdollahian, will be the **first formal meeting between Saudi Arabia and Iran's most senior diplomats in more than seven years**."

The most important, and illustrative of the way the geopolitical winds are blowing, is the following:

*"**The era of the United States' involvement in this region is over**... The regional countries are capable of preserving security and stability in the Middle East without Washington's interference," another Iranian official said.*

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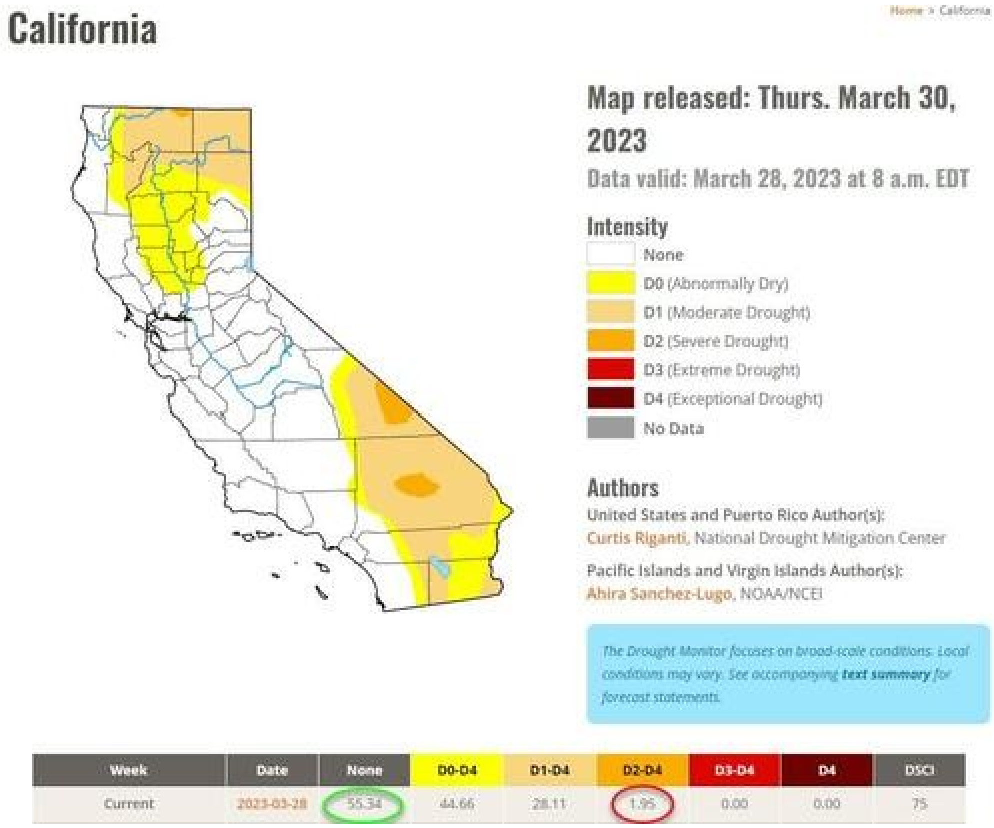
journal, stats: so yeah, that story about california suddenly pulling out of that record drought is actually true: "Hyper-Emergency" Over As California Readies For 'Big Melt' After Record Snowpack

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, APR 05, 2023 - 09:40 PM

*Dear California, we have **good news and bad news**...*

The good news is that after suffering severe drought conditions on and off since 2006, the constant torrent of "atmospheric rivers" moistened the soil just enough to lift **over half (55%) the Golden State is now completely out of drought with less than 2% of the state still in Severe Drought or worse**...



California

Home > California

Map released: Thurs. March 30, 2023

Data valid: March 28, 2023 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

☐	None
🟨	D0 (Abnormally Dry)
🟧	D1 (Moderate Drought)
🟧	D2 (Severe Drought)
🟥	D3 (Extreme Drought)
🟫	D4 (Exceptional Drought)
⬜	No Data

Authors

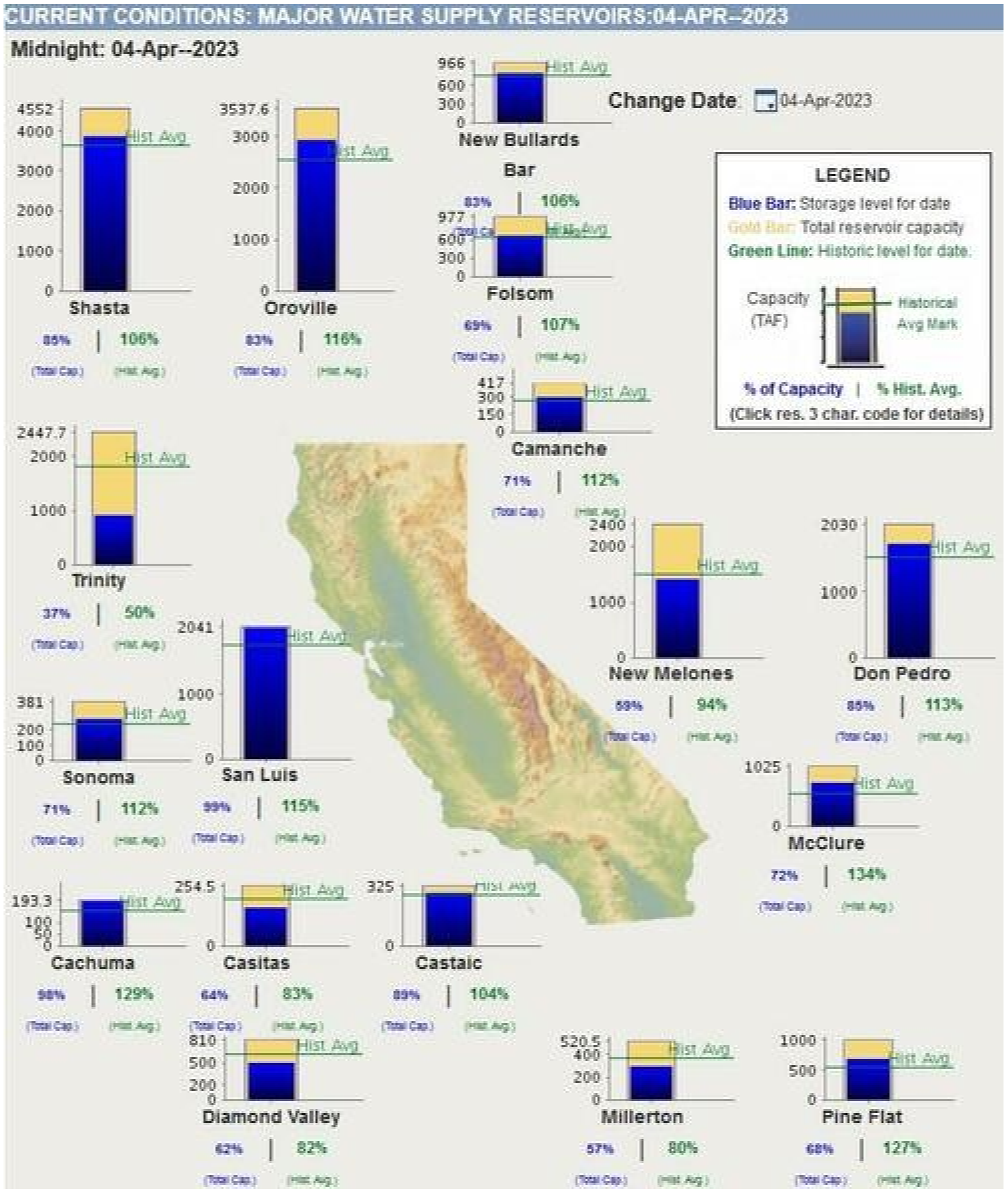
United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
Curtis Riganti, National Drought Mitigation Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Ahira Sanchez-Lugo, NOAA/NCEI

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying **text summary** for forecast statements.*

Week	Date	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	DSCI
Current	2023-03-28	55.34	44.66	28.11	1.95	0.00	0.00	75

But there's more good news, according to the state’s water data, **reservoirs that were once depleted are now filling up with many over 80 percent full** - and groundwater reserves have received a significant boost...



And finally, on the good news side of the ledger, officials said this week that California's stormy winter has resulted in the **deepest snowpack in more than 70 years**.

The snowpack is so deep that it currently contains roughly 30 million acre-feet of water — or more water than Lake Mead, the nation's largest reservoir, according to an LA Times analysis of snow sensor data.

State officials announced the record snowpack Monday at their fourth snow survey of the season at Phillips Station near South Lake Tahoe.

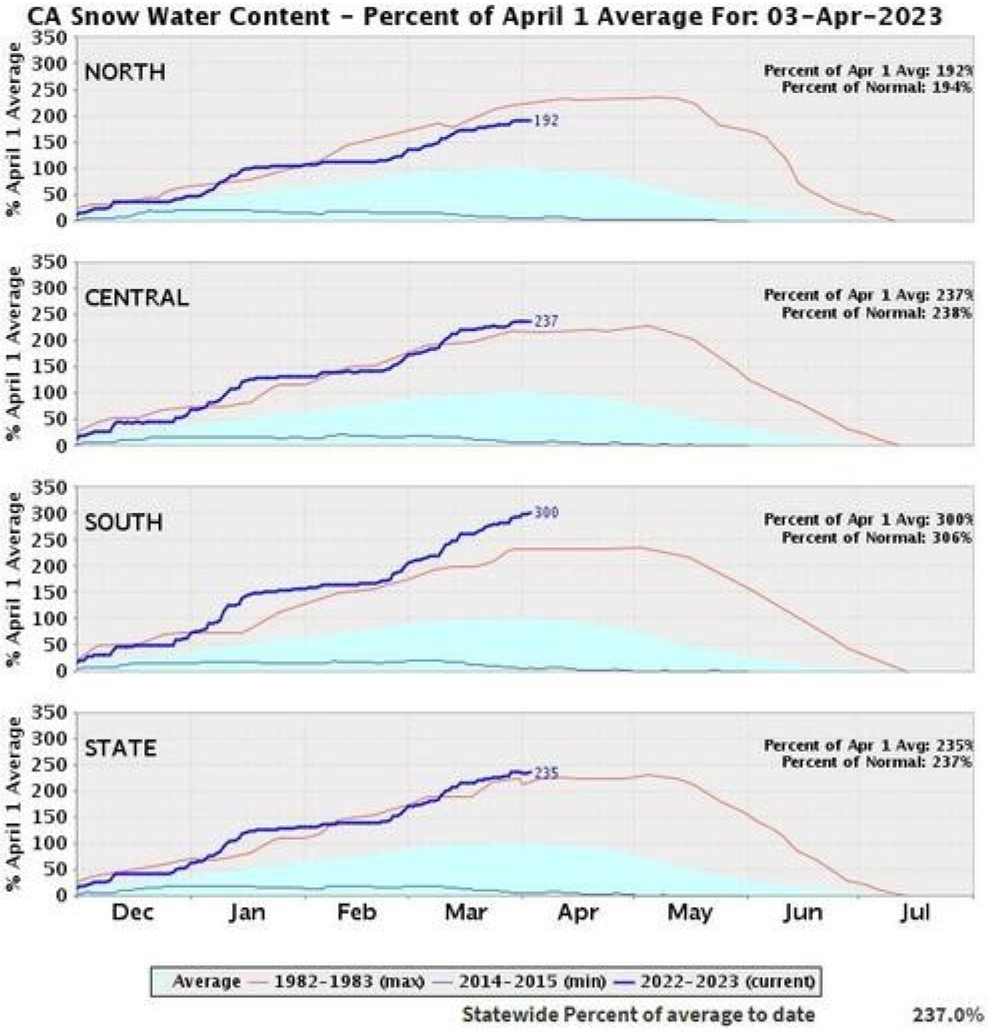
The **statewide snowpack on Monday was 237% of normal for the date** - the deepest on record since the state's network of snow sensors was established in the mid-1980s.

It is also deeper than previous records of 227% set in **1983** and 224% set in **1969**, and tied with the record of 237% set in **1952**, measured using earlier tools and baselines.

Those were the only other years with April snowpack above 200%, said Sean de Guzman, manager of snow surveys for the Department of Water Resources.

With some snow sensors yet to report, "it's looking like this year's statewide snowpack will probably most likely be **either the first- or second- biggest snowpack on record** dating back to 1950," De Guzman said.

Snowpack in the southern Sierra was even deeper, measuring a record 306% of normal for the date.



And that brings us to the bad news (or more good news if you prefer not to be terrified by fearmongery), the snow water equivalent of all that - or the amount of water contained in the snow - is 61.1 inches, and as Yahoo News reports...

"All of that water is going to have to come downhill sooner rather than later," *said Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at UCLA.*

*Incoming warmer weather is "good news for a lot of folks who need it, but **it does mean that the 'big melt' is on the way.**"*

So, do not let your fearful guard down just yet California.

Due to the excessive snowpack, the National Weather Service warned March 16 that **approximately 15 million Californians are at risk for some type of flooding in their communities**, including 1.4 million for major flooding and another 6.4 million may be hit moderately.

But, of course, now is no time to celebrate Mother Nature's bounteous offerings of wet stuff - we must still be afraid, as Gregory Pierce, co-director of the Luskin Center for Innovation at UCLA, warns:

"This precipitation is great, and it does mean we can let up a little bit on some of the most radical things we were doing," adding that ***"we bought ourselves some more time, so we don't need to be in that hyper-emergency, but we're always in a drought."***

"We can't let up at all on the medium- and long-term [efforts], because this is going to be an anomalously positive year," *he said.*

Well, at least the "hyper-emergency" is over, eh?

Stats, journal: US Now A Majority Permitless Carry Country After DeSantis Signs Gun Rights Law

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 05, 2023 - 08:40 PM

Authored by Jack Phillips via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a "permitless carry" bill into law on April 3, making Florida the 26th state to do so, according to pro-Second Amendment groups.

The legislation, passed by the Florida Legislature, allows people to carry a concealed weapon without a permit and without state-mandated training. It will go into effect starting July 1.

John Velleco, executive vice president of Gun Owners of America, confirmed to the Miami Herald that DeSantis, a Republican, signed the legislation in front of a group of about 20 people. An official with the National Rifle Association (NRA) also confirmed DeSantis signed the measure.

After DeSantis's signature, **Florida is now the 26th state in the United States to allow permitless carry, according to the U.S. Concealed Carry Association (USCCA). Before Monday, DeSantis said he would sign the bill into law.**

There has been debate about the meanings of the terms “permitless carry” and “constitutional carry.” The USCCA says the two terms are often used interchangeably. However, the group notes on its website that permitless carry can refer to laws in states that allow people to openly carry a firearm without a permit, but that require a permit for concealed carry.

Ahead of the bill signing, DeSantis said that Florida supports the Second Amendment during a book tour event on March 30.

“**You don’t need a permission slip from the government to be able to exercise your constitutional rights**,” he said.

Censorship: Twitter Labels NPR "State-Affiliated Media"; Elon Musk Says "Seems Accurate"

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, APR 05, 2023 - 01:25 PM

Authored by Steve Watson via Summit News,

Twitter placed a label on NPR’s account Tuesday describing the outlet as “State-affiliated media,” with owner Elon Musk commenting that the description “seems accurate.”

Ai: Bill Gates Dismisses Mounting Calls To Pause AI Chatbot Development

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, APR 05, 2023 - 06:45 AM

Reuters reports that Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates dismissed calls to halt the development of more advanced AI chatbots more powerful than OpenAI's GPT-4. Last week, an open letter signed by Elon Musk, Steve Wozniak, and AI pioneer Yoshua Bengio called for a six-month pause in developing new AI tools. Gates stated that the proposed pause in AI chatbot development would not "solve the challenges."

According to Gates, the focus should be on effectively integrating AI technology into society. He finds it hard to understand how a pause could work globally with so many firms working on the technology.

"I don't think asking one particular group to pause solves the challenges," the billionaire said on Monday.

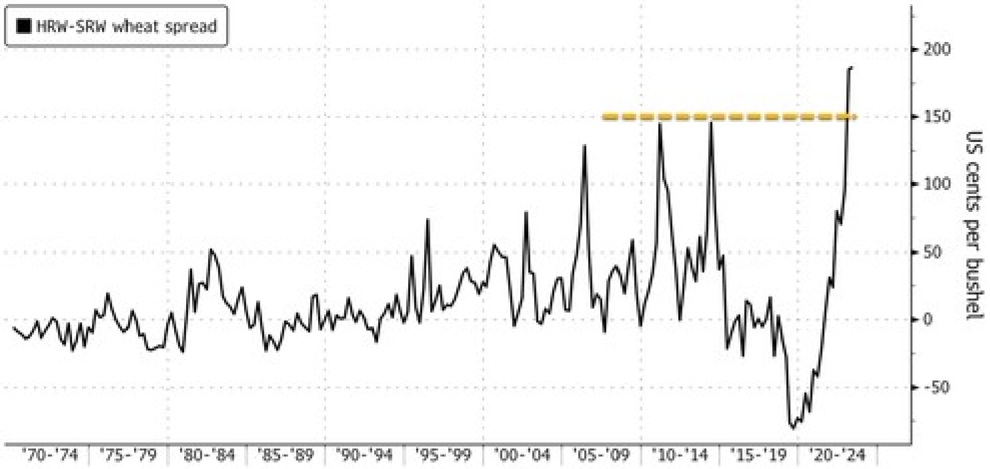
"Clearly, there are huge benefits to these things... what we need to do is identify the tricky areas," he noted.

Wheat Spread Hits Record As Drought Plagues Midwest

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 04, 2023 - 07:55 AM

The spread between hard-red winter wheat and soft-red winter wheat has blown out to a record high as drought threatens crop yields across the Midwest and other major farming regions.

Hard-red winter wheat's premium over soft-red winter wheat is $1.72 a bushel in Chicago on Tuesday morning, surpassing the 2011 record.



James Bolesworth, managing director at CRM AgriCommodities, told Bloomberg the widening spread is "a factor of the drought in the US Plains which is detrimentally impacting crop conditions."

The latest report from the US Department of Agriculture found Kansas (top producer) had only 19% of the acreage in good or excellent condition. Agritel analysts pointed out droughts are hitting crops in other states:

"A deterioration of the crop ratings is also visible in Texas and Colorado."

Simultaneously, drought conditions plague the Canadian Prairies. Farmers in the region are planting in some of the driest conditions in half a century. They need adequate moisture to plant wheat and canola crops, or this might lead to poor crop yields later in the growing season, which could impact global supplies.

"If there isn't good moisture, those tiny plants are quite susceptible to adverse conditions," said Bill Prybylski, a farmer and vice president at the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan.

The possibility of lower US and Canadian wheat production because of persistent drought conditions could exacerbate global food supplies. Already, droughts in Argentina have reduced crop yields, and wartorn Ukraine has forced farmers to reduce plantings.

All of this means that global food inflation will likely remain elevated for the foreseeable future. How to hedge higher costs at the supermarket? Plant a garden.

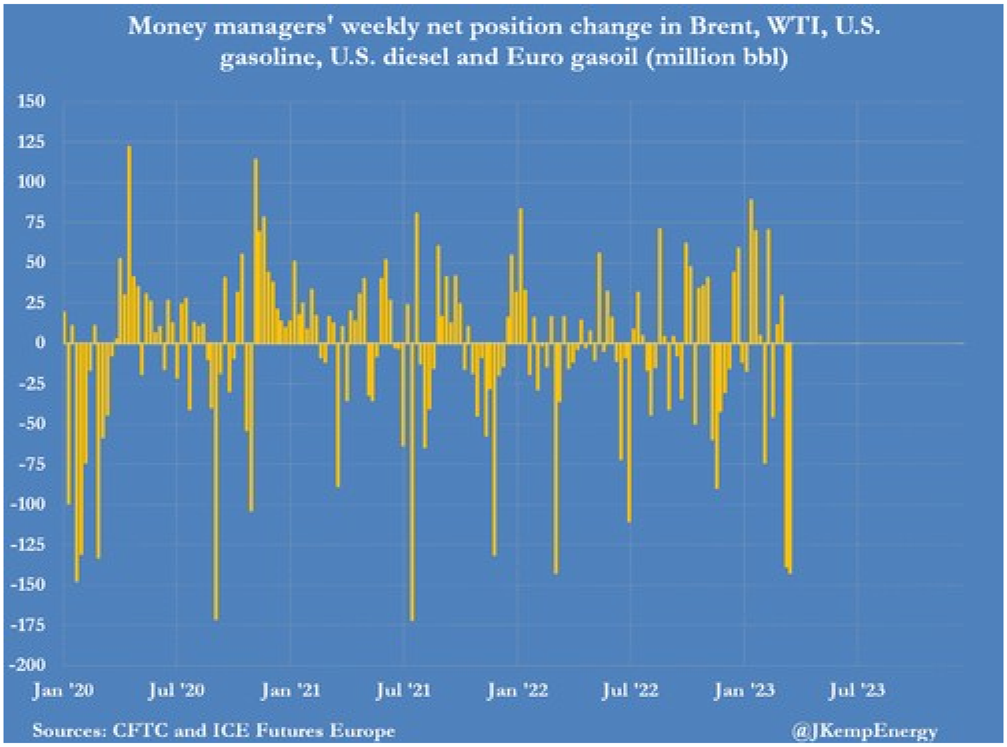
journal, markets, war, china: opecs surprise production cut and how it ties into everything

OPEC Succeeds In Nuking Crude Oil Shorts, Puts $100 Brent "On The Horizon"

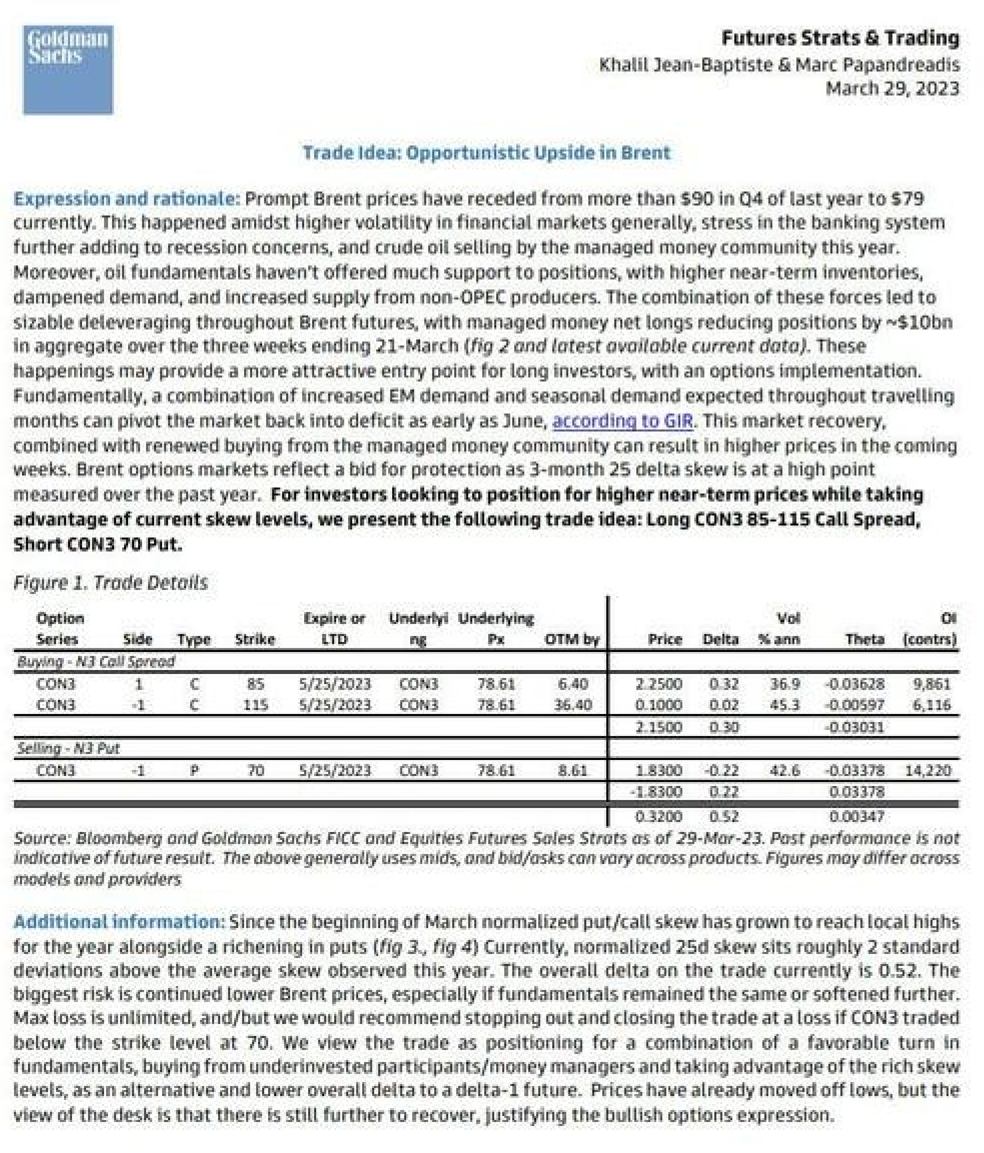
BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 03, 2023 - 11:00 PM

Last Wednesday, we advised readers that the shorting of oil among the systematic community (i.e. CTAs) had hit near record levels, and with some $30BN in short positions, the "chase" was about to begin.

It wasn't just CTAs: as we also observed one day prior, on March 28, [hedge funds were liquidating exposure in virtually all kinds of petroleum products]() at the fastest pace in years...



... but then something clicked, and as we discussed last week on our private twitter feed, first Goldman's FICC desk - which unlike the bank's sellside research group is spot-on most of the time with its trade recos - said that it was time to pursue "opportunistic upside" in Brent...



Futures Strats & Trading
Khalil Jean-Baptiste & Marc Papandreadis
March 29, 2023

Trade Idea: Opportunistic Upside in Brent

Expression and rationale: Prompt Brent prices have receded from more than $90 in Q4 of last year to $79 currently. This happened amidst higher volatility in financial markets generally, stress in the banking system further adding to recession concerns, and crude oil selling by the managed money community this year. Moreover, oil fundamentals haven't offered much support to positions, with higher near-term inventories, dampened demand, and increased supply from non-OPEC producers. The combination of these forces led to sizable deleveraging throughout Brent futures, with managed money net longs reducing positions by ~$10bn in aggregate over the three weeks ending 21-March (*fig 2 and latest available current data*). These happenings may provide a more attractive entry point for long investors, with an options implementation. Fundamentally, a combination of increased EM demand and seasonal demand expected throughout travelling months can pivot the market back into deficit as early as June, according to GIR. This market recovery, combined with renewed buying from the managed money community can result in higher prices in the coming weeks. Brent options markets reflect a bid for protection as 3-month 25 delta skew is at a high point measured over the past year. **For investors looking to position for higher near-term prices while taking advantage of current skew levels, we present the following trade idea: Long CON3 85-115 Call Spread, Short CON3 70 Put.**

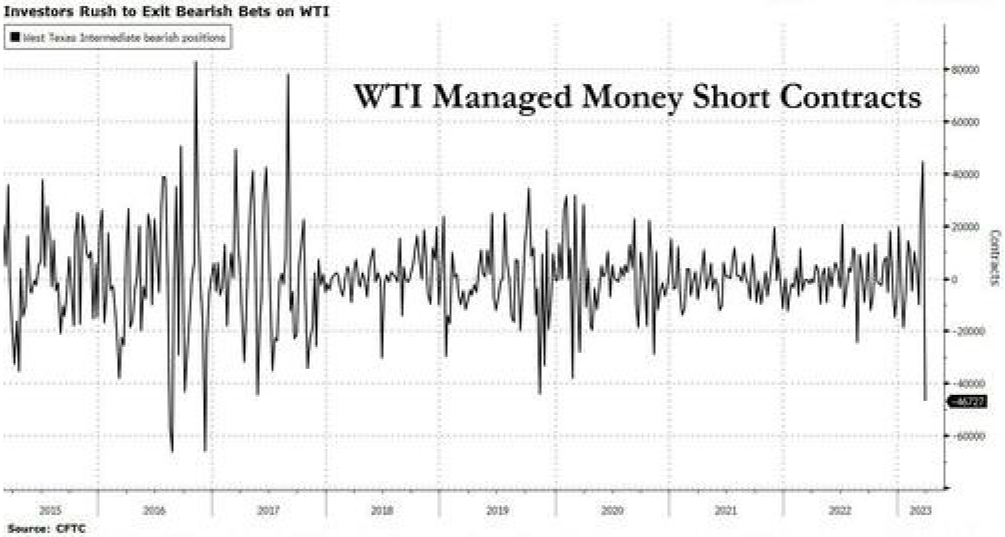
Figure 1. Trade Details

Option Series	Side	Type	Strike	Expire or LTD	Underlying	Underlying Px	OTM by	Price	Delta	Vol % ann	Theta	OI (contrs)
Buying - N3 Call Spread												
CON3	1	C	85	5/25/2023	CON3	78.61	6.40	2.2500	0.32	36.9	-0.03628	9,861
CON3	-1	C	115	5/25/2023	CON3	78.61	36.40	0.1000	0.02	45.3	-0.00597	6,116
								2.1500	0.30		-0.03031	
Selling - N3 Put												
CON3	-1	P	70	5/25/2023	CON3	78.61	8.61	1.8300	-0.22	42.6	-0.03378	14,220
								-1.8300	0.22		0.03378	
								0.3200	0.52		0.00347	

Source: Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs FICC and Equities Futures Sales Strats as of 29-Mar-23. Past performance is not indicative of future result. The above generally uses mids, and bid/asks can vary across products. Figures may differ across models and providers

Additional information: Since the beginning of March normalized put/call skew has grown to reach local highs for the year alongside a richening in puts (*fig 3., fig 4*) Currently, normalized 25d skew sits roughly 2 standard deviations above the average skew observed this year. The overall delta on the trade currently is 0.52. The biggest risk is continued lower Brent prices, especially if fundamentals remained the same or softened further. Max loss is unlimited, and/but we would recommend stopping out and closing the trade at a loss if CON3 traded below the strike level at 70. We view the trade as positioning for a combination of a favorable turn in fundamentals, buying from underinvested participants/money managers and taking advantage of the rich skew levels, as an alternative and lower overall delta to a delta-1 future. Prices have already moved off lows, but the view of the desk is that there is still further to recover, justifying the bullish options expression.

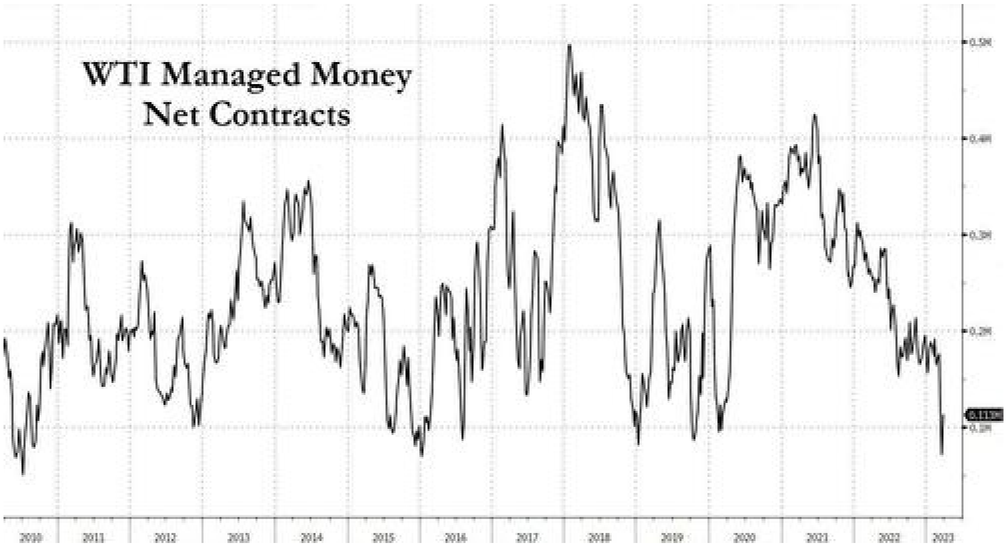
... which coupled with the sharp jump in oil prices after falling to a 15 month low in mid-March, led to a painful reversal in positioning as managed money shorts unwound bearish bets on WTI crude **by the most since 2016**...



.... almost as if they knew something was coming.

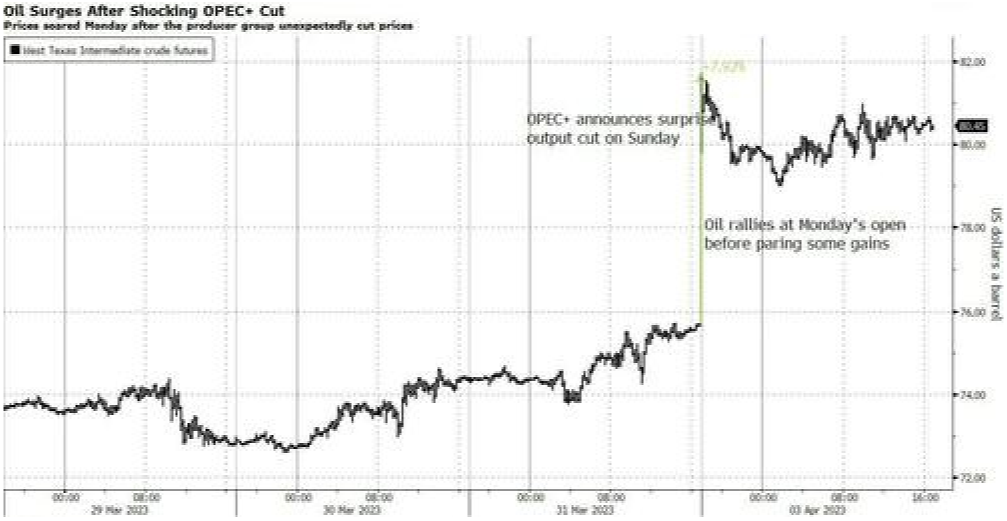
Maybe they did, maybe not, but something was *indeed* coming **and on Sunday, OPEC+ stunned the world when it announced its second coordinated output cut in under half a year.**

While TS Lombard noted earlier that there was a clear political angle to the timing of this announcement, coming shortly after US officials effectively ruled out new crude purchases to replenish the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in 2023, underscoring the souring of US-Saudi relations, and just days after Riyadh pledged its allegiance to Beijing, **the surprise OPEC+ production cut was aimed squarely at one audience**: **the near record shorts that had pushed oil prices to levels that forced the oil cartel to respond.**



According to Bloomberg, it’s a return to the tactic first used by Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman in 2020, when he famously said he wants “the guys in the trading floors to be as jumpy as possible” and vowed that **“whoever gambles on this market will be ouching like hell.”**

Of course, as today's market action clearly showed, the assault on short sellers was successful. Markets were wrong-footed and oil futures surged as much as 8%, repricing assets from equities to bonds. Yet OPEC+ also caught consumers and the global economy in the crossfire, spurring concerns about inflation and prompting bets on further interest rate hikes.



As Bloomberg reports, OPEC+ began to see the need for a change in oil policy on March 20, just days after we first hinted at another OPEC+ output cut...

Who cuts first: OPEC+ or Fed

— zerohedge (@zerohedge) March 15, 2023

... when Brent crude slid to a 15-month low near $70 a barrel as a banking crisis threatened to hobble the economy. The Saudis reflected that short sellers were due a reminder of the pain OPEC+ can still inflict on them, the BBG sources said.

Once the wheels were in motion, the decision to hold back more than 1 million barrels of oil from the market was finalized in just a few days, and in a very tight circle. Some delegates said they found out just a day or two before the announcement. Two officials said they were completely blindsided by the decision which makes sense since most of OPEC+ is leaky like a 50 year old oil barrell and most delegates are quick to spew all secrets to their preferred leggy female media reporters (you'll never guess what takes place in those glitzy Vienna hotels late at night).

The impact was all the greater because, in the buildup to an OPEC+ committee meeting scheduled for Monday, Prince Abdulaziz had repeatedly said the group would hold output steady for the entire year to keep markets stable.

In the end, the announcement on Sunday in the European afternoon, with markets closed, was chosen for maximum impact, the sources said. Sure enough, Brent jumped more than $6 a barrel when Asia woke up, the biggest move in more than a year.

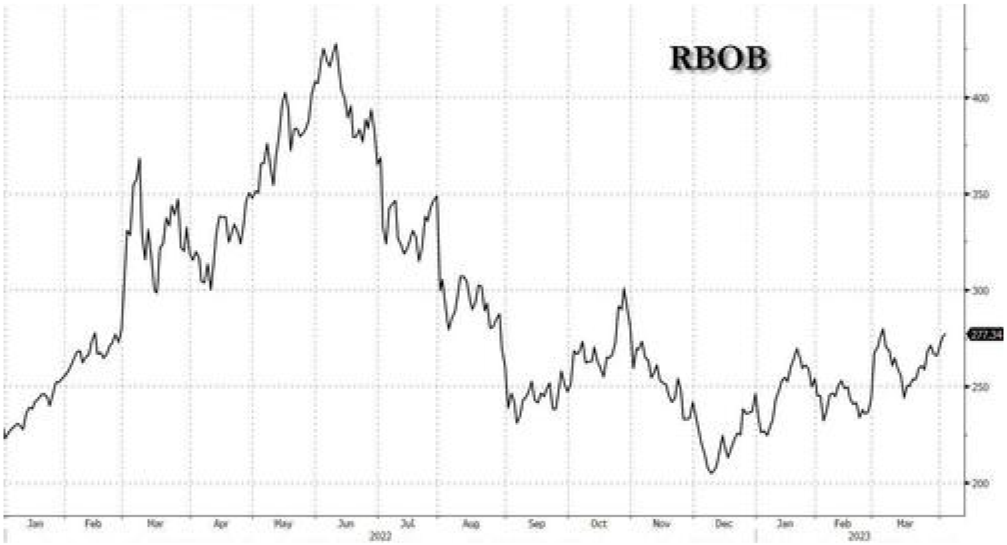
Explaining the decision, delegates pointed Bloomberg to market data on the build-up in short-selling.... the same market data we shared with readers just one day earlier.

As prices slumped with the banking crisis in late March, speculators piled up bearish bets on US crude to the highest in four years and reduced bullish positions to the lowest in more than a decade, according to figures from the CFTC. The financial fears abated toward the end of the month and those short positions were dialed back, but by that point the Saudis were feeling nervous, the people said. The hastily brokered takeover of Credit Suisse Group AG had sparked fears that financial contagion could damage the global economy.

That said, the announcement wasn't meant to be only a short squeeze trigger: fundamental concerns also emerged, and as the Saudi kingdom grew more concerned about the strength of oil demand, evidence emerged that supply was more than ample. In late March, a key export pipeline from Iraq was halted because of a legal spat between the Kurdish regional government and Baghdad, knocking about 400,000 barrels a day off global supply. Yet crude rose just 4%, strengthening the view that bearish speculators held sway over the market, said one person.

“The market had become a playing field for these shorts” and OPEC+ wanted to drive them out, Amrita Sen, director of research at Energy Aspects Ltd., said in a Bloomberg television interview. **The producers group is saying “take us on, but at your own peril.”**

The OPEC+ fight with short-sellers also has political implications. It brings most of the group into alignment with Russia, which kicked off the unilateral production cuts in February with a 500,000 barrel-a-day reduction in retaliation for international sanctions. By extension, the output cut also aligns the world's most powerful oil exporting body squarely against the White House, which was livid after the surprise announcement sent oil - an gasoline - prices sharply higher.



Those curbs haven’t yet fully materialized and their positive impact on prices had been erased by the banking crisis. Now, with OPEC+ members joining in, the oil revenue that feeds the Kremlin’s war machine will be bolstered. Ironically, it comes at a time when the Western anti-Russia alliance is cracking, with the WSJ reporting yesterday that Japan was given an exemption to buy Russian oil above the price cap, a move which most nations will quietly follow.

Last but not least, the Saudis also had to weigh how the decision would affect its relationship with Washington, which has been strained by the kingdom’s repeated refusal to heed American requests for more oil. As Bloomberg puts it, "If the production cuts bring $100 crude back into play, with everything that would mean for high inflation and rising interest rates, ***US consumers and the White House could join the short sellers in “ouching like hell.***"

That's ok though, at least the Biden admin will have a full SPR to release when times get tough... oh wait.

And speaking of the lowest SPR inventory in nearly 40 years, it's time to concede that $100 a barrel is finally back into the frame, especially considering that required capex spending to maintain output is woefully inadequate.

“There’s a bullish narrative,” Bob McNally, president of Rapidan Energy Group and a former White House energy official, said in a Bloomberg TV interview on Monday. **“If they cut into a bullish narrative, then $100 — we’ll go through it at high speed.”**

Beyond the initial market reaction in the hours after the OPEC+ announcement, the key marker for the physical impact of the cuts and the price trends in the coming months will be oil inventories. There had been signs that stockpiles were in decline in recent weeks. In the US where official figures are most visible because they are published weekly, oil stocks dropped by more than 20 million barrels over the last two weeks. Global onshore inventories had fallen in seven of the last nine weeks, according to Vortexa.

But there is still a long way to go. At the start of April, global onshore crude stockpiles were still about 140 million barrels above the level seen a year earlier, Kayrros data show. Taking an extra million barrels a day of supply out of the market in a period when demand should steadily ramp up will erode that surplus.

“The move is extremely bullish as draws on inventories will be immediate,” said Nadia Martin Wiggen, an analyst at Pareto Securities. **“This cut proves again that OPEC+ is proactive in managing the supply-demand balance and requires $90 to $100 a barrel.”**

Not everyone agreed of course, and as usual, Wall Street's most vocal oil permabear - who has the lowest oil price targets of all Wall Street analysts - Citi's Ed Morse said in a Bloomberg TV interview that “there is a scenario for $100 a barrel oil. But I don’t think we’re anywhere near that yet."

He also wrote in a report overnight that “OPEC+’s actions are clearly focused on shoring up a market that was looking increasingly weaker." He added that “given market positioning and short covering, a spike now seems inevitable, but could be followed by realization that the market is a lot weaker than people think.”

Or maybe the market is a lot stronger, and China was merely masking its economic recovery precisely to inflict the most damage not only on shorts, but the Biden white house. In a time when the multi-polar world order is breaking down and virtually every nascent superpower (or just plain old "power") is taking on the senile 80-year-old in the White House, this is certainly a credible scenario.

War, journal: Finland formally enters alliance

As NATO's Border With Russia Doubles, Shoigu Confirms Nuke-Capable Missiles Are In Belarus

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 04, 2023 - 01:10 PM

In a Tuesday ceremony in Brussels, Finland formally became the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's 31st member, which in effect **doubles the Western military alliance's border with Russia**.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg attended the ceremony with Pekka Haavisto, Finland's Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Finnish presidency said in a statement: "Finland has today become a member of the defense alliance NATO. The era of military non-alignment in our history has come to an end. **A new era begins**."

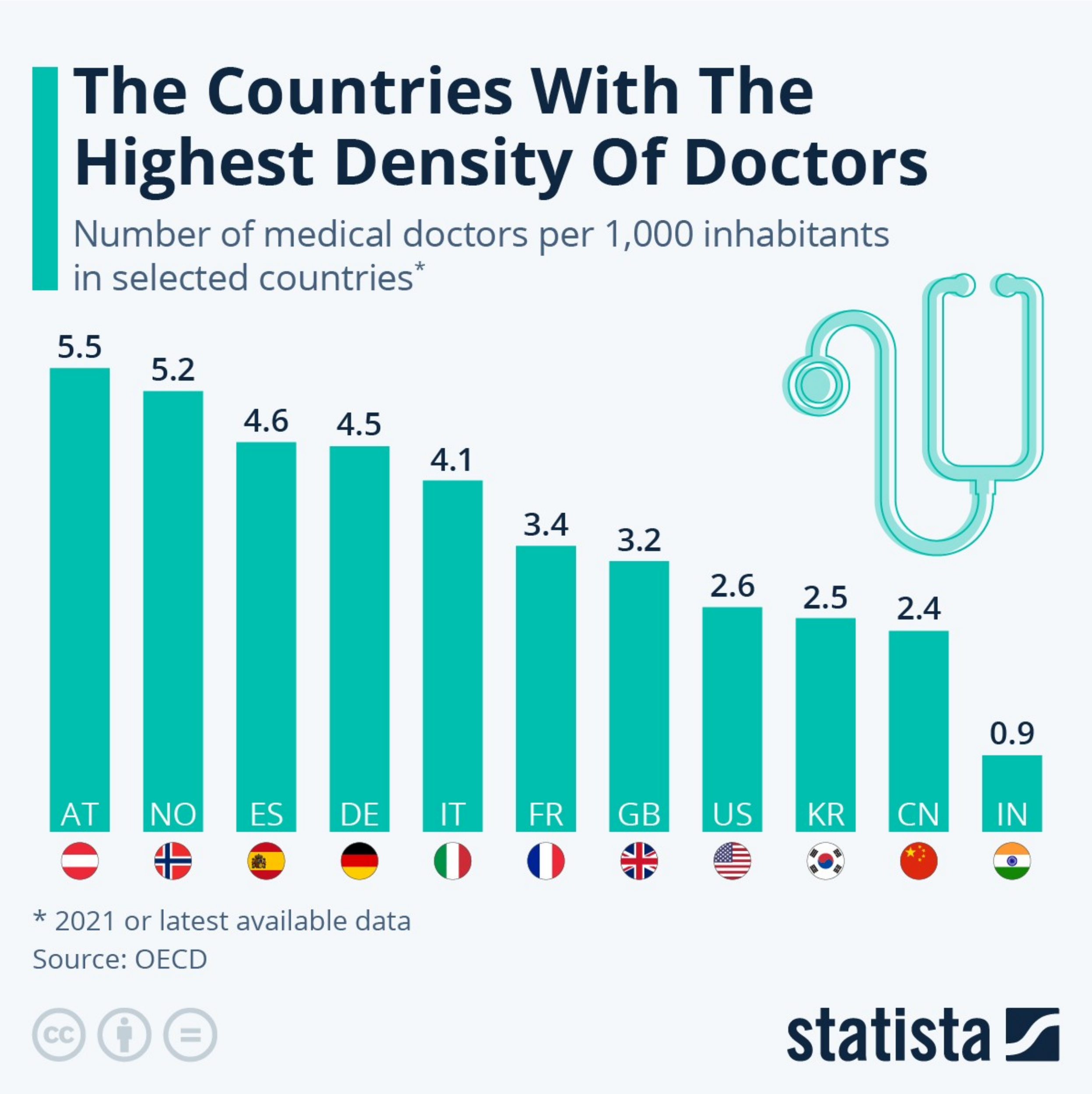
"Each country maximizes its own security. So does Finland. At the same time, NATO membership strengthens our international position and room for maneuver. As a partner, we have long actively participated in NATO activities. In the future, Finland will make a contribution to NATO’s collective deterrence and defense," it continued.

The Kremlin on the same day called it an aggravation of the situation and vowed to take countermeasures ensuring its security. "The Kremlin believes that this is another aggravation of the situation. **The expansion of NATO is an infringement on our security and Russia's national interests**," presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a briefing.

Stats: The Countries With The Highest Density Of Doctors

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 04, 2023 - 05:15 AM

As **healthcare workers are being driven from Britain's NHS due to difficult working conditions**, Statista's Anna Fleck decided to take a look at how other countries' health systems are faring with an international comparison of doctors.



War, Russia: Zelensky Govt Tags Senior Ukrainian Orthodox Bishop With Ankle Monitor

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 04, 2023 - 04:30 AM

Authored by Dave DeCamp via AntiWar.com,

A Kyiv court on Saturday ordered **the house arrest of Metropolitan Pavel**, a Ukrainian Orthodox bishop who is the head monk at the historic Pechersk Lavra Monastery.

Pavel is **suspected of justifying Russia’s invasion**, which is a criminal offense in Ukraine. He has denied the allegations, saying he had "never been on the side of aggression."

Censorship, government: Twitter Algorithm Reveals Tool For Government Intervention

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 03, 2023 - 01:25 PM

Authored by Eric Lendrum via American Greatness,

A researcher claims to have found a tool allowing for government intervention in Twitter’s algorithm, upon Elon Musk’s decision to allow the algorithm to become open sourced to the public.

Breitbart reports that Musk honored his promise on Friday by releasing a portion of Twitter’s recommendation algorithm on the website GitHub, where computer programmers often go to share and collaborate on work dealing with open-source code.

Web developer Steven Tey then claimed to have discovered a particular mechanism within the code that allows the U.S. government to make changes to the website’s algorithm.

“When needed, the government can intervene with the Twitter algorithm. In fact, @TwitterEng (Twitter Engineering) even has a class for it – ‘GovernmentRequested,” Tey tweeted, including a link to the code on GitHub.

McDonald's Temporarily Shutters Offices Ahead Of Layoff Notices

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 03, 2023 - 08:45 AM

Over the past year, big tech companies have been reducing their workforce, and now this trend extends to the US food sector. According to a Wall Street Journal report on Sunday evening, fast-food giant McDonald's Corp. is preparing to notify its corporate staff about layoffs early this week in an extensive organizational overhaul.

Last week, the Chicago-based fast-food chain sent an internal memo to its US employees, informing them that corporate offices would be temporarily shut down during the first half of this week. The email instructed staff to work remotely, allowing management teams to communicate layoff decisions virtually.

"During the week of April 3, we will communicate key decisions related to roles and staffing levels across the organization," *the memo to employees read.*

The announcement isn't a surprise. McDonald's in January said it would make a "difficult" decision about corporate staffing levels by April.

"Some jobs that are existing today are either going to get moved or those jobs may go away," Chief Executive Officer Chris Kempczinski told WSJ in an interview in early January.

According to the chain's annual report, McDonald's employs around 150k people globally in corporate roles and its owned restaurants, with three-quarters of them located outside of the US.

In late January, McDonald's revealed a slowdown in lower-income customers ordering fewer items. The company has asked all franchisees to raise menu prices slowly, or it would create a price shock.

It's anticipated that the number of layoffs could reach into the thousands, adding to the wave of job cuts primarily originating from large tech firms, including Amazon, Google's Alphabet, Meta Platform, and Microsoft.

Ai, tech: Hedge Fund CIO: "There Is A Fundamental Flaw In The Deep-Learning Systems That Underpin Today's Most Advanced AI"

“The systems can understand ***only specific situations they have been exposed to*** *in the past and are* ***unable to generalize*** *in a way that humans find easy,”*

MON APR 3, AT 7:30 AM

Censorship, government: French Woman Faces $13,000 Fine For Facebook Post Calling President Macron "Filth"

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 03, 2023 - 06:00 AM

Authored by Christina Maas via ReclaimTheNet.org, In an unprecedented case, a woman from northern France is set to face trial for allegedly insulting President Emmanuel Macron on social media.

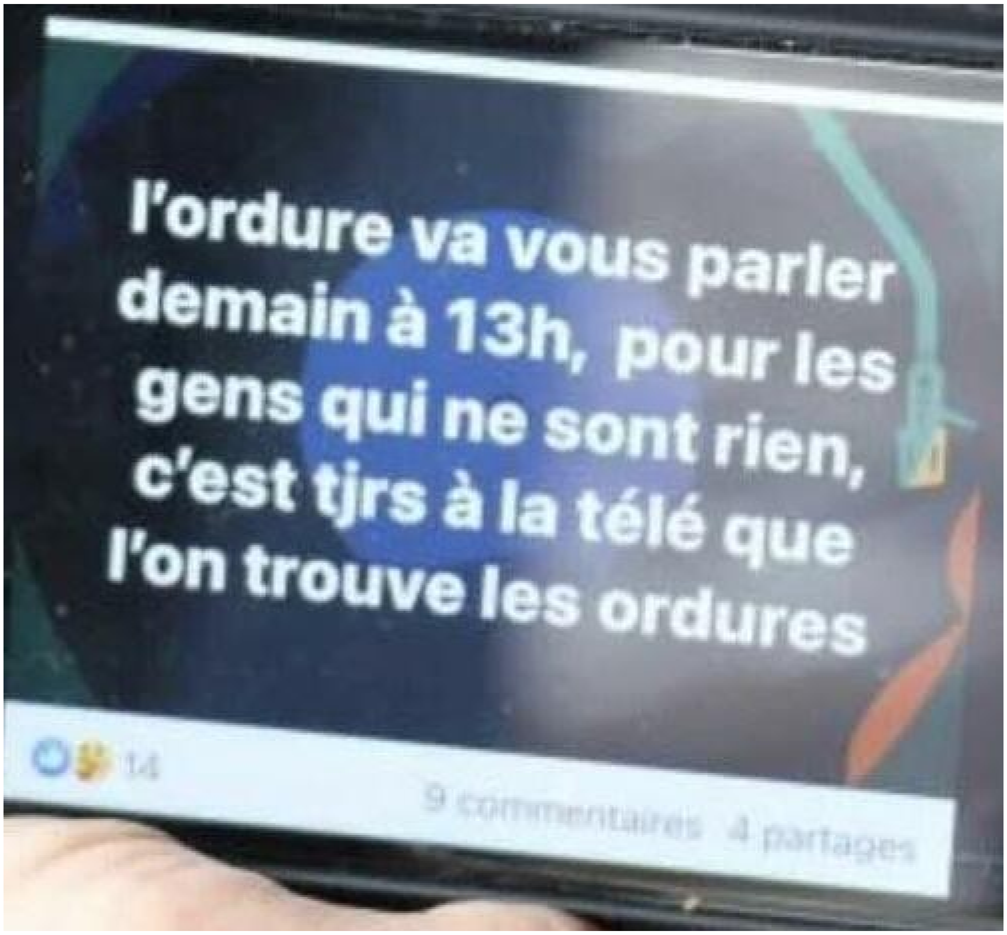
The incident occurred when the woman referred to Macron as “filth” in a Facebook post.

If found guilty, she could be slapped with a hefty €12,000 fine, although jail time is not on the table. The trial is scheduled to take place in June.

The woman's arrest took place last Friday, following a complaint filed by the local administrative office in response to her Facebook post.

Saint Omer prosecutor Mehdi Benbouzid confirmed the arrest and provided details to AFP. The Facebook post in question was published on March 21st, a day prior to Macron's televised interview with TF1, where he defended his contentious pension reform plans that have incited protests across the nation.

In her Facebook post, the woman had written, ***“This piece of filth is going to address you at 1:00 pm… it's always on television that we see this filth.”***



l’ordure va vous parler demain à 13h, pour les gens qui ne sont rien, c’est tjrs à la télé que l’on trouve les ordures

Stats, history: SoCal Sweatshop Workers Make As Little As $1.58 Per Hour

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 01, 2023 - 07:00 PM

A survey of garment-sewing contractors in Southern California reveals that **sweatshop workers are paid as little as $1.58 per hour.**

The survey, conducted by the US Department of Labor, found that workers making garments sold by some of the world's largest fashion retailers are **victims of wage theft** and other illegal pay practices, *Fashion United* reports.

Contractors and manufacturers included in the survey include Bombshell Sportswear, Dillard's, Lulus, Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Socialite, Stitch Fix and Von Maur.

There more more than 45,000 workers in the Los Angeles-area garment manufacturing industry, with many working an average of 55 hours per week with no overtime pay, according to the report.

> *Based on data from more than 50 contractors and manufacturers, the 2022 Southern California Garment Survey released by the department's Wage and Hour Division* ***found violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act in 80 percent of its investigations.*** *More than 50 percent of the time, the division found employers illegally paying workers part or all their wages off the books,* ***with payroll records either deliberately forged or not provided****. - Fashion United*

The survey also found that **32% of contractors are paying workers piece-rate wages**, which has been prohibited by the state of California since last year.

"Despite our efforts to hold Southern California's garment industry employers accountable, we continue to see people who make clothes sold by some of the nation's leading retailers working in sweatshops," said Wage and Hour Regional Administrator Ruben Rosalez in San Francisco. "**Many people shopping for clothes in stores and online are likely unaware that the 'Made in the**

USA' merchandise they're buying was, in fact, made by people earning far less than the U.S. law requires."

According to investigators, **one contractor was paying workers as little as $1.58 per hour**, about what Bengladeshi workers make - which last month saw unions demand an increase in the minimum wage from US$75 dollars per month to US$215 amid crippling inflation.

The U.S. Department of Labor says it found that ***sewing fees paid by manufacturers to contractors were – on average – not enough for the contractors to properly pay their workers' required minimum wages****. Specifically, the studies determined the average sewing fee was 2.75 dollars below the amount needed per garment for sewing contractors to comply with federal wage standards. Contractors who paid employees in compliance with the law received a higher sewing fee, ranging from 17.50 dollars to 35 dollars per garment. -Fashion United*

"The findings of the Southern California Garment Survey highlight why greater outreach and stronger enforcement are needed to combat the inequities that exist in the garment and fashion industries," said Rosalez. "The Wage and Hour Division will continue to work and meet with advocates and industry stakeholders, and remain focused on holding accountable the manufacturers and retailers who reap significant profits while the people who did the hard work are too often not paid their rightful wages."

Watch: Anthropology Prof Angered After Being Mocked For Denying Ability To Tell Gender From Human Bones

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 01, 2023 - 06:30 PM

Authored by Jonathan Turley,

There is an interesting controversy that has erupted at the University of Pittsburgh after Dr. Gabby Yearwood, who teaches in both the anthropology and law schools, was asked by swimmer Riley Gaines if he could tell the gender of persons from skeletal remains.

He denied that that was possible despite the widely accepted ability to do so in his field. The answer may reflect the ongoing push in anthropology, discussed in an earlier blog column, to put an end to gender identifications. Some insist that anthropologists need to know how an ancient human may have chosen to identify themselves.

Yearwood reportedly was asked the question by **Gaines, who achieved national notoriety in opposing the inclusion of transgender athletes like the University of Pennsylvania's Lia Thomas in women competitions**.

Like J.K. Rowling who has raised concerns over the threat to feminist gains from some transgender policies, Gaines is now ostracized and often prevented from speaking at events.

To its credit, Pittsburgh refused to yield to demands to bar Gaines and others from speaking on campus. This controversy appears to have resulted during the event that many sought cancel.

Vaccine, government, censorship, media: Vax Mandate For Boston City Workers Was Legal, State Supreme Court Rules

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 01, 2023 - 05:00 PM

The city of Boston's Covid-19 vaccine mandate for city workers was legal, according to a March 30 ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Court, after the city claimed that the ability to adequately combat the virus outweighed the risk of irreparable vaccine injuries to workers who were facing termination.

Markets, crypto, Russia, journal:

bulgaria currently holds 6 billion in btc, 'at-the-market..

A Seized Bitcoin Stack Could Be Bulgaria's Golden Ticket

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 25, 2023 - 07:30 AM

Authored by Ahmed Botan via BitcoinMagazine.com,

Bulgaria, a small country located in Southeast Europe, nestled between Romania and Greece, could become one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

The reason for this is its possession of 213,000 bitcoin, which its authorities seized from a group they labeled as criminals in 2017. According to the South East European Law Enforcement Center (SELC), the group hacked the Bulgarian customs agency's computers and made changes to the system so that their partner companies could import goods while avoiding paying taxes on them.

Immediately following the crackdown, the bitcoin seized was worth about $500,000, however, it would now be worth closer to $6 billion dollars, as of April 2023. While the details around the BTC seizure are unclear, and it is not totally clear whether the country still holds that bitcoin or what it plans to do with the stack if it does, the potential of a nation like Bulgaria holding this much BTC is worth exploring.

As the value of bitcoin is, in the view of many, set to go up a lot higher still in the coming years, Bulgaria could stand to become very wealthy.

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journal, vaccine, media: Tucker Carlson Fired By Lachlan Murdoch; Here's What We Know

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, APR 25, 2023 - 06:44 AM

Update (2114ET): After an entire day wondering why in the hell *Fox News* would can the highest-rated cable news host in the world, ever, **the *New York Times* comes out with this**;

Who:

> ***The decision to let Mr. Carlson go was made on Friday night by Lachlan Murdoch****, the chief executive of Fox Corporation, and* ***Suzanne Scott****, chief executive of Fox News Media, according to a person briefed on the move. Mr. Carlson was informed on Monday morning by Ms. Scott, another person briefed on the move said.*

Why?

> *[T]he power that Mr. Carlson, 53, wielded outside Fox News could not insulate him from* ***a growing list of troubles*** *inside the network* ***related to his conduct on and off the air****, some of which had been grating on Mr. Murdoch and his father, Rupert Murdoch, the chairman of Fox Corporation, who co-founded the network in 1996, according to the two people with knowledge of the company's decision.*
>
> *...*
>
> ***The host****, a polarizing and unpopular figure at the network outside of his own staff,* ***was exposed as part of a defamation lawsuit by Dominion Voting Systems as a bully who denigrated colleagues and sources,*** *often in profane and sexist language, and called for the firing of Fox journalists whose coverage he disliked. He has also drawn condemnation from the right and left for his role in fostering a revisionist account of the assault on the United States Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.*

So he was mean to people?

We also know that last week, Tucker attacked Big Pharma in one of his monologues.

Oh, there's more:

> ***One early point of contention was Mr. Carlson's 2021 documentary, "Patriot Purge,"*** *which advanced the conspiracy theory that* ***the attack that day was a so-called false flag operation designed to discredit the former president and his political movement.*** *Lachlan Murdoch was said to have been caught off guard by the program, which also led two conservative Fox News contributors to quit in protest, Jonah Goldberg and Stephen Hayes.*
>
> ***In March, Mr. Carlson edited down tens of thousands of hours of footage from the attack given to him by Speaker Kevin McCarthy*** *and used them to falsely portray the rioters as people Mr. Carlson called "mostly peaceful" onlookers who had innocently ambled into the Capitol.* ***The broadcast drew a rebuke from Senator Mitch McConnell, who is a friend of Rupert Murdoch's and said Mr. Carlson had drawn "offensive and misleading conclusions."***

So he showed the public the January 6th footage and dared question the event.

The *Times* also says that one of Carlson's former producers said he ran a "toxic" workplace.

And yet, is any of that worth giving up tens of millions in Tucker-related ad revenue? It seems that if you routinely question the regime, it is.

* * *

Tucker Carlson, **the highest rated cable news host in history, is *out* at Fox News.** The news comes days after the network cut ties with host Dan Bongino 48 hours after the network settled with Dominion Voting Systems for nearly $800 million.

"Fox News Media and Tucker Carlson have agreed to part ways," reads a statement from the network, which thanks him for his service "as a host and prior to that as a contributor."

Carlson's executive producer, Justin Wells, is also out at the network according to *Semafor*.

According to the statement, Carlson's last show was Friday, April 21st as he continued to dominate, and his slot will now be filled by 'an interim show helmed by rotating FOX News personalities until a new host is named."

Full statement from the network (emphasis ours),:

> ***FOX News Media and Tucker Carlson have agreed to part ways****. We thank him for his service to the network as a host and prior to that as a contributor.*
>
> *Mr. Carlson's last program was Friday April 21st.* ***Fox News Tonight will air live at 8 PM/ET starting this evening as an interim show helmed by rotating FOX News personalities until a new host is named.***
>
> *FOX News Media operates the FOX News Channel (FNC), FOX Business Network (FBN), FOX News Digital, FOX News Audio, FOX News Books, the direct-to-consumer streaming services FOX Nation and FOX News International and the free ad- supported television service FOX Weather. Currently the number one network in all of cable, FNC has also been the most watched television news channel for more than 21 consecutive years, while FBN ranks among the top business channels on cable. Owned by Fox Corporation, FOX News Media reaches nearly 200 million people each month.*

Shares of 21st Century Fox dropped like a rock on the news, and is now sitting at January lows (the drop in FOXA's market cap is around the same as the settlement with Dominion).

Markets, government, tech, inflation: Remote Work Is "Bulls**t", Says CRE Billionaire Sam Zell

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 24, 2023 - 11:40 PM

Real estate mogul Sam Zell told an audience of New York University graduate students that remote work is a "bunch of bullshit" and they should dismiss the idea of working from home, according to commercial real estate news website GlobeSt.

"One of the biggest lies in the world is that people working from home are more productive than people working in the office," Zell told the audience at NYU SPS Schack Institute of Real Estate's annual REIT Symposium, held at NYC's Pierre Hotel on Fifth Avenue, on Wednesday.

"You have much less productivity if you're working from home in your pajamas with three little kids running around than if you're in an office," he continued.

When asked about the current state of the office market and the impact of work, Zell provided this answer:

"I wouldn't want to be an owner of a lot of Class B offices right now."

The billionaire made it clear that remote work trends are temporary:

"On the first day of Covid, nobody was in our office. Six months later, everyone was in our office—and they have been for over two years."

He said many professional skills critical for young people are developed in office environments, and working from home stymies that.

"There's an enormous difference between a Zoom board meeting and a meeting in person.

"A Zoom board meeting is a board meeting where everyone sits and listens to recitations. An in-person meeting is where the real discussion takes place."

Zell's view on remote work is biased, considering he's made much of his fortune in the CRE space, and remote work has led to rising vacancy rates and sliding property value.

The gold-standard measure of office occupancy trends is the card-swipe data provided by Kastle Systems. The average office occupancy nationwide is around 46%, still well off the highs from pre-pandemic levels.

We have cited the regional bank turmoil as likely going to have spillover effects in the CRE space -- especially the office sector. JPM, Morgan Stanley, and Goldman Sachs have all joined the gloom parade, warning about impending CRE turmoil.

War, middle east, erdogan: march31 “A week ago, a drone strike hit the US occupation base at Kharab al-Jir military airport in Hasakah governorate, leaving at least one US contractor dead and several troops injured.”

US Troops In Syria Treated For 'Traumatic Brain Injuries' After Recent Attacks

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 31, 2023 - 10:20 PM

Via The Cradle,

Six US soldiers have been diagnosed with **traumatic brain injuries as a result of attacks from Iran-backed groups in Syria last week**, CNN reported Thursday, in addition to the five soldiers initially reported as injured.

US jets then bombed several locations in the city of Deir Ezzor in retaliation, targetiA week ago, a drone strike hit the US occupation base at Kharab al-Jir military airport in Hasakah governorate, leaving at least one US contractor dead and several troops injured. ng the Syrian army and Iranian advisors and **killing eight**.

Planet, energy, government, journal: wind power can't provide net-zero carbon future, would require 5.5 million square meters of turbine swept area

"Wind Power Fails On Every Count": Oxford Scientist Explains The Math

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, APR 01, 2023 - 08:00 AM

Authored by Naveen Athrappully via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Wind power has been historically and scientifically unreliable, claims an Oxford University mathematician and physicist, with his calculations revealing the government to be pursuing a “bluster of windfarm politics” while discarding numerical evidence.

“The scientist calculated that, at 100 percent efficiency, if the wind blows at 10 meters per second (about 22 mph), the power is 600 watts per square meter. Hence, to deliver 3,200 million watts, the same output as Hinkley Point C—a planned zero-carbon nuclear power station in England—there would need to be 5.5 million square meters of turbine swept area.”

Stats, tech, war: 29 Mar, Chinese experiment: super soldiers who survive nuclear fallout, recent

https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3215286/chinese-team-behind-extreme-animal-gene-experiment-says-it-may-lead-super-soldiers-who-survive

Stats, inflation: March30 Inflation Hits the English Breakfast Hard

"The good old English breakfast, while contrary to popular opinion outside of the country not eaten every day, is a pleasure that many families may need to cut down on during the current inflation crisis.

While UK inflation (CPI) is currently at 10.4 percent, the average annual increase in prices in February 2023 for key ingredients of the meal was 22.4 percent.

Most heavily affected is milk, bread and eggs, with price increases of between 33 and 43 percent. Arguably, you could do without these ingredients if push comes to shove, but what about the essential elements like bacon and sausages? Here, costs have gone up by 20 and 19 percent, respectively. Unfortunately for purists, the Office for National Statistics doesn't have data for baked beans."

Chart: Inflation Hits the English Breakfast Hard | Statista

Body Blow To Activists: Whopping 82% Of Berlin's Voters Refused To Support Net Zero 2030 As Referendum Fails

https://pleiteticker.de/berliner-volksentscheid-ein-elitenprojekt-ist-gescheitert/

Berlin referendum: An elite project has failed

on 27 Mar 2023

The Latte-Macchiato faction has lost and is drowning in cynical accusations against the majority. The middle of society let the Berlin climate referendum fail. Liberals and conservatives, meanwhile, are justifiably celebrating a major victory against the Greens.

Journal, readlater, government, inflation:

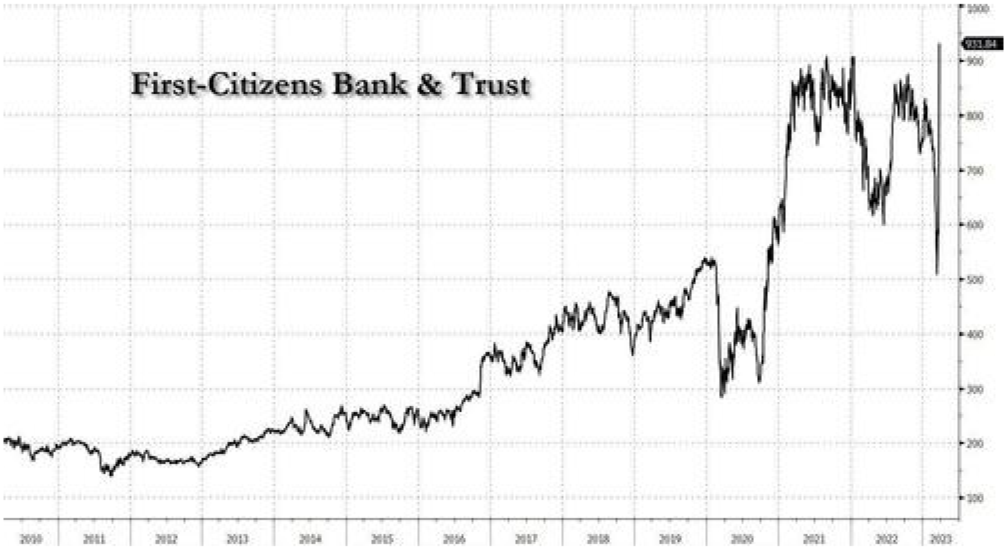
How The Collapse Of SVB Led To A $16 Billion Taxpayer-Funded Gift For One Bank

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, MAR 28, 2023 - 03:40 PM

Something remarkable happened yesterday: just after midnight on Sunday night, the FDIC announced that a small bank which almost nobody had heard of before, First-Citizens Bank & Trust (FCNCA) would scoop up the remaining assets of the now defunct Silicon Valley Bank,which imploded on March 9 following a furious bank run, that saw $42BN in deposits drained in hours (and where **another $100 billion in deposits were about to be yanked on Friday,** which is why the FDIC stepped in and shuttered the bank before market open on Friday March 10)...

... and what happened next shocked everyone" FCNCA stock almost doubled, soaring to the highest on record.

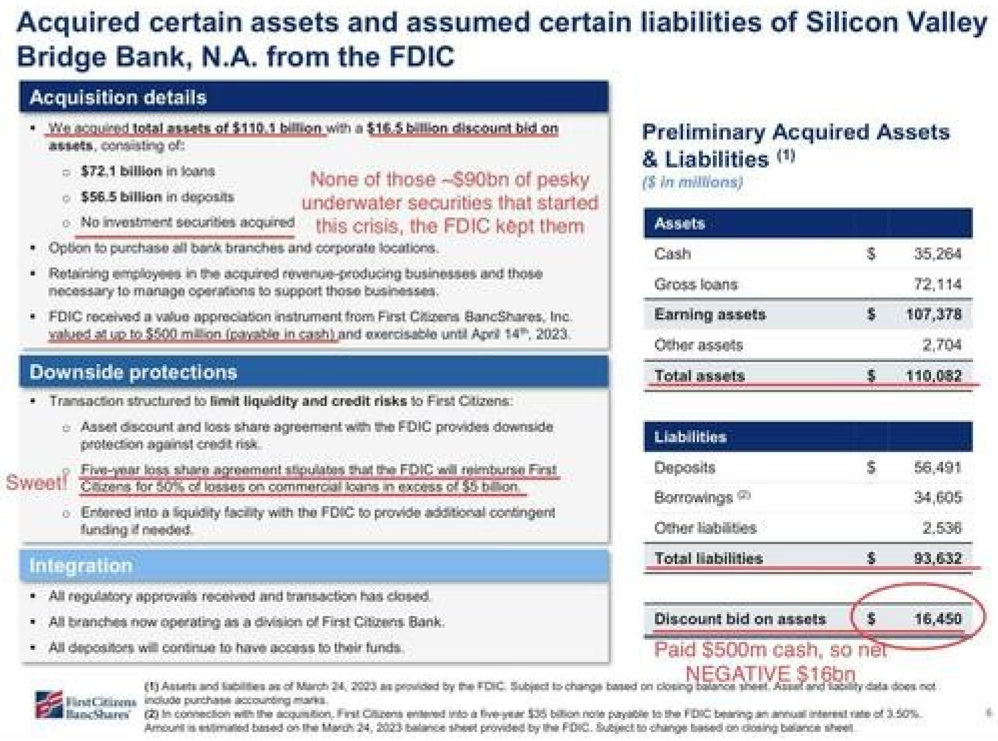


But why would the value of the Raleigh, North Carolina-based First Citizens double in seconds if all it did buy assets which until just a few weeks ago were viewed as worthless.

Well, because they were ***not*** worthless. Yes, SIVB certainly had its sahre of massive MTM losses on its HTM book (consisting primarily of Mortgage Backed Securities), but it also had solid loans and it is these loans that First Citizens bought for a song.

As the following chart annotated by Wasteland Capital shows, the deal that First Citizens inked was nothing short of spectacular and explains how the small bank managed to double its stock price overnight. Here is what happened:

- In exchange for a discount bid of $16.5 billion, First Citizens acquired total assets of $110.1BN (including $35.3BN in cash), and $93.6BN in liabilities, including $56.5BN in deposits and $34.6BN in assumed borrowings.
- More importantly, none of the $90BN in underwater HTM "investment securities" that sparked the crisis in the first place were acquired; no the US taxpayers got to keep those courtesy of the FDIC.
- There's more: to further sweeten the deal, the FDIC pledged even more taxpayer funds to "incentivize" First Citizens not to walk away, and it did so by signing a five-year loss share agreement according to which the FDIC will reimburse First Cititzens for 50% of losses on commercial loans in excess of $5 billion.



Acquired certain assets and assumed certain liabilities of Silicon Valley Bridge Bank, N.A. from the FDIC

Acquisition details

- We acquired **total assets of $110.1 billion** with a **$16.5 billion discount bid on assets**, consisting of:
  - **$72.1 billion** in loans
  - **$56.5 billion** in deposits
  - No investment securities acquired
- Option to purchase all bank branches and corporate locations.
- Retaining employees in the acquired revenue-producing businesses and those necessary to manage operations to support those businesses.
- FDIC received a value appreciation instrument from First Citizens BancShares, Inc. valued at up to $500 million (payable in cash) and exercisable until April 14th, 2023.

None of those ~$90bn of pesky underwater securities that started this crisis, the FDIC kept them

Downside protections

- Transaction structured to **limit liquidity and credit risks** to First Citizens:
  - Asset discount and loss share agreement with the FDIC provides downside protection against credit risk.
  - Five-year loss share agreement stipulates that the FDIC will reimburse First Citizens for 50% of losses on commercial loans in excess of $5 billion.
  - Entered into a liquidity facility with the FDIC to provide additional contingent funding if needed.

Sweet!

Integration

- All regulatory approvals received and transaction has closed.
- All branches now operating as a division of First Citizens Bank.
- All depositors will continue to have access to their funds.

Preliminary Acquired Assets & Liabilities (1)

($ in millions)

Assets		
Cash	$	35,264
Gross loans		72,114
Earning assets	**$**	**107,378**
Other assets		2,704
Total assets	**$**	**110,082**

Liabilities		
Deposits	$	56,491
Borrowings (2)		34,605
Other liabilities		2,536
Total liabilities	**$**	**93,632**
Discount bid on assets	**$**	**16,450**

Paid $500m cash, so net NEGATIVE $16bn

(1) Assets and liabilities as of March 24, 2023 as provided by the FDIC. Subject to change based on closing balance sheet. Asset and liability data does not include purchase accounting marks.

(2) In connection with the acquisition, First Citizens entered into a five-year $35 billion note payable to the FDIC bearing an annual interest rate of 3.50%. Amount is estimated based on the March 24, 2023 balance sheet provided by the FDIC. Subject to change based on closing balance sheet.

Bottom line: virtually no risk - and what little risk is left after acquiring this portfolio of deeply discounted loans is shared 50-50 with US taxpayers - and only upside.

And how much did this sweet taxpayer-funded deal cost First Citizens? Why a "whopping" $500 million... when when netting out the actual asset bid of $16.5 billion means that First Citizens "paid" a negative $16 billion. Confused by the double negative? Here's the bottom line: courtesy of US taxpayers (who ended up getting stuffed with the toxic garbage on Silicon Valley Bank's balance sheet), **First Citizens got $16 billion (and arguably much more) in assets for free.** What's more, FCNCA not only got $16BN in assets for free, but the combination of the two banks creates a $143 billion loan portfolio and turns the little-known North Carolina bank into one of the country’s largest lenders to the venture capital and private equity industries. It also means **First Citizens will now be one of the top 15 US banks, with more assets than the likes of Morgan Stanley or American Express Co., according to Federal Reserve data!**

One can see why the bank's market cap doubled instantly (and has a lot more to go once the bank crisis fizzles, once rates are cut and once loan prices resume their climb).

To be sure, one could argue if this was such a sweetheart deal for First Citizens, why did other banks not join the bidding process. The answer to that has to do with the unique expertise of the bank's CEO Frank B. Holding Jr., who has now scooped up at least a dozen failed banks since 2008.

“Let me say that this acquisition is compelling financially, strategically and operationally,” Holding, the 61-year-old chief executive officer of First Citizens and one of its largest individual shareholders, told analysts on a conference call on Monday. First Citizens’ stock soared after the announcement. “It is also a great illustration of regulators and banks working together to protect depositors.”

Alternatively, it is a great illustration of how clueless government regulators use taxpayer funds to backstop deals that make billionaires even richer and while Elizabeth Warren still hasn't figured out what happened here, she "native American" will sooner or later, at which point we will get countless kangaroo court hearings seeking an explanation from the FDIC how this wealth transfer was allowed to happen.

And while we wait, here is a snapshot of First Citizens' unique history courtesy of Bloomberg:

First Citizens got its start with $10,000 in capital as the Bank of Smithfield in 1898, primarily serving North Carolina’s Johnston County. In 1935, Frank Holding’s grandfather R.P. Holding took over as president and chairman, leading the company until his death in the 1950s.

At that point, leadership of the bank transferred to his three sons, Robert Holding, Lewis R. Holding and Frank B. Holding. In the 1970s, the firm moved its headquarters to Raleigh as assets surpassed $1 billion for the first time, according to the company’s website.

It wasn’t until 1994 that First Citizens began opening branches outside its home state after acquiring a bank in West Virginia. A few years later, the company added a federal thrift subsidiary, allowing it to expand further across the country.

Frank B. Holding Jr. was named CEO of First Citizens in 2008, then chairman the following year, at the height of the global financial crisis. A handful of other bank executives – including Vice Chairman Hope Holding Bryant and President Peter Bristow – are also Holding family members.

“He sort of does look like the family banker,” said Lawrence Baxter, a Duke University School of Law professor who once was a First Citizens customer himself and regularly sees Holding in ads that are part of the bank’s PBS North Carolina sponsorship.

Family banker or not, Holding certainly is experienced in quickly assessing and scooping up distressed assets: since the global financial crisis, First Citizens has acquired lenders in a series of deals from Washington state to Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

“First Citizens has a history of troubled banks,” said Herman Chan, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence. **“It’s a strategy to grow the bank when times are difficult — to conduct M&A at advantageous prices."**

Like now.

Growth has come not only from failed-bank deals though: First Citizens last year completed the acquisition of the formerly high-profile CIT Group in a deal valued at more than $2 billion.

“In the long run, what you’ll get is more — more services, more ways to manage your money, more places to find us,” Holding told customers in a video announcing the takeover. “We’re not just making a bigger bank, we’re making an even better bank.”

The moves have meant First Citizens is now a national player, with more than 500 branches and private-banking offices spread across states as far away from its headquarters as Hawaii. With more than 10,000 employees, the lender offers the traditional businesses of banking to individual consumers and companies, and is also one of the largest lenders to the rail industry — even owning a fleet of rail cars and locomotives that it leases to railroads and shippers.

* * *

While nowhere near close to Monday's multi-billion gift, Frank Holding had already taken advantage of SVB’s collapse by joining other regional bank executives in snapping up shares of their companies. He spent $260,000 buying up First Citizens stock in early March for $650 a share, 30% below the company’s current share price of $910.

Some younger members of the Holding family are already working for the bank. Perry Bailey, Frank’s daughter, earned $224,082 working at First Citizens last year, while her cousin and Frank’s nephew John Patrick Connell pocketed $105,116 during the same period, according to regulatory disclosures.

Not surprisingly, Holding and his relatives have became part of the world’s ultra-rich through their banking business, becoming a billionaire finance dynasty split across at least five branches.

Like other billionaire dynasties, such as the Murdochs, the family has maintained a tight grip on the direction of their major asset, even though they don’t hold a majority of its equity, by employing a dual-class share structure. Frank Holding and his relatives hold Class B shares with 16 voting rights each, compared with the single vote for each of the Class A shares the banking dynasty also holds, and they’ve passed down their wealth generation to generation by shifting stock to scores of trusts.

Frank Holding and relatives listed as First Citizens shareholders oversee a stake worth more than $1.7 billion in First Citizens after the company’s shares surged 54% on Monday, erasing their sudden wealth slump from SVB’s collapse, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. They’ve also received at least

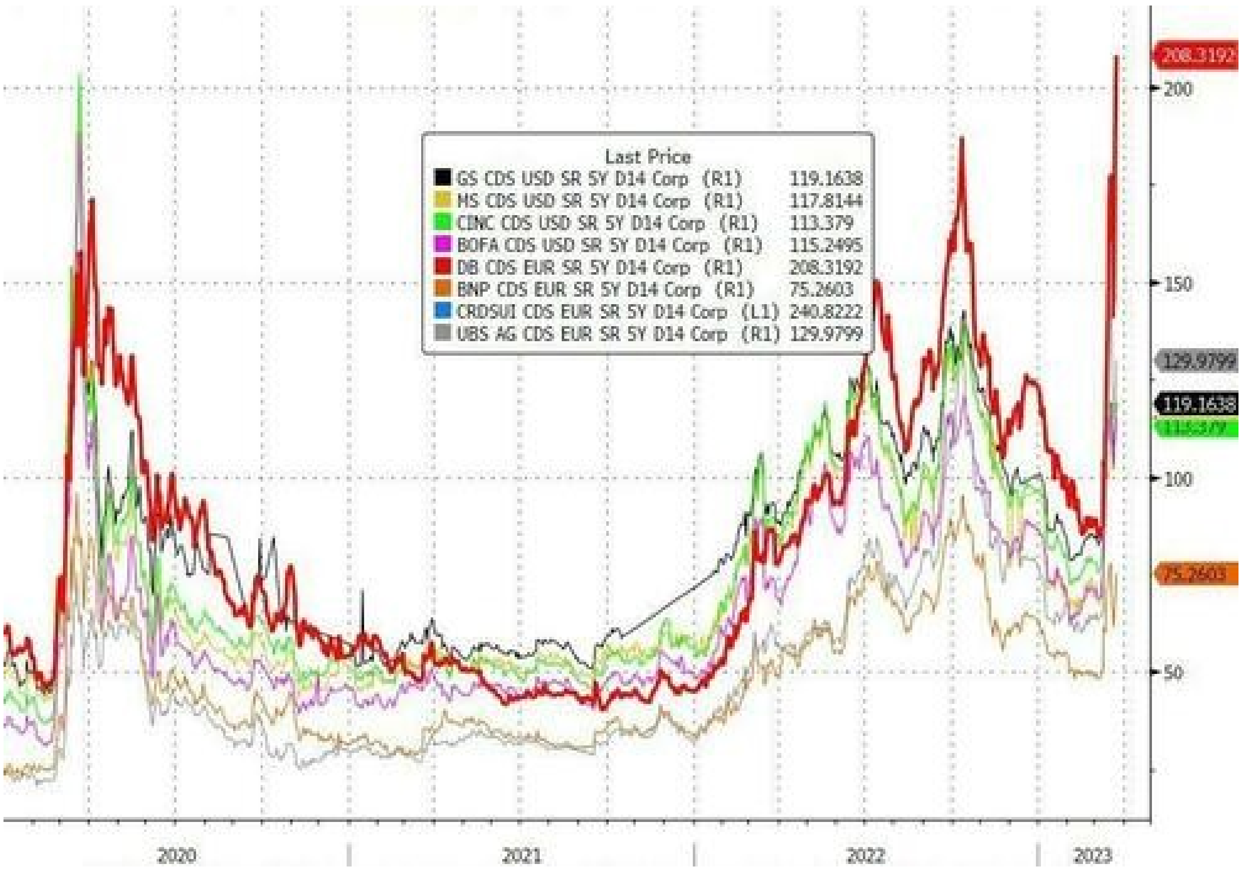
$35 million through dividends and share sales over the past four decades and diversified their fortunes into commercial real estate, farming and philanthropy.

And now, courtesy of the SIVB collapse, they are about to become even richer.

Regulators Blame Friday's Deutsche Bank Crash On Single CDS Trade

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, MAR 28, 2023 - 12:15 PM

Last Friday, what was already a bad global banking crisis following the implosion of the US regional banking sector and the collapse of Credit Suisse last weekend, turned much worse when as we showed at the time, [the CDS of Deutsche Bank blew out to levels wider](#)than those hit during the covid crash...



... and sparking another global market rout amid growing fears that the largest European bank could fail next.

The CDS - and stock - rout prompted a barrage of verbal defense by everyone from Wall Street analysts (working for other banks and thus who are thus quite incentivized, and conflicted, in preventing a bank crash that would dwarf Lehman) and European politicians (who would be on the hook for the multi-billion bailout and/or depression should DB fail), and for now this has succeeded with both DB stock and CDS stabilizing in the past few days. Meanwhile, realizing they must quickly bolt down all the "weakest links" moments ago Bloomberg reported that **regulators are taking a page out of the post-Lehman playbook and as part of the scapegoating campaign which looks at *everyone but those responsible*, are "singling out a trade on Deutsche Bank AG's credit default swaps that they suspect fueled a global selloff on Friday."**

The trade in question, according to Bloomberg sources, represents a laughable €5 million ($5.4 million) bet on swaps tied to the German bank's junior debt, which also happens to be the smallest tradable denomination and blaming the near collapse on DB on one single CDS trade is equivalent to blaming the May 2010 flash crash on two-bit *stay-at-home daytrader* Navinder Sarao (which, come to think of it, is precisely what happened so we aren't that shocked). And to frontrun the perpetual mockery from those whoa actually know how the CDS market works, BBG was quick to note that CDS contracts can be illiquid, "so a single bet can trigger big moves." Yes it can... and a big move will trigger even bigger counter moves, assuming there is anyone in the market with any conviction. It is the fact that nobody was willing to take the other side on the smallest possible short risk bet targeting DB's junior debt, that speaks volumes about this idiotic "explanation" for why DB almost went down last Friday.

Of course, if one is dumb enough to believe that one single, solitary trade can spark a marketwide avalanche, then what happens next is obvious:

The suspected knock-on effect was a rout that sent banking stocks tumbling, government bonds higher and CDS prices for lenders soaring, trimming about €1.6 billion off Deutsche Bank's market cap and more than €30 billion off an index that tracks European banking stocks.

So yeah, tens of billions in value wiped out because of literally the smallest possible CDS increment one can trade. Good narrative-shaping there, guys.

There is a reason why regulators are scrambling to pin the blame on some tiny family office that was hoping to hedge against a DB collapse: European banks and their regulators have sought to underline that they have a close watch on risks — including rising rates — and that the industry is on a sound footing. Events last Friday showed just how clueless Europe's regulators are. One could say they are almost as clueless as their US peers who allowed the regional bank crisis to reach a level where nobody knows what is safe anymore.

Amid the unwanted attention, German lender published a presentation on Monday that cited its "well diversified portfolio" of deposits, a key focus for investors following the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank. Deutsche Bank and the broader index rebounded on Monday, erasing some of Friday’s losses.

So who gets to be the Nav Sarao of this bank crisis? We don't know yet, because according to BBG, "it’s unclear who placed the relevant trades or why they did it." Hilariously, even BBG admits that this wasn't some premeditated attempt by some rookie to crash the banking system, but rather concedes that "s**ome data point to the trades being for hedging purposes, said one of the people."**

And just in case the laughter isn't loud enough yet, the report goes on to note that "there’s also a trade on Deutsche Bank’s five-year, senior CDS contracts executed on Thursday that attracted scrutiny, one of the people said."

Oh, so it wasn't one CDS trade... it was two. **Well, congrats to DB for surviving not one but two short trades!**

The search for triggers underscores a general lack of transparency in the asset class, which Andrea Enria, the European Central Bank’s top oversight official, flagged on Tuesday. He also called for global financial regulators to take a closer look at the CDS market.

“There are markets like the single name CDS market which are very opaque, very shallow, very illiquid,” Enria said at a conference hosted by German newspaper Handelsblatt. “With a few millions, you can move the CDS spreads” of a major bank “and contaminate also stock prices and possibly also deposit outflows,” he said, without naming any banks.

And just like in 2008, the demonization of CDS traders has begun. Unfortunately, it also means that the crisis is only just starting, and before it is done, plain vanilla stock shorts will also be thrown under the bus and shorting itself will be prohibited.

Journal, government: Zelensky Invites China's Xi To Visit Ukraine As US Rebuffs 'Alternate' Peace Plan

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 29, 2023 - 06:20 PM

Coming on the heels of Xi Jinping's visit to Moscow where he met with Vladimir Putin last week, Ukraine's Zelensky has formally invited the Chinese leader to visit Ukraine soon, according to his remarks in a newly published Associated Press interview.

"We are ready to see him here," Zelensky said. "**I want to speak with him**. I had contact with him before full-scale war. But during all this year, more than one year, I didn’t have."

Zelensky initially expressed openness in comments earlier this month given in reaction to Beijing's 12-point peace plan: "I think some of the Chinese proposals respect international law, and **I think we can work on it with China**," he said at the time.

Just before Xi had arrived in Moscow on March 20, *The Wall Street Journal* had cited sources as saying there would be a phone call between Xi and Zelensky, but that doesn't appear to have ever materialized.

Zelensky has since invited China to sign on to a 'Ukraine formula' for peace, which wouldn't be conditioned on any territorial concessions. Zelensky has vowed to never concede an inch, but has since **shown some degree of doubt over how his forces are faring in the battlefield**, particularly in Bakhmut. Zelensky described that the capture of Bakhmut will mean that **Putin will smell weakness**. According to the Ukrainian leader's words this week:

Speaking with The Associated Press, Zelenskyy said that if Bakhmut were to fall, Putin could **"sell this victory to the West, to his society, to China, to Iran,"** *as leverage to push for a ceasefire deal that would see Ukraine agree to give up territory.*

This, alongside the potential for Xi and Zelensky to hold direct talks, is worrying the Biden administration, with Ukrainian officials in the meantime seeking to 'assure' Washington of Kiev's steadfastness, as *Newsweek* in a Wednesday report lays out:

The top diplomats of Ukraine and the United States on Tuesday **jointly cautioned against giving any weight to alternate peace plans** *that seek a cease-fire without the full withdrawal of invading Russian forces, in* **a subtle rebuff of a recent proposal by China**.

"Ill-advised concessions to the aggressor would only encourage Russia to intensify its attacks on democracy, giving it time to rebuild its military capabilities and resume the armed offensive against Ukraine," Dmytro Kuleba, Ukraine's foreign minister, said at a virtual forum hosted by the U.S. State Department.

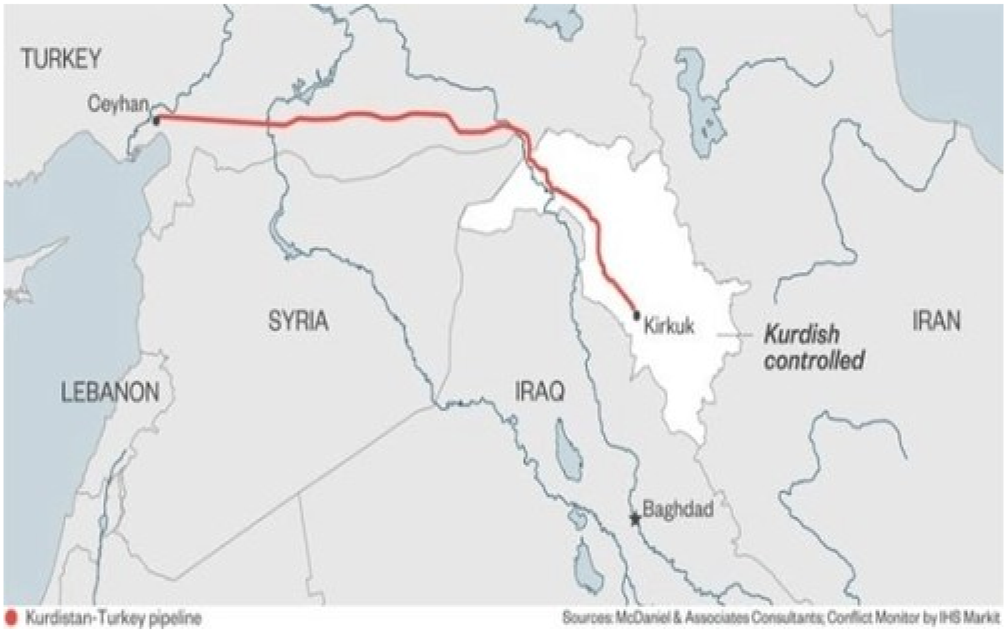
Publicly, Kyiv and Moscow have been cautiously receptive to China's 12-point position paper, which reaffirms the "territorial integrity of all countries" without directly mentioning Ukraine, references "legitimate security interests" in deference to Russia, and calls for a quick end to hostilities on the ground.

But if Russian forces do achieve a definitive victory in Bakhmut any time soon, this could tip the scales in favor of Ukraine taking the Chinese peace plan more seriously.

As for Zelensky's invitation for Xi to visit, on Wednesday Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said she has no information on whether an invitation had been received by Beijing, or whether the Chinese president would accept it.

War, Erdogan, energy:

Turkey Halts 450Kb/d In Oil Output Via Kirkuk-Ceyhan Pipeline Amid Dispute With Iraq



Sources: McDaniel & Associates Consultants; Conflict Monitor by IHS Markit

Iraq was forced to halt around 450,000 barrels per day of crude exports, or half a percent of global oil supply, from the Kurdistan region (KRI) on Saturday through a pipeline that runs from its northern Kirkuk oil fields to the Turkish port of Ceyhan, Reuters reported.

Turkey stopped pumping Iraqi crude from the pipeline after Iraq won an arbitration case in which it said Turkey had violated a joint agreement by allowing the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to export oil to Ceyhan without Baghdad's consent.

Iraq’s government said it’s up to Kurdistan to break the oil deadlock. “The ball now is the Kurds’ court,” Asim Jihad, a spokesman for Iraq’s Federal Ministry of Oil, said in an interview.

Meanwhile, oil firms operating in the KRI are being forced to halt output or move production into storage, which many say will reach capacity within days, as talks drag between Turkey, Baghdad and the KRG to resume exports.

Norwegian oil firm DNO said on Wednesday it had begun shutting down production at its Tawke and Peshkabir fields, where production averaged 107,000 barrels per day (bpd) last year. This represents a quarter of total Kurdish region exports, DNO said.

Genel Energy, a partner in the fields, said: *"Peshkabir production was halted last night and plans drawn up to conduct deferred maintenance. Tawke production shutdown has started but will take an additional day or so."* Genel Energy's remaining assets in KRI continue to flow into storage, the firm said. Production from its Sarta field can flow into storage until the end of the week, while tanks can hold production from Taq Taq until around April 21, a company spokesperson said on Wednesday. The fields produced a respective 4,710 bpd and 4,490 bpd last year.

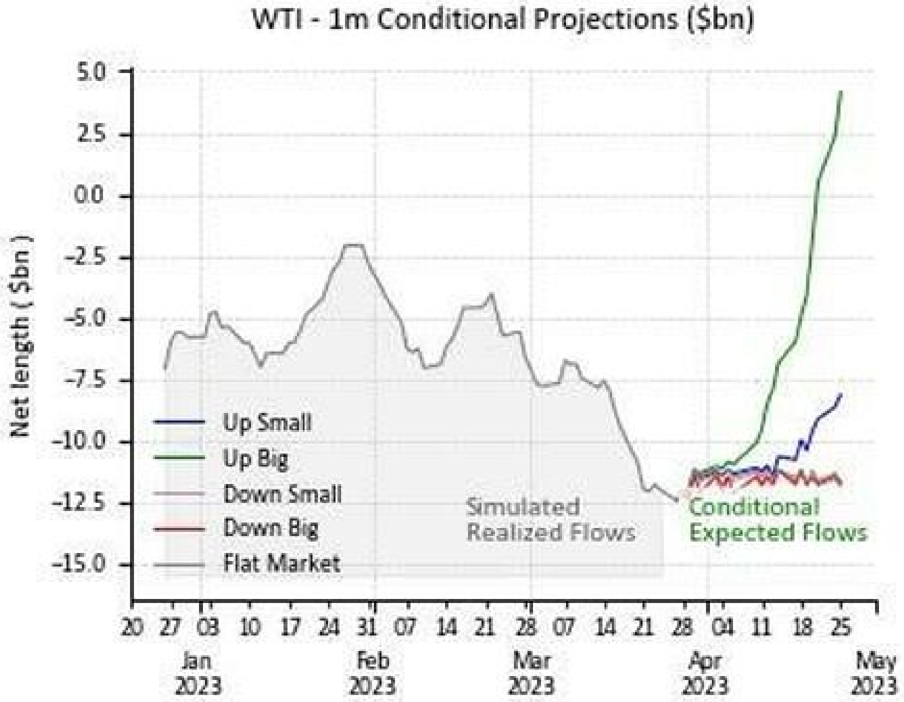
Canada-based Forza Petroleum, formerly Oryx Petroleum Corp, was forced to shut in production earlier this week from the 14,500 bpd Hawler license, which produced an average 13,700 bpd in January and February.

Gulf Keystone has reduced production at the Shaikan oil field, which previously produced around 55,000 bpd, and said on Monday it would suspend production after a few days. The company declined to comment on current production levels.

Dallas-based HKN Energy, which operates the Sarsang block, said on Monday it would shut in operations "within a week if no resolution is reached" as its storage facilities approach capacity. The block produced 43,048 bpd in the fourth quarter of last year.

In response, the White House - which has been paranoid about even one drop of oil not hitting the global market on time - is pushing Iraq and Turkey to restart exports of crude oil and to resolve a dispute with Kurdish authorities as soon as possible, because the last thing Biden needs in addition to a bank crisis and deposit runs is another surge in gasoline prices.

And while the Turkey-Iraq spat has taken off almost half a million barrels off the market, and pushed the price of Brent higher, the question is how long before CTAs - which are massively short oil - start to cover. As Goldman calcualted yesterday, "systematic positioning here leans short (went from short $10bn in energy before Feb 22 to now being short $30bn). Cot data re-affirming the above, with positioning coming in from late Feb/early-March highs." A condition projection of CTA activity in oil shows massive buying in the coming weeks should the price of oil turn higher, creating a positive feedback loop of more buying and more short covering.



BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 29, 2023 - 07:40 PM

As Goldman noted overnight, the bank had received quite a few inbound client inquiries as to what may be behind the recent jump in crude oil prices which after tumbling to the lowest level since 2021 have rebounded back to almost $80/bbl. One answer may come from the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region of northern Iraq, where producers have shut in or reduced output at several oilfields following a halt to the northern export pipeline, company statements showed, with more outages on the horizon.

Journal, markets, inflation: nice window into market sentiment with RH CEO earnings call

"It's Not Rocket Science" - RH CEO Warns "This Is Not Normal, This Is Dangerous"

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAR 30, 2023 - 01:21 PM

RH shares are down around 5% in the pre-market as the upscale home furnishings company issued **weaker-than-expected full-year guidance for FY23**...

According to the letter to shareholders, business conditions for RH are anticipated to remain challenging for the "next several quarters" and maybe even longer due to a rapidly weakening housing market, the uncertainty caused by the recent banking crisis, lapping of COVID-19 driven sales and backlog reductions.

"..., inflation that was thought to be “transitory” is now deemed “persistent” by the Federal Reserve, resulting in a record rise in interest rates triggering a dramatic decline of the housing market, with luxury homes sales down 45% in the most recent quarter versus a year ago. ***Add to that an underperforming stock market, and a banking crisis no one saw coming and the data points to business in our sector likely getting worse before it gets better,****"*

But, as always, it's what RH CEO Gary Friedman had to say during the earnings call that caught most analysts' ears...

In Q3 of last year, he jabbed at policymakers: ***"Yellen Was Massively Blind"*** *- RH CEO Routs 'Slow & Wrong' Policymakers For Making Things Worse"*

In Q4 of last year, he warned about the economy: ***"There Is No Soft Landing"*** *- RH CEO Warns Housing Market "Looks More Like A Crash-Landing"*

And now, in Q1, the comfortably outspoken Friedman turns up the threat amplifier to '11'...

As the Q&A began, a question about a lower margin outlook prompted this:

"It's not rocket science to know this is a really bad time," according to a transcript from Bloomberg.

"The fact is, we've been in a massive housing recession for the past year," Friedman continued.

"The data points to business in our sector likely getting worse before it gets better," Friedman said, signaling additional headwinds from bank credit contraction ahead.

"I've been on the planet for long enough to know this is not normal, and this is dangerous," he said.

He worries about the consumer (which is important given the high-end nature of his company's products might suggest some insulation from that threat)...

"...the unsettling feeling as being a person on a Saturday afternoon is watching Warriors basketball game at the news cut to align formed around your local

bank while the bank was sending hourly e-mails trying to tell you that they committed to serving you. ***It's very unsettling...***"

And more pointedly, he exclaimed that***:***

"Anybody that thinks it's not a big deal, the three banks went down... is living in a -- with a euphoric view of the world."

Finally, Friedman offered some advice to policymakers:

"Just land the plane on the other side, whether it's hard, whether it's bumpy," *Friedman said.*

"Just don't completely crash. A complete crash would look like the '70s and the '80s. That will take over a decade to recover from."

Subtle, and scary, as ever... but hey, just keep listening to the MSM and the Biden admin about how strong the consumer is... (remember how 'sound' the US financial system was a month ago too?)

Stats: Abandoned 267-Foot Superyacht In Caribbean Possibly Heading To Auction

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 31, 2023 - 06:45 AM

An abandoned 267-foot superyacht, purportedly owned by a Russian billionaire, has been anchored at a Caribbean marina for the past year. After some deliberation, the Antigua and Barbuda government plans to sell the vessel at auction to pay for mounting docking fees.

Antigua Observer Newspaper reports the $81 million superyacht "Alfa Nero" is reportedly owned by sanctions-hit oligarch Andrey Guryev. The vessel has been docked in the Caribbean since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the vessel is uninsured, posing a risk to other yachts in Falmouth Harbour.

"Now, this is a vessel that could be unmanned if the government does intervene. Anything could go wrong. Maybe some of the doors could open and start to take on water and it sinks," Browne said.

He continued:

"There could be a fire. In fact, I am told the insurance of the marina could be affected because we have an uninsured vessel sitting in the marina and is a risk to other boats.

"We are talking about billions of dollars of assets in that harbour. And you can imagine if that vessel was to catch fire what will happen.

"Think about the environmental impact, not only in terms of the oil spill and so on, but let us take into consideration that, as it stands now, the sewage system is not working. So, they're dumping sewage in the water. And that's one of the areas that we draw water from for the plant. So this issue is a significant threat."

Browne added:

"The yachting sector contributes more to our economy than even the cruise tourism sector. Understand the reputational damage if we fail to act and we end up with a major catastrophe."

The mystery of who exactly owns the yacht continues... Blomberg reached out to Guryev's lawyers, who said:

"As we have informed the Antiguan authorities, Mr. Guryev neither owns nor controls the Alfa Nero and has simply used the vessel from time to time under commercial charter since 2014."

Antigua Port Manager Darwin Telemaque said if no one claims the vessel by March 31, he will be forced to send it to the auction block shortly after.

"We're Going To See A Lot Of Bankruptcies": Former Home Depot CEO Warns

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, APR 17, 2023 - 09:20 PM

Authored by Naveen Anthrapully via The Epoch Times,

Bob Nardelli, the former CEO of Home Depot, is warning about more bankruptcies hitting the U.S. economy, and blames lawmakers for their delay in coming to terms regarding the country’s debt ceiling.

*“**I think we’re going to see a lot of bankruptcies.** Like Bed, Bath, and Beyond. We got Walmart not only laying people off but closing stores. We got Accenture laying people off. We got Amazon closing distribution centers. So, **I think there’s a tremendous-mixed message,**” Nardelli said in an April 14 interview with Fox.*

At present, the “complexity” of the American economy is “different than anything I have seen in my 52 years.”

Nardelli also blamed Congress’ inability to work together to raise the U.S. debt limit as creating a burden on businesses, saying that he is “definitely worried” about the situation.

Washington State House Approves Bill Authorizing Hiding Of Children Seeking Transgender Medical Intervention From Parents

Apr 17, 2023

On April 12, House lawmakers debated Senate Bill 5599 (pdf), which creates an exemption for the state that grants it the right to not be required to notify parents of minors who have left their homes because their parents wouldn't let them pursue gender transition medical procedures.

In a video statement after the vote, Republican state **Rep. Chris Corry said the bill "erodes parental rights in the state of Washington."**

"Essentially what the bill would do would be if a child left a parents' home for certain medical care and went to a shelter or host family, **that shelter or host family would not be required to notify the parents of their child's whereabouts**," Corry said. "**This is obviously a fundamental violation of parental rights** and something that's deeply concerning for parents across Washington state."

Censorship, government:

Facebook Censors Seymour Hersh's Article About US Involvement In Nord Stream Pipeline Attack

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News, 20 April, 2023

Facebook is censoring Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Seymour Hersh's story about US involvement in the destruction of Russia's Nord Stream pipelines using a 'fact checker' with links to the Norwegian government in what represents a clear conflict of interest.

New Bill Would Classify Conservative Speech As 'Domestic Violence Extremism'

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 08, 2023 - 07:20 PM

Authored by Dmytro "Henry" Aleksandrov via Headline USA,

Proposed legislation that would classify conservative free speech as domestic terrorism is being called "the most dangerous bill in legislative history."

One of the infamous J6 violent rioters kneels in front of the Washington Monument. / PHOTO: AP

Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson is aggressively pushing legislation that would establish a 13-member panel to determine what constitutes disinformation and misinformation rising to the level of "domestic violence extremism," according to The Center Square. T**he panel would also collect data on incidents of their pickings of domestic violent extremism and classify noncriminal activities or speech as such.**

Free speech advocates blasted the bill for targeting conservatives and criminalizing anyone who expresses an opinion that runs counter to a regime-approved narrative.

"This commission is specifically designed to target conservatives and quash any government opposition, which is why the legislation purposefully ignores Antifa and Black Lives Matter extremists. Indeed, it expressly supports those tactics," wrote Seattle KTTH talk-show host Jason Rantz, who called it "the most dangerous bill in legislative history."

According to Rantz's interpretation of comments that AG Ferguson made in a January interview with PBS, the idea behind the bill is to "take preemptive measures to stop actual domestic terrorist acts through community intervention," such as compelling people identified as "extremists" to undergo counseling.

"Let's engage in prevention, of getting folks — avoiding them being radicalized in the first place. If somebody is radicalized and wants removal, move away from that, how can we help them with counseling, for example, to get them away from that ideology?" Ferguson told PBS host Laura Barrón-López.

"**So, looking at from a more holistic standpoint, we think, addresses prevention, addresses helping folks who've been radicalized and take a more holistic view of this to address what is a huge challenge, not just in Washington state, but all across the country.**"

However, Rantz noted that the bill goes far beyond just that goal.

"**They say this is about violence, but it's not about violence. It's actually about speech,**" he told Fox News on Friday.

“We already have laws on the books that very clearly address violence. What they’re trying to do with this commission is create what they’re calling a ‘public health approach’ to some of these ideologies.”

Rantz also explained that the commission could see the opposition to critical race theory, mask mandates and radical gender ideology connected to “white supremacy.”

“They are singularly focused on the Right,” Rantz said. “What this commission will end up doing is… recommending legislation that could not only lead to imprisoning people for having certain kinds of political positions, but also forcing them into counseling.”

Politico Surrenders To Woke Tantrum By Millennial Staffers, Now Has 'Banned Words' List

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 08, 2023 - 07:25 PM

Progressive millennials within *Politico* threw a giant temper tantrum, and got their way.

Banned words

Several weeks after the transgender sermon, *Politico* appointed a new standards editor to oversee editorial content - former White House correspondent Anita Kumar. Under her, **a new 2022 style guide was implemented** which includes a list of 'noninclusive' words deemed verboten. Via *The Spectator:*

-
  - *Mankind*
  - *Man-made*
  - *Manhunt*
  - *Crack the whip:* unacceptable because of origins in slavery
  - *Waiter* or *waitress: server* should be used instead
  - *Biological gender*, *biological sex*, *biological woman*, *biological female*, *biological man*, or *biological male*
  - *Illegal immigrant* or *illegal alien*
  - *Cake walk:* “originated during slavery” and thus perpetuates “racist motifs”
  - In reference to illegal migration: *onslaught*, *tidal wave*, *flood*, *inundation*, *surge*, *invasion*, *army*, *march*, *sneak* and *stealth*
  - *Anchor baby*
  - *Chain migration*: this is a term used by “immigration hard-liners”
  - *Peanut gallery:* “the cheapest seats often occupied by Black people and people with low incomes”
  - *Third-world countries:* too “derogatory”

The guide also **warns reporters not to say a transgender individual 'identifies' as a certain gender**, or to describe the border crisis as a 'crisis' because "while the sharp increase in the arrival of unaccompanied minors is a problem for border officials, a political challenge for the Biden administration and a dire situation for many migrants who make the journey, it does not fit the dictionary definition of a crisis."

Exploring The Five Best US Cities For Bitcoin Enthusiasts

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 08, 2023 - 08:40 PM

Authored by Jenna Hall via BitcoinMagazine.com,

Tech, ai, markets: **Billionaire Ken Griffin Negotiating ChatGPT License For Citadel Empire**

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 08, 2023 - 06:20 PM

Citadel CEO Ken Griffin has taken a different approach from Wall Street banks, who have banned using artificial intelligence chatbots in their offices. Instead, Griffin is currently in the process of obtaining a company-wide license to utilize OpenAI's ChatGPT tool.

"This branch of technology has real impact on our business," Griffin told Bloomberg in an interview on Tuesday in sunny Palm Beach, Florida. "Everything from helping our developers write better code to translating software between languages to analyze various types of information that we analyze in the ordinary course of our business," he added.

Griffin, who heads the South Florida hedge fund Citadel and capital-markets firm Citadel Securities, touted the chatbot as the "fastest-growing consumer application in the history of the internet." He emphasized: "I'm really excited to see how this changes the world."

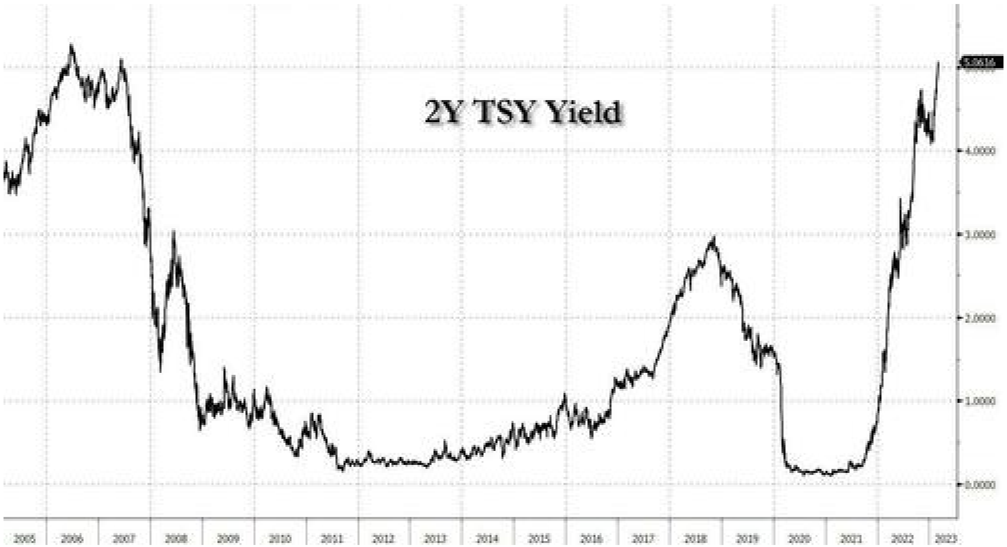
Griffin views ChatGPT as a way to streamline tasks for employees, enabling them to be more productive. "It will take an enormous amount of work that's done today by people, and do it in a distinctly different, highly automated, efficient way," he said.

Last year was a banner year for both of Griffin's companies, with Citadel Securities raking in revenue of $7.5 billion and becoming the largest trading unit in the US. Similarly, Griffin's flagship hedge fund recorded a 38% surge due to strong performances in equities and commodities.

The billionaire founder is setting a precedent for the industry at a time when many Wall Street banks, such as Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc., Deutsche Bank AG, Goldman Sachs Group Inc., and Wells Fargo & Co., have prohibited ChatGPT from the office.

Markets, inflation, government:

The 2-Year Yields 5%... So What?



BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 08, 2023 - 04:29 PM

By Peter Tchir of Academy Securities

The 2-Year Yields 5% - So What

Away from zero day to expiration options (0DTE), everyone in the market (and beyond) seems fixated on 2-year yields. There are about 100 iterations of the following question:

Shouldn’t I just put my money into 2-year treasuries? They are yielding 5%, after all?

Where to invest on the yield curve is always on my mind, but suddenly everyone seems to be talking about the 2-year. Not just bond “geeks” but mom and pop investors. Not just about where on the yield curve, but as part of every asset allocation conversation. Bob Pisani and I spoke last night for this CNBC piece on “tech and quality stocks” and he also mentioned he was being inundated with calls, from unlikely corners about the investment merits of the 2-year Treasury.

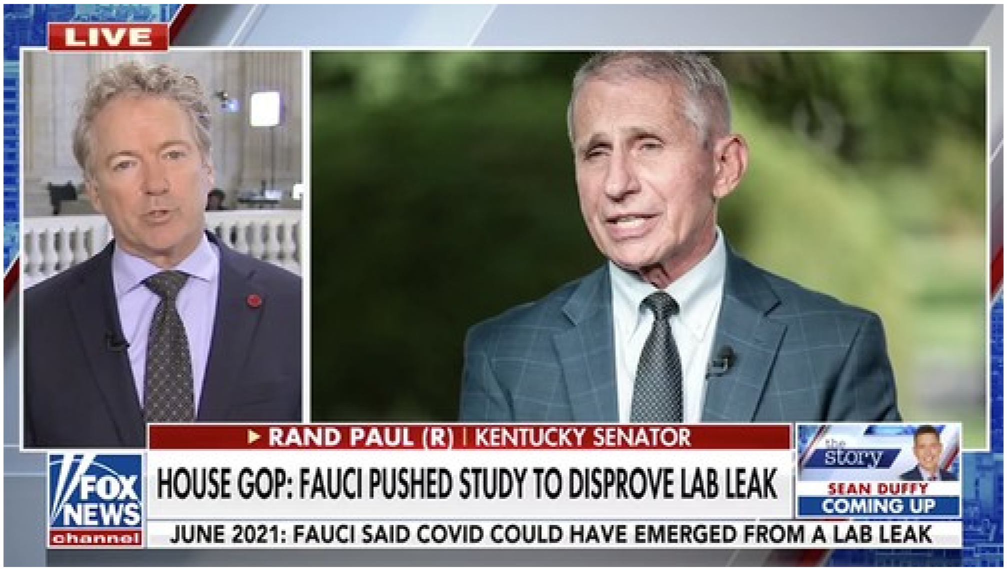
Vaccine, journal, another example of the msm playing into the anti-vax sentiment, something that could lead to a major culture clash in the event of a new pandemic wave, especially if it is much more pronounced than the last. They will say the antivaxxer put everybody in the danger. They told you to take off your masks, not take vaccines; they said nobody died! And then it will be so easy to push forward whatever agenda that they may have on the table. Just food for thought, of course. Watch: Rand Paul Accuses Fauci

Of "Elaborate Cover-Up" Of COVID Lab Leak

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 08, 2023 - 02:25 PM

Authored by Steve Watson via Summit News,

Senator Rand Paul asserted Tuesday that Anthony Fauci, along with other scientists working with him at the National Institutes Of Health engaged in an “elaborate cover-up” of the lab origin of the coronavirus pandemic in order to hide their own involvement.


LIVE
▸ RAND PAUL (R) | KENTUCKY SENATOR
FOX NEWS channel
HOUSE GOP: FAUCI PUSHED STUDY TO DISPROVE LAB LEAK
JUNE 2021: FAUCI SAID COVID COULD HAVE EMERGED FROM A LAB LEAK
the story
SEAN DUFFY
COMING UP

“The reason Dr. Fauci didn’t want any attention drawn to this or to his funding of the lab is that ultimately he would have culpability,” Paul said in a Fox News interview.

“There’s a responsibility – because for years he had advocated for gain-of-function research. He’s even quoted as saying in 2012, if a pandemic should occur, if a scientist should be bitten by an animal and the virus gets out of the lab, it would be worth the knowledge,” Paul added.

The Senator continued, “**Dr. Fauci and Dr. Collins and others orchestrated a cover-up.** There are emails between [former National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Dr. Francis] Collins and Dr. Fauci in which Dr. Collins says this wouldn’t be good for China, this wouldn’t be good for science – meaning that it wouldn’t be good for the business of science, for the money that changes hands.”

“There’s so much going on here. And when the American public finally finds out, I mean, there’s going to be such dissatisfaction in this country like you can’t believe,” the Senator further urged.

“For example, we know that the NIH gave money to American universities who then gave it to military researchers … with the title of general and colonel in the [Chinese] People’s Liberation Army,” Paul added.

Paul also spoke about the involvement of Peter Daszak who received funding through EcoHealth Alliance.

“**[T]he money definitely went to gain-of-function research.** They would take a known SARS virus – this is the backbone or the original SARS from 2003 and 2004 – they would go to bat caves eight or 10 hours away, find new viruses, take the S-protein off and merge them into brand-new viruses never before found in nature,” Paul said.

The Senator added that Fauci will likely be considered a “hostile witness” when he is called to testify again before the new Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic.

“Fauci can remember all the mandates. He wants to tell you how to wear four masks. He can remember everything, but he can’t recall anything he did with setting up that first journal article to justify the cover-up,” Paul said.

Watch:

In a further interview with Newsmax, Paul expanded on how Fauci pressured other scientists to steer away from the lab leak origin story.

“I think, his guilt and his fear of retribution, or his fear of culpability, led him to perhaps the most massive cover-up in modern medical history,” Paul stated.

Markets, government, censorship: Adidas To Cut Dividend 80% After Losing $1.3 Billion Severing Ties With Kanye West

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 08, 2023 - 01:45 PM

Adidas announced on Wednesday that it would **slash its dividend by 79%** because severing ties with "Yeezy" designer Kanye West has decimated earnings to the tune of $1.3 billion.

"2023 will be a transition year to build the base for 2024 and 2025," said Bjørn Gulden, who took over as Adidas's CEO in January, and promised to rebuild the company's reputation. "We need to reduce inventories and lower discounts. We can then start to build a profitable business again in 2024."

As *FT* notes, Gulden is disinclined to burn the shoes *or* give them away, both of which would entail a €500mn write-off. Instead, he suggested selling the trainers and donating the profits to charity.

Backing out Yeezy’s operating profit in 2021 suggests Adidas is starting from margins in mid-single digits. The current year should be one of transition. Dispiritingly, guidance points to negative sales growth as the company pushes inventory out of the door. -FT

"We will bring it back to be the best sports brand in the world once again," he added.

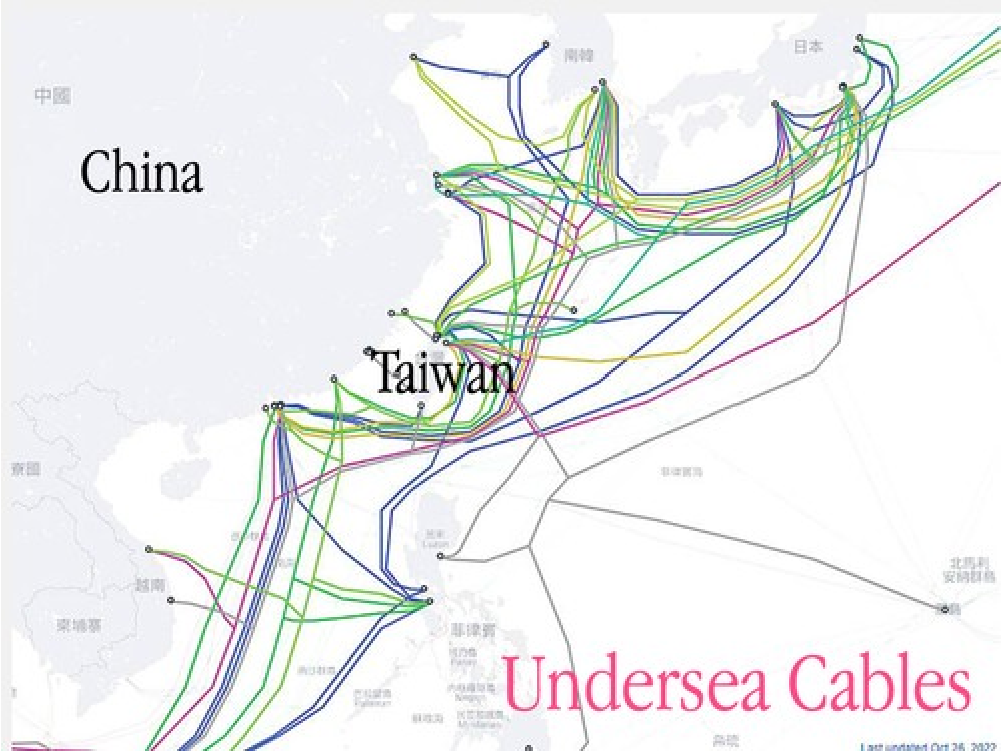
"Wartime Scenario" Unfolds As Taiwan Suspects Chinese Ships Cut Undersea Internet Cables

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 08, 2023 - 01:05 PM

According to Taiwanese authorities, on Feb. 2, a Chinese fishing boat damaged an undersea communications cable that connects Taiwan's main island to Matsu Islands. About one week later, a Chinese cargo ship severed another cable.

Located approximately 30 miles off the coast of China, the tiny island of Dongyin has quickly established a backup communication system, as reported by the WSJ. The new system uses a high-powered microwave radio to transmit data to Taipei. WSJ described the disruption as a "wartime scenario" and "in a potential preview of a Chinese attack."

Taiwan has a network of fourteen undersea fiber-optic cables, some buried as shallow as 6 feet below the seabed. These cables are critical as they provide 95% of the island's data-and-voice traffic.


中國
China
南韓
日本
Taiwan
越南
柬埔寨
菲律賓
Undersea Cables
Last updated Oct 26, 2022

If Western military planners learned anything from the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russia made a considerable effort to severe internet infrastructure in the Eastern European country in the early days of the war.

The Ukraine war has demonstrated how vital the internet can be to a smaller country facing invasion, for both mustering global support and coordinating resistance. If China were to cut Taiwan's cables, most of the island would be thrown offline, leaving it vulnerable. --WSJ

The loss of internet across the Matsu Islands has alerted Taiwan to the potential national security threat posed by Beijing, which considers the island nation part of China and has expressed intentions to take control of it.

WSJ said no evidence so far supports Beijing intentionally cut Matsu Island's internet. Taiwanese officials have theorized that illegal Chinese sand dredging around the tiny island exposed the cables and allowed for accidental damage by vessels.

However, Taiwanese lawmakers warn:

"If an internet outage can happen on Matsu, the same could happen in Taiwan," said Wen Lii, director of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party in Matsu's Lienchiang county.

And there's good news for Taiwan -- just like Ukraine -- satellite-based internet service Starlink offered by Elon Musk's SpaceX provides high-speed internet that neither Russia nor China can fully disrupt.

Energy, war:

Russians Claim Control Over Bakhmut's East

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 08, 2023 - 11:00 AM

According to Reuters, the head of Russia's Wagner mercenary group said on Wednesday his forces had taken full control of the eastern part of the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut as one of the bloodiest battles of the year-long war appears close to ending. If the claim is true, it would mean Russian forces control nearly half the city in their push to secure their first big victory in several months.

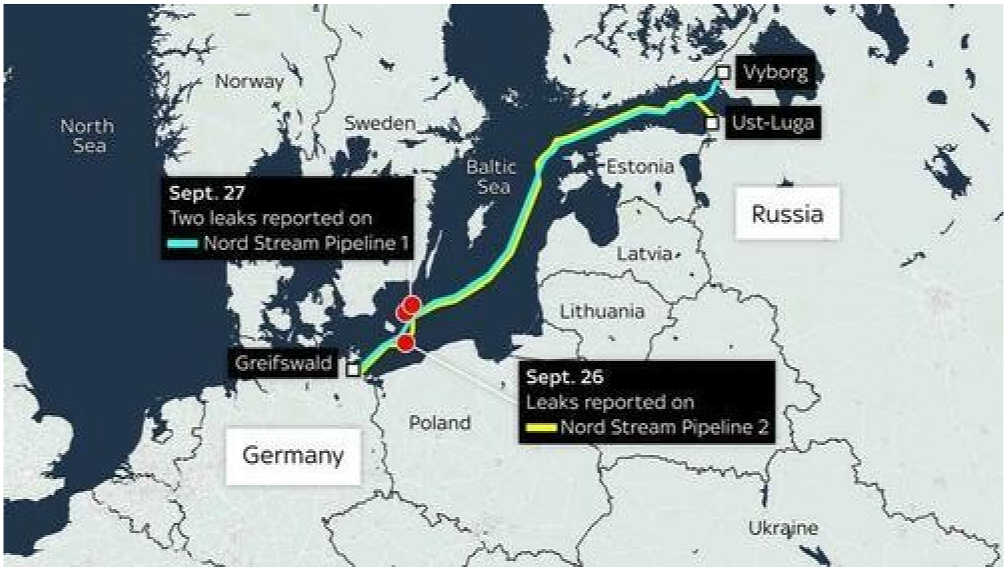
The General Staff of the Ukraine's Armed Forces said in its Wednesday morning report: "The enemy, despite significant losses, ... continues to storm the town of Bakhmut."

Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin said his fighters, who have been spearheading the Russian campaign to seize Bakhmut, had now captured the city's east. "Everything east of the Bakhmutka River is completely under the control of Wagner," Prigozhin said on Telegram.

"Coordinated Media Hoax Campaign" - Russia Blasts NYTimes Report On Nord Stream "Monstrous Crime"

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 08, 2023 - 10:19 AM

As a reminder, last month, Pulitzer prize winning journalist Seymour Hersh concluded that the **United States blew up the Russia-to-Germany Nord Stream natural gas pipelines** last September as part of a covert operation under the guise of the BALTOPS 22 NATO exercise.


Norway
North Sea
Sweden
Baltic Sea
Estonia
Vyborg
Ust-Luga
Russia
Sept. 27
Two leaks reported on
Nord Stream Pipeline 1
Latvia
Lithuania
Greifswald
Sept. 26
Leaks reported on
Nord Stream Pipeline 2
Poland
Germany
Ukraine

Yesterday, four weeks after Hersh's bombshell report, anonymous US intelligence officials told the *NY Times* that **the saboteurs are likely "pro-Ukraine, possibly government-trained Ukrainian or Russian nationals, or some combination of the two,"** but that "**no American or British nationals were involved.**"

Stats, markets, government:

VC Funds See "Mass Extinction Event" For Startups In 2023: "It Will Make The Financial Crisis Look Quaint"

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 08, 2023 - 07:55 AM

Leading venture capital players are predicting a “mass extinction event” for early- and mid-stage startups that will make the global fiscal collapse in 2008 “look quaint” by comparison. According to Globest, a new survey has found that **81% of early-stage startups are facing a failure in 2023 because—as of the end of October—they had less than 12 months of capital left**

to keep going because VC funds turned the spigot off last year on a flood of seed funding.

An international survey of 450 startup founders in the US and Europe was conducted between August and October 2022 by research firm January Ventures, with 61% of respondents from the US and 32% from Europe. The founders who participated in the survey also were categorized by the level of funding for the startup: 48% of respondents said they had raised pre-seed funding, 32% said they had raised seed funding and 16% hadn't started raising funding.

The **survey found that four out of five startups are at risk of failure this year**, with less than 12 months of "runway" left—defined as "enough capital to keep the lights on" (in the dot.com era they called this a "burn rate," a reference to the amount of VC capital a startup was burning through before generating any revenue).

The Widening War: How The Nato-Russia Confrontation Is Playing Out In North Africa

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 08, 2023 - 03:00 AM

Authored by Conor Gallagher via NakedCapitalism.com,

Western officials are now openly admitting the war against Russia (and China) is worldwide and composed of competing blocs...

Stats, government, markets: Fed Panics: Signature Bank Closed By Regulators; Fed, TSY, FDIC

Announce Another Banking System Bailout

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, MAR 12, 2023 - 09:45 PM

6:20pm ET Update: ***Panic is finally here.***

The Fed also said that it is prepared to address any liquidity pressures that may arise, which in turn has just unveiled the first bailout acronym of the new crisis: the Bank Term Funding Program, or BTFP. Some more details:

The financing will be made available through the creation of a new Bank Term Funding Program (BTFP), offering loans of up to one year in length to banks, savings associations, credit unions, and other eligible depository institutions pledging U.S. Treasuries, agency debt and mortgage-backed securities, and other qualifying assets as collateral. These assets will be valued at par. **The BTFP will be an additional source of liquidity against high-quality securities, eliminating an institution's need to quickly sell those securities in times of stress.**

The Fed explains that the Department of the Treasury will make available **"up to $25 billion from the Exchange Stabilization Fund as a backstop for the BTFP."** And while the Federal Reserve - which was completely clueless about this banking crisis until Thursday - does not anticipate that it will be necessary to draw on these backstop funds, we anticipate that the final number of needed backstop liquidity be somewhere north of $2 trillion.

What is more notable is that the BTFP - or Buy The Fucking Pivot - facility, **will pledge collateral at par, not at market value, thus giving banks credit for all those hundreds of billions in unrealized net losses, and allowing banks to "unlock liquidity" based on losses which the Fed and TSY now backstop!**

Additionally, the trio announced that **all depositors** at Silicon Valley Bank will be bailed out, as will the depositors of New York's Signature Bank, which has just failed as well, and whose depositors will be made whole after invoking a "systemic risk exception"

After receiving a recommendation from the boards of the FDIC and the Federal Reserve, and consulting with the President, Secretary Yellen approved actions enabling the FDIC to complete its resolution of Silicon Valley Bank, Santa Clara, California, in a manner that fully protects all depositors. Depositors will have access to all of their money starting Monday, March 13. No losses associated with the resolution of Silicon Valley Bank will be borne by the taxpayer.

We are also announcing a similar systemic risk exception for Signature Bank, New York, New York, which was closed today by its state chartering authority. All depositors of this institution will be made whole. As with the resolution of Silicon Valley Bank, no losses will be borne by the taxpayer.

While depositors are safe, creditors and equity holders are not:

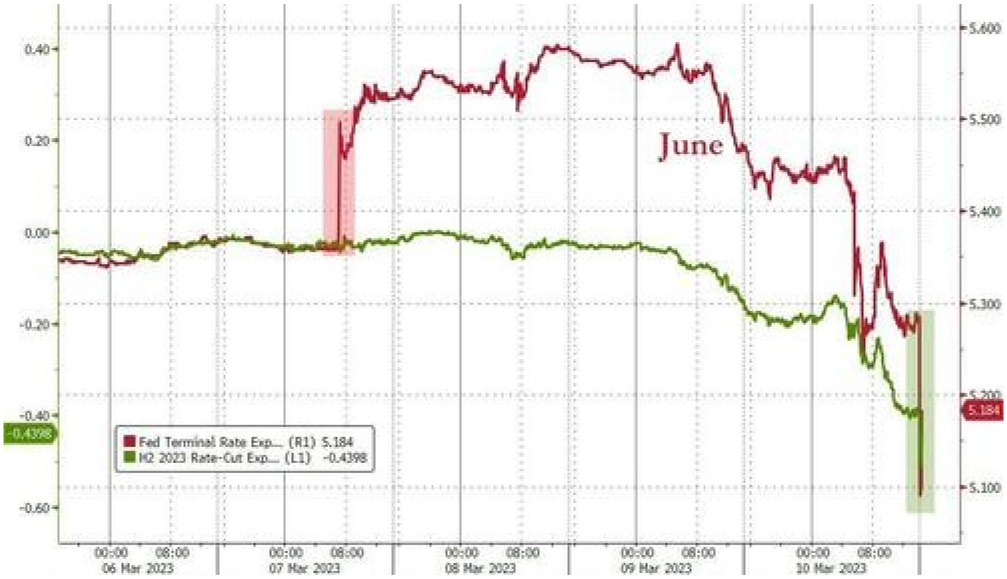
Shareholders and certain unsecured debtholders will not be protected. Senior management has also been removed. Any losses to the Deposit Insurance Fund to support uninsured depositors will be recovered by a special assessment on banks, as required by law.

Finally, the Federal Reserve Board on Sunday announced it will make available additional funding to eligible depository institutions to help assure banks have the ability to meet the needs of all their depositors.

The conclusion:

The U.S. banking system remains resilient and on a solid foundation, in large part due to reforms that were made after the financial crisis that ensured better safeguards for the banking industry. Those reforms combined with today’s actions demonstrate our commitment to take the necessary steps to ensure that depositors’ savings remain safe.

Translation: the Fed's hiking cycle is dead and buried, and here comes the next round of massive liquidity injections. It also means that the Fed, Treasury and FDIC have just experienced the most devastating humiliation in recent history - just 4 days ago Powell was telling Congress he could hike 50bps **and here we are now using taxpayer funds to bail out banks that have collapsed because they couldn't even handle 4.75% and somehow the Fed has no idea!**



To summarize:

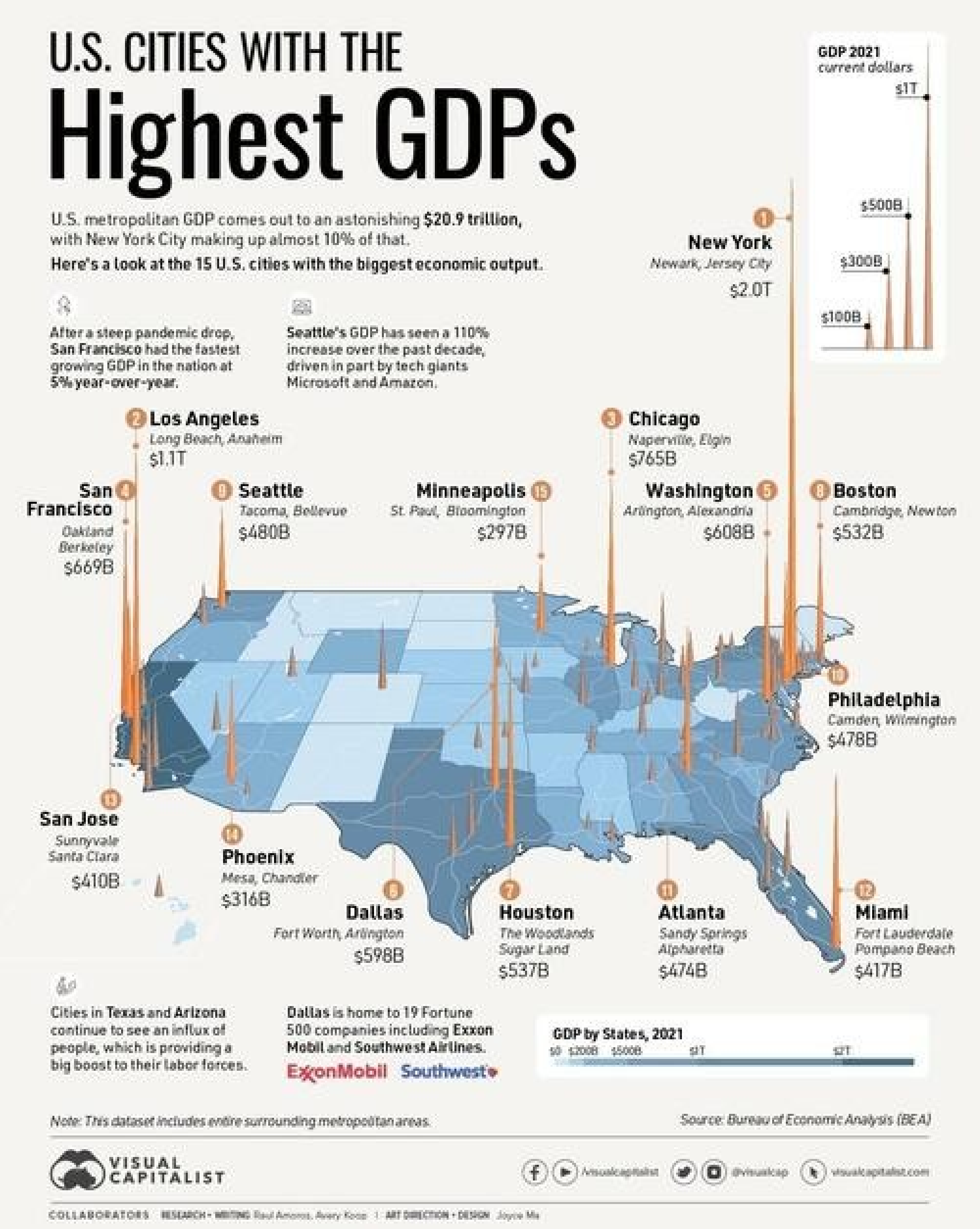
- Signature Bank has been closed
- All depositors of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank will be fully protected
- Shareholders and certain unsecured debtholders will not be protected
- New Fed 13(3) facility announced with $25 billion from ESF to backstop bank deposits

zerohedgedotcom/markets/svb-latest-developments-live-blog-fdic-auction-failed-svb-assets-underway

Stats, government: These Are The 15 Largest US Cities By GDP

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, MAR 12, 2023 - 08:45 PM

The United States has the largest GDP in the world in nominal terms, and **urban areas are a major contributor to the country’s economic might**. In fact, metropolitan areas account for roughly 90% of U.S. economic output.


U.S. CITIES WITH THE

Highest GDPs

U.S. metropolitan GDP comes out to an astonishing **$20.9 trillion**, with New York City making up almost 10% of that.

Here's a look at the 15 U.S. cities with the biggest economic output.

After a steep pandemic drop, **San Francisco** had the fastest growing GDP in the nation at **5% year-over-year.**

Seattle's GDP has seen a 110% increase over the past decade, driven in part by tech giants Microsoft and Amazon.

Cities in **Texas** and **Arizona** continue to see an influx of people, which is providing a big boost to their labor forces.

Dallas is home to 19 Fortune 500 companies including **Exxon Mobil** and **Southwest Airlines.**

Note: This dataset includes entire surrounding metropolitan areas.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

COLLABORATORS RESEARCH + WRITING Raul Amoros, Avery Koop | ART DIRECTION + DESIGN Joyce Ma

GDP 2021
current dollars
$1T
$500B
$300B
$100B
1 New York
Newark, Jersey City
$2.0T
2 Los Angeles
Long Beach, Anaheim
$1.1T
3 Chicago
Naperville, Elgin
$765B
4 San Francisco
Oakland
Berkeley
$669B
5 Washington
Arlington, Alexandria
$608B
6 Dallas
Fort Worth, Arlington
$598B
7 Houston
The Woodlands
Sugar Land
$537B
8 Boston
Cambridge, Newton
$532B
9 Seattle
Tacoma, Bellevue
$480B
10 Philadelphia
Camden, Wilmington
$478B
11 Atlanta
Sandy Springs
Alpharetta
$474B
12 Miami
Fort Lauderdale
Pompano Beach
$417B
13 San Jose
Sunnyvale
Santa Clara
$410B
14 Phoenix
Mesa, Chandler
$316B
15 Minneapolis
St. Paul, Bloomington
$297B
GDP by States, 2021
$0
$200B
$500B
$1T
$2T
ExxonMobil
Southwest
VISUAL CAPITALIST
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Stats: Pope Francis Bashes Gender Ideology, Calls It "Dangerous"

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, MAR 12, 2023 - 04:45 PM

Pope Francis told journalist Elisabetta Pique of the Argentine newspaper La Nacion, **"Gender ideology, today, is one of the most dangerous ideological colonization"** and argued its 'woke' proponents are "naive" if they "believe that it is the path of progress."

*"**Gender ideology**, at this time, is one of the **most dangerous** ideological colonizations. It goes beyond the sexual. **Why is it dangerous?** Because it **dilutes differences**, and the richness of men and women and of all humanity is the tension of differences," Francis said in the March 10 interview.*

Despite being celebrated as a progressive religious figure, Francis has consistently adhered to orthodox teachings regarding celibacy and sexuality. He has attributed the global push for transgenderism to people who "do not distinguish what is respect for sexual diversity or diverse sexual preferences from what is already an anthropology of gender, which is **extremely dangerous** because **it eliminates differences, and that erases humanity**, the richness of humanity, both personal, cultural, and social, the diversities and the tensions between differences."

Francisco
LN

Francis reiterated his opposition over the last ten years. In 2016, he said:

*"Today children — children — are taught in school that everyone can choose his or her sex. Why are they teaching this? Because the books are provided by the people and institutions that give you money. These forms of ideological colonization are also supported by influential countries. **And this is terrible!"***

Censorship, government: UK Disinformation Unit Monitored Headmaster Who Questioned COVID-19 Vaccines For Children

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, MAR 12, 2023 - 08:00 AM

Authored by Owen Evans via The Epoch Times,

A headmaster who questioned the effects of lockdown and masking on children, as well as the mRNA vaccine rollout, was reported to the UK's terror watchdog and had his social media posts monitored by government disinformation units.

In January, Westminster confirmed that it had monitored lockdown critics including Conservative MPs and journalists on social media platforms via its disinformation units, after documents were obtained by the civil liberties group Big Brother Watch.

Headmaster Mike Fairclough, who has 20 years' experience in running the state-funded West Rise Junior School for 7- to 11-year-olds in Eastbourne on the south coast, told The Epoch Times that he also had been monitored.

Fairclough was one of the very few voices in education, and the only serving headmaster, to express concerns over the effects of the response to the pandemic on children and the resultant mental health problems.

"My personal belief is that the risks from these vaccines outweigh any possible benefits for a child," Fairclough told The Epoch Times.

"I have conveyed my opinion using my social media channels, generally by reposting and quoting mainstream media articles which have supported my stance," he added.

Fairclough said that colleagues within the education sector have remained "publicly silent" on the subject of the vaccines for children and that "there is still an air of fear and caution around even mildly sceptical conversations about it."

Stats: 99% of online political contributions made by Twitter employees in 2021 went to Dems, according to Federal Election Commission data.

War, china, middle east: **China Blasts America's "Illegal" Occupation Of Syria In Wake Of Failed House Vote**

BY TYLER DURDEN

SATURDAY, MAR 11, 2023 - 02:00 PM

China has weighed in on the Pentagon's continued occupation of Syria in the wake of Wednesday's Republican-sponsored War Powers Resolution in the House, which according to Congressman Matt Gaetz was aimed specifically at forcing President Biden to withdraw all American troops from Syria.

In a Friday press briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning was asked for a response to the vote. She demanded that the US **"immediately end the troops' illegal occupation and plundering"** and to halt the sanctions regimen which is crushing the Syrian economy and thus increasing the misery of common people.

Stats, government, censorship: City Of Newark Humiliated In 'Sister City' Scam

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAR 11, 2023 - 08:00 PM

The city of Newark, New Jersey fell victim to a humiliating scam in which its mayor signed a "sister city" agreement with a nonexistent Hindu nation called "The United States of Kailasa."

CITY of NEWARK

Newark city officials celebrate the signing of their international agreement with the nonexistent "United States of Kailasa" (Photo: United States of Kailasa)

Kailasa exists only as an elaborate website created by a fugitive who's been on the lam from Indian authorities since 2019 after being charged with rape, reports *CBS New York*. However, in a January 12 ceremony, Mayor Ras Baraka signed a cultural and trade deal with the contrived country.

Vaccine, war, china: Entire US Congress Votes To Declassify COVID-19 Origins Intel

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAR 11, 2023 - 06:00 PM

100% of lawmakers in the House on Friday voted to pass a bill requiring the Biden administration to **declassify intelligence related to investigations into the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China and Covid-19**.

WUHAN INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY, CAS

The Covid Origins Act of 2023, sponsored by Sens. Josh Hawley (R-MO) and Mike Braun (R-IN), passed by a vote of 410 to 0, after clearing the Senate by unanimous consent last week.

"**Covid-19 pandemic wreaked havoc across the country with almost every household feeling its effects**. The United States death toll from this virus has surpassed one million people. Although concrete data is hard to lock down, millions of people are suffering from the long-term effects directly attributed to this virus. It is becoming increasingly clear that school-aged children face hurdles because of long-term school closures. **The American people need to know all the aspects, including how this virus was created and specifically, whether it was a natural occurrence of the**

result of a lab-related event," said House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Turner (R-OH) in a floor speech.

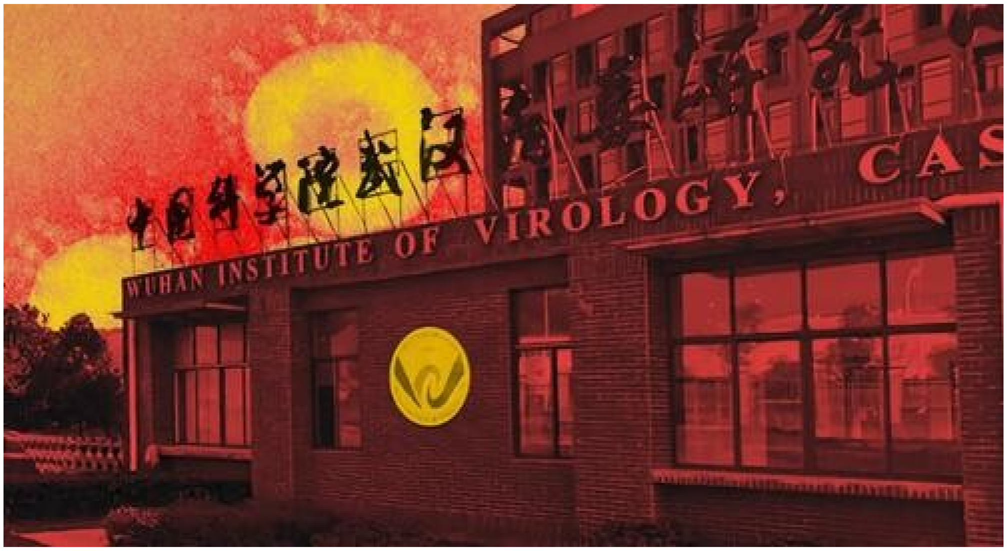
Next stop, President Biden's desk.

And while Biden has officially said he hasn't "made that decision yet" over whether to sign it into law and release the intelligence, we can't imagine he won't, lest he defy the entirety of Congress.

Journal, vaccine, war: When Censorship Fails: Two Thirds Of US Adults Think COVID Likely Started In A Lab

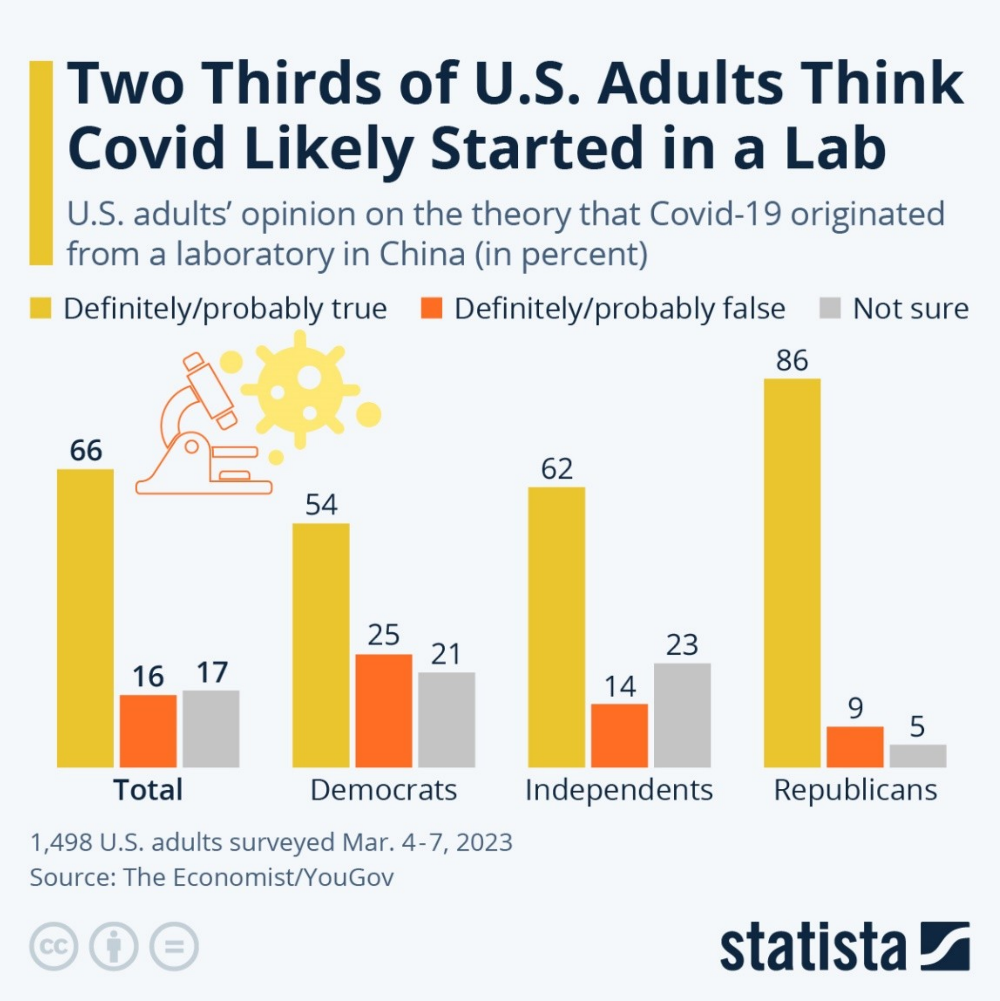
BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAR 11, 2023 - 04:00 PM

Tomorrow marks the third anniversary of the World Health Organization declaring Covid-19 a pandemic.



As Statista's Anna Fleck notes, three years on and much has changed, including opinions on how the virus started, with **one origin theory having taken particular hold in the United States.**

According to the latest survey carried out by The Economist and YouGov, **a majority of U.S. adults now think that Covid originated in a laboratory in China,** whether intentionally or as a chance mutation.



Two Thirds of U.S. Adults Think Covid Likely Started in a Lab

U.S. adults' opinion on the theory that Covid-19 originated from a laboratory in China (in percent)

1,498 U.S. adults surveyed Mar. 4-7, 2023
Source: The Economist/YouGov

You will find more infographics at Statista

As Statista's chart shows, **66 percent of U.S. respondents thought this theory was either probably or definitely true.**

China has responded to the lab leak report by saying that the U.S. is politicizing the debate.

(more playing into the anti-vax narrative. We've been seeing that a lot lately..

Why now, all of a sudden..?)

(More playing into the anti-vax narrative.)

"Dear Conservatives, I Apologize..."

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAR 11, 2023 - 05:30 PM

Authored by Dr. Naomi Wolf via 'Outspoken' Substack,

My "Team" was Taken in By Full-Spectrum Propaganda...

There is no way to avoid this moment. The formal letter of apology. From me. To Conservatives and to those who “put America first” everywhere.

It’s tempting to sweep this confrontation with my own gullibility under the rug — to “move on” without ever acknowledging that I was duped, and that as a result I made mistakes in judgement, and that these mistakes, multiplied by the tens of thousands and millions on the part of people just like me, hurt millions of other people like you all, in existential ways.

But that erasure of personal and public history would be wrong.

I owe you a full-throated apology.

I believed a farrago of lies. And, as a result of these lies, and my credulity — and the credulity of people similarly situated to me - many conservatives’ reputations are being tarnished, on false bases.

The proximate cause of this letter of apology is the airing, two nights ago, of excepts from tens of thousands of hours of security camera footage from the United States Capitol taken on Jan 6, 2021. The footage was released by House

Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) to Fox News commentator Tucker Carlson [https://www.axios.com/2023/03/08/mccarthy-defends-jan-6-footage-tucker-...].

While “fact-checkers” state that it is “misinformation” to claim that Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi was in charge of Capitol Police on that day [https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2021/07/27/fact-check-nancy-pelosi-isnt-in-charge-capitol-police/8082088002/], the fact is that the USCP is under the oversight of Congress, according to — the United States Capitol Police: [https://www.uscp.gov/the-department/oversight].

This would be the same Congress that convened the January 6 Committee subsequently, and that used millions of dollars in taxpayer money to turn that horrible day, and that tragic event, into a message point that would be used to tar a former President as a would-be terrorist, and to smear all Republicans, by association, as “insurrectionists,” or as insurrectionists’ sympathizers and fellow-travelers.

There is no way to unsee Officer Brian Sicknick, claimed by some Democrats in leadership and by most of the legacy media to have been killed *by* rioters at the Capitol that day, alive in at least one section of the newly released video. The USCP medical examiner states that this Officer died of “natural causes,” but also that he died “in the line of duty.” Whatever the truth of this confusing conclusion, and with all respect for and condolences to Officer Sicknick’s family, the circumstances of his death *do* matter to the public, as without his death having been caused *by* the events of Jan 6, the breach of the capitol, serious though it was, cannot be described as a “deadly insurrection.” [https://www.uscp.gov/media-center/press-releases/medical-examiner-finds-uscp-officer-brian-sicknick-died-natural-causes] Sadly, though the contrary was what was reported, Officer Sicknick died two days after Jan 6, from suffering two strokes. https://lawandcrime.com/u-s-capitol-siege/capitol-police-officer-brian-sicknick-died-of-natural-causes-after-suffering-two-strokes-day-after-jan-6-report/

There is no way for anyone thoughtful, even if he or she is a lifelong Democrat, not to notice that **Sen Chuck Schumer did not say to the world that the footage that Mr Carlson aired was not real.** Rather, he warned that it was “shameful” for Fox to allow us to see it. *The Guardian* characterized Mr Carlson’s and Fox News’ sin, weirdly, as “Over-Use” of Jan 6 footage. Isn’t the press supposed to want full transparency for all public interest events? [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/live/2023/mar/07/biden-medicare-taxes-desantis-trump-2024-live-updates] How can you “over-use” real footage of events of national relevance?

Sen Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senate minority leader, did not say the video on Fox News was fake or doctored. He said, rather, that it was “a mistake” to depart from the views of the events held by the chief of the Capitol Police. This is a statement from McConnell about orthodoxy — not a statement about a specific truth or untruth. [https://www.c-span.org/video/?c5060662/senator-mcconnell-calls-tucker-carlsons-depiction-january-6-attack-mistake]

I don’t agree with Mr Carlson’s interpretation of the videos as depicting “mostly peaceful chaos.”[https://thehill.com/homenews/media/3887103-tucker-carlson-shows-the-first-of-his-jan-6-footage-calls-it-mostly-peaceful-chaos/] I do think it is a mistake to downplay how serious it is when a legislative institution suffers a security breach of any kind, however that came to be.

But you don’t have to agree with Mr Carlson’s interpretation of the videos, to believe, as I do, that he engaged in valuable journalism simply by airing the footage that was given to him.

And remember, by law that footage belongs to us — it is a public record, and all public records literally belong to the American people. “In a democracy, records belong to the people,” explains the National Archives. [https://www.archives.gov/publications/general-info-leaflets/1-about-archives.html]

You don’t have to agree with Carlson’s interpretation of the videos, to notice the latest hypocrisy by the Left. My acquaintance and personal hero Daniel Ellsberg was rightly lionized by the Left for having illegally leaked the Pentagon Papers. *The New York Times* was rightly applauded for having run this leaked material in 1971. [https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/1435/daniel-ellsberg].

I do not see how Mr Carlson’s airing of video material of national significance that the current government would prefer to keep hidden, or Fox News’ support for its disclosure to the public, is any different from that famous case of disclosure of inside information of public importance.

You don’t have to agree with Mr Carlson’s interpretation of the videos, to conclude that the Democrats in leadership, for their own part, have cherry-picked, hyped, spun, and in some ways appear to have lied about, aspects of

January 6, turning a tragedy for the nation into a politicized talking point aimed at discrediting half of our electorate.

From the start, there have been things about the dominant, Democrats' and legacy media's, narrative of Jan 6, that seemed off, or contradictory, to me. (That does not mean I agree with the interpretation of these events in general on the right. Bear with me).

There is no way to un-hear the interview that Mr Carlson did with former Capitol police office Tarik Johnson, who said that he received no guidance when he called his superiors, terrified, as the Capitol was breached, to ask for direction. [https://www.foxnews.com/media/tucker-carlson-talks-exclusively-key-capitol-police-officer-ignored-by-jan-6-panel-amid-footage-release]

That situation is anomalous.

There is *always* a security chain of command in the Capitol, at the Rayburn Building, at the White House of course, and so on, which is part of a rock-solid "security plan." [https://www.dhs.gov/news/2014/09/30/written-testimony-usss-director-hou…].

There are usually, indeed, multiple snipers standing on the steps of the Capitol, facing outward. I made note of this when I was researching and writing *The End of America*. There is *never* improvisation, or any confusion in security practices or in what is expected of "the security plan", involving "principals" such as Members of Congress, or staff at the White House. I know this as a former political consultant and former White House spouse.

The reason for a tightly scripted chain of command and an absolutely ironclad security plan in these buildings, is so that security crises such as the events of Jan 6 *can never happen.*

The fact that so much confusion in security practice took place on Jan 6, is hard to understand.

There is no way to not see that among the violent and terrifying scenes of that day, as revealed by Mr Carlson, there were also scenes of officers with the United States Capitol Police accompanying one protester who would become iconic, the "Q-Anon Shaman", Jacob Chansley - and escorting him peaceably through the hallways of our nation's legislative center. [https://www.foxnews.com/media/former-lawyer-qanon-shaman-says-jan-6-footage-wasnt-shown-client-calls-prison-sentence-tragedy].

I was oddly unsurprised to see the "Q-Anon Shaman" being ushered through the hallways by Capitol Police; he was ready for the cameras in full makeup, horned fur hat, his tattooed chest bare (on a freezing day), and adorned in other highly cinematic regalia. I don’t know what Mr Chansley thought he was doing there that day, but so many subsequent legacy media images of the event put him so dramatically front and center — and the barbaric nature of his appearance was so illustrative of *exactly* the message that Democrats in leadership wished to send about the event — that I am not surprised to see that his path to the center of events was not blocked but was apparently facilitated by Capitol Police.

A point I have made over and over since 9/11 is that many events in history are *both* real and hyped. Many actors in historic events have their agendas, but are *also* at times used by other people with their own agendas, in ways of which the former are unaware. Terrorists and terrorism in the Bush era are one example. This issue was both real and hyped.

“Patriots” or “insurgents” (depending on who you are) entering the Capitol can be part of a real event that is *also* exploited or manipulated by others. We don’t know yet if this is the case in relation to the events of Jan 6, or to what extent it may be the case. That is where a *real* investigation must come in.

But as someone who has studied history, and the theatrics of history, for decades, I was not at all surprised to see, on Mr Carlson’s security camera footage, the person who was to become the most memorable ‘face’ of the ‘insurrection’ (or the riot, or the Capitol breach) — escorted to the beating heart of the action, where his image could be memorialized by a battery of cameras forever.

There are other aspects of the Jan 6 breach that seemed anomalous to me from the start.

I study the relationship in history of buildings such as The White House and the Capitol, to the US public; I follow the way in which the public is either welcomed into or barred from these structures.

The White House itself and the Capitol steps have often been open to US citizens. They are public buildings.

Indeed, inaugurations have been open public events in which the US citizenry simply entered the building for the celebration; this tradition lasted from President Jefferson's inauguration in 1801, to 1885.

Things got very chaotic indeed in 1829. "On March 4, 1829, Andrew Jackson upholds an inaugural tradition begun by Thomas Jefferson and hosts an open house at the White House.

After Jackson's swearing-in ceremony and address to Congress, the new president returned to the White House to meet and greet a flock of politicians, celebrities and citizens. Very shortly, the crowd swelled to more than 20,000, turning the usually dignified White House into a boisterous mob scene. Some guests stood on furniture in muddy shoes while others rummaged through rooms looking for the president–breaking dishes, crystal and grinding food into the carpet along the way. […]

The White House open-house tradition continued until several assassination attempts heightened security concerns. The trend ended in 1885 when Grover Cleveland opted instead to host a parade, which he viewed in safety from a grandstand set up in front of the White House.” [https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/jackson-holds-open-house-at-the-white-house].

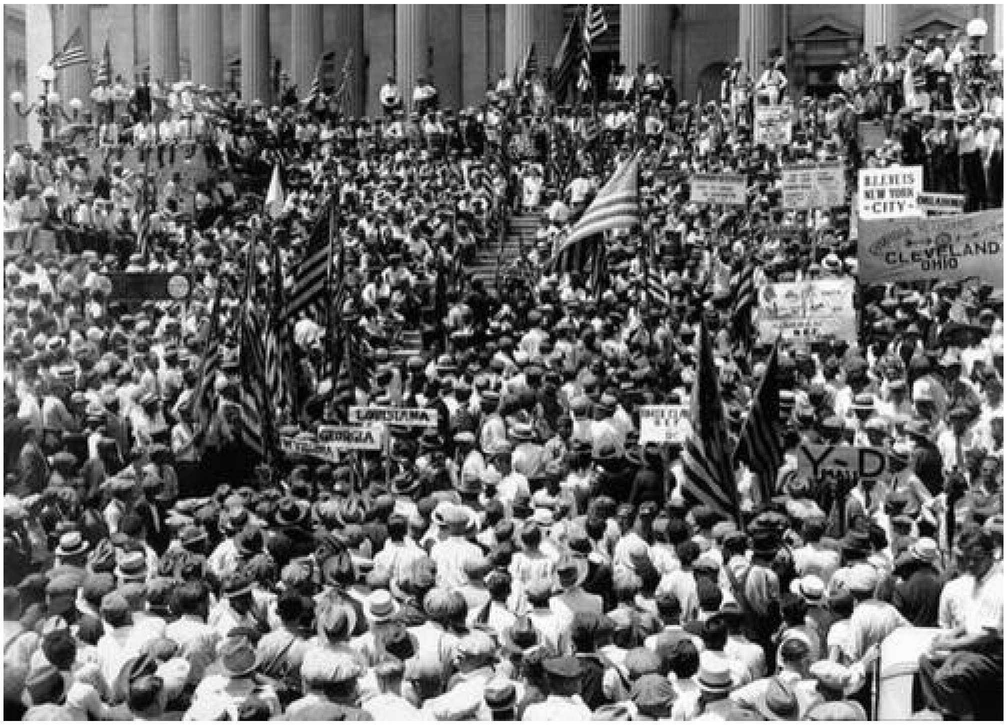
And inaugurations were not the only occasions in which US citizens approached their public buildings in Washington.

The Bonus Army, which massed in the summer of 1932, during the Depression, to claim the financial “bonus” promised to veterans who had served in World War I, is an example of citizens assembling peaceably at the Capitol. When I was an undergraduate, we were taught that the Bonus Army sat on the steps of the Capitol and lobbied the legislators who were entering and leaving the building. I remember from my history textbook, images of crowds seated on the Capitol steps in 1932.

“**[M]ore than 25,000 veterans and their families traveled to Washington, DC, to petition Congress and President Herbert Hoover to award them their bonus immediately.** Fortunately for the marchers, Pelham Glassford, the local police chief and a veteran of the war himself, made accommodations for this influx, including the creation of an enormous camp in the Anacostia Flats […]. Glassford understood that Americans had an inherent right to assemble in Washington and petition the government for the “redress of grievances” without fear of punishment or reprisals. […]

On June 15, the House of Representatives passed the new bonus bill by a vote of 211 to 176. Two days later, some 8,000 veterans massed in front of the Capitol as the Senate prepared to vote, while another 10,000 assembled before the raised Anacostia drawbridge. The police were anticipating trouble because of the large crowds. The Senate debate continued until after dark. […]

When it appeared that the bonus would not be paid, many of the marchers refused to leave, and President Hoover ordered the Army to evict them. Using tear gas, tanks, and a troop of saber-wielding cavalry commanded by Major George S. Patton, U.S. Army chief of staff General Douglas MacArthur drove the marchers out of Washington and burned their main camp on the Anacostia Flats."[https://billofrightsinstitute.org/essays/the-bonus-army]



I mention the massing of the Bonus Army on the Capitol steps in 1932, to note that the dominant narrative around Jan 6 today, often implies that it is an act of violence or of "insurrection" simply to march en masse peacefully to the Capitol.

But we should be wary of allowing history to be rewritten so as to criminalize peaceful, Constitutionally-protected assembly at "The People's House."

Massing peacefully at the Capitol and other public buildings, is part of our rights and inheritance as citizens, and this use of our First Amendment right to assemble has a long history. Indeed, the public has traditionally had the right peacefully to *enter* the Capitol — to obtain passes to events, to galley seats, and to witness the proceedings in other ways.

The Capitol is not a sealed space exclusively for legislators, but it is one that is supposed to welcome the public in an orderly way. [https://history.house.gov/Collection/Search?Term=Search&Classifications=Historical+Artifacts%3A+Passes&CurrentPage=1&SortOrder=Title&ResultType=Grid&PreviousSearch=Search%2CTitle]. We should not be encouraged to forget this.

The violence of Jan 6 and its subsequent service as a talking point by the Democrats' leadership, risks its use also to justify the closing off of our public buildings from US citizens altogether.

This would be convenient for tyrants of any party.

Leaving aside the release of the additional Jan 6 footage and how it may or may not change our view of US history —- I must say that I am sorry for believing the dominant legacy-media "narrative" pretty completely from the time it was rolled out, without asking questions.

Those who violently entered the Capitol or who engaged in violence inside of it, must of course be held accountable. (As must violent protesters of every political stripe anywhere.)

But in addition, anyone in leadership who misrepresented to the public the events of the day so as to distort the complexity of its actual history — must also be held accountable.

Jan 6 has become, as the DNC intended it to become, after the fact, a "third rail"; a shorthand used to dismiss or criminalize an entire population and political point of view.

Peaceful Republicans and conservatives as a whole have been demonized by the story told by Democrats in leadership of what happened that day.

So half of the country has been tarred by association, and is now in many quarters presumed to consist of chaotic berserkers, anti-democratic rabble, and violent upstarts, whose sole goal is the murder of our democracy.

Republicans, conservatives, I am sorry.

I also **believed** wholesale so much else that has since turned out not to be as I was told it was by NPR, MSNBC and *The New York Times*.

I **believed** that stories about Hunter Biden's laptop were Russian propaganda. Dozens of former intel officials said so. Johns Hopkins University said so. [https://sais.jhu.edu/news-press/hunter-biden-story-russian-disinformation-dozens-former-intel-officials-say].

"Trump specifically cited a "laptop" that contained emails allegedly belonging to Hunter Biden", said 'CNN Fact-Check', with plenty of double quote marks. [https://www.cnn.com/factsfirst/politics/factcheck_036fb62c-377f-4c68-8fa5-b98418e4bb9c]

I believed this all — til it was debunked.

I **believed** that President Trump's campaign colluded with Russia — until that assertion was dropped. [https://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/aba-news-archives/2019/03/mueller-concludes-investigation/]

I **believed** that President Trump was a Russian asset, because the legacy media I read, said so [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jan/29/trump-russia-asset-claims-former-kgb-spy-new-book].

I **believed** in the entire Steele dossier, until I didn't, because it all fell apart. [https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-63305382].

Was there in fact an "infamous pee tape"? So many other bad things were being said about the man — why not? [https://www.businessinsider.com/christopher-steele-trump-pee-tape-probably-exists-2021-10]

I **believed** that Pres Trump instigated the riot at the Capitol — because I did not know that his admonition to his supporters to assemble "peacefully and patriotically" had been deleted from all of the news coverage that I read. [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-11/trump-team-hoping-peacefully-and-patriotically-will-be-shield]

Because of lies such as these in legacy media — lies which I and millions of others believed — half of our nation's electorate was smeared and delegitimized, and I myself was misled.

It damages our nation when legacy media put words in the mouths of Presidents and former Presidents, and call them traitors or criminals without evidence.

It damages our country when we cannot tell truth from lies. This is exactly what tyrants seek — an electorate that cannot know what is truth and what is falsehood.

Through lies, half of the electorate was denied a fair run for its preferred candidate.

I don’t like violence. I do believe our nation’s capitol must be treated as a sacred space.

I don’t like President Trump (Do I not? Who knows? I have been lied to about him so much for so long, I can‘t tell whether my instinctive aversion is simply the habituated residue of years of being on the receiving end of lies).

But I like the liars who are our current gatekeepers, even less.

The gatekeepers who lie to the public about the most consequential events of our time — and who thus damage our nation, distort our history, and deprive half of our citizenry of their right to speak, champion and choose, without being tarred as would-be violent traitors - deserve our disgust.

I am sorry the nation was damaged by so much untruth issued by those with whom I identified at the time.

I am sorry my former “tribe” is angry at a journalist for engaging in —- journalism.

I am sorry I believed so much nonsense.

Though it is no doubt too little, too late —

Conservatives, Republicans, MAGA:

I am so sorry.

* * *

Outspoken with Dr Naomi Wolf is a reader-supported publication. To receive new posts and support her work, consider becoming a free or paid subscriber.

Stats, ai, tech, government: Secretive 'Wearable Camera'

Startup With Ex-Apple Execs Secures $100 Million, Partners With OpenAI

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAR 11, 2023 - 03:00 PM

WSJ reports that a new investment round of $100 million has been secured by a secretive startup called Humane Inc., founded by ex-Apple executives, along with a partnership with OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT. Although the startup's device is shrouded in mystery, it seems to be developing a wearable camera powered by artificial intelligence.

Censorship, government: Locked-Away In 'Conspiracy Theorist' Camps: The Orwellian Dystopia Of The "Censorship-Industrial-Complex"

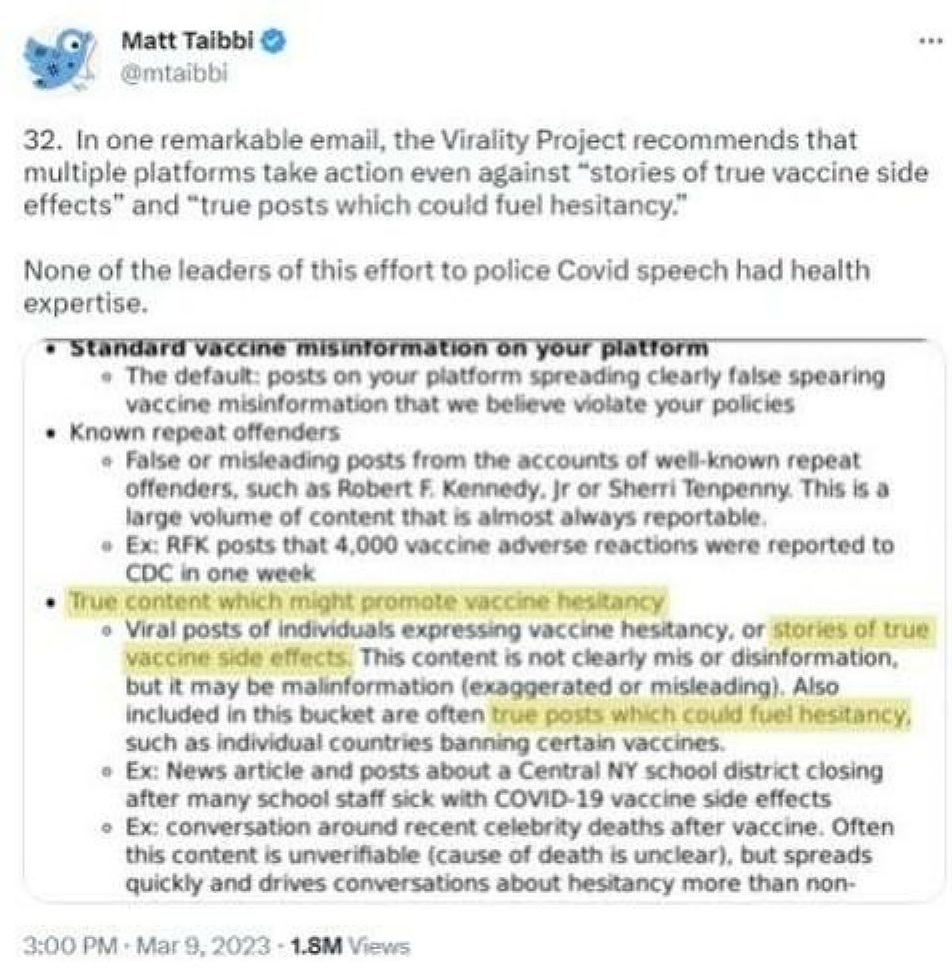
BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAR 11, 2023 - 02:30 PM

Authored by CJ Hopkins via ConsentFactory.org,

“We learned Twitter, Facebook, Google, and other companies developed a formal system for taking in moderation ‘requests’ from every corner of government: the FBI, DHS, HHS, DOD, the Global

Engagement Center at State, even the CIA. For every government agency scanning Twitter, there were perhaps 20 quasi-private entities doing the same, including Stanford's Election Integrity Project, Newsguard, the Global Disinformation Index, and others, many taxpayer-funded."

(Matt Taibbi's Statement to Congress)



Matt Taibbi
@mtaibbi

32. In one remarkable email, the Virality Project recommends that multiple platforms take action even against "stories of true vaccine side effects" and "true posts which could fuel hesitancy."

None of the leaders of this effort to police Covid speech had health expertise.

- **Standard vaccine misinformation on your platform**
  - The default: posts on your platform spreading clearly false spearing vaccine misinformation that we believe violate your policies
- Known repeat offenders
  - False or misleading posts from the accounts of well-known repeat offenders, such as Robert F. Kennedy, Jr or Sherri Tenpenny. This is a large volume of content that is almost always reportable.
  - Ex: RFK posts that 4,000 vaccine adverse reactions were reported to CDC in one week
- True content which might promote vaccine hesitancy
  - Viral posts of individuals expressing vaccine hesitancy, or stories of true vaccine side effects. This content is not clearly mis or disinformation, but it may be malinformation (exaggerated or misleading). Also included in this bucket are often true posts which could fuel hesitancy, such as individual countries banning certain vaccines.
  - Ex: News article and posts about a Central NY school district closing after many school staff sick with COVID-19 vaccine side effects
  - Ex: conversation around recent celebrity deaths after vaccine. Often this content is unverifiable (cause of death is unclear), but spreads quickly and drives conversations about hesitancy more than non-

3:00 PM · Mar 9, 2023 · **1.8M** Views

War, middle east: Saudis Want "Civilian Nuclear Program" In Exchange For Normalization With Israel

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAR 11, 2023 - 09:10 AM

Via The Cradle,

Saudi Arabia has asked the US for help with **developing a "civilian nuclear program"** and for **fewer restrictions on arms purchases in exchange for normalizing ties with Israel**, the *New York Times* reports.

Normalization between Tel Aviv and Riyadh would fulfill several goals of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, chief among them "downgrading the relative importance of the Palestinian issue," analysts told the NYT. **"I certainly believe that the peace agreement between us and the Saudis will lead to an agreement with the Palestinians,"** Netanyahu told Italian daily *La Repubblica* on 9 March.

Stats, Germany: Women In Berlin Allowed To Go Topless At Public Pools

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAR 11, 2023 - 09:45 AM

Women in Berlin, Germany **will soon be able to whip off their tops at the city's public swimming pools** following a policy change by local government in response to a woman's complaint that she was discriminated against.

The women argued that females, like men, should be able to swim topless, according to a statement from the city's senate for justice, diversity and anti-discrimination.

List Reveals US Cities With Most Ultra-High-Net Worth Homeowners

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAR 11, 2023 - 12:20 AM

A new report by data firm Altrata revealed the top ten cities worldwide with the most homeowners worth at least $30 million, and six of them were located in the United States. **At the very top of the list was New York City.**

The report found 21,714 individuals classified as ultra-high-net-worth (worth at least $30 million) owned a primary or secondary residence in the Northeast metro area.

Stats: These Are The US Cities With The Most Homeless People

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 11:00 PM

Over half a million Americans are currently homeless.

It now stands at 582,462 individuals with two thirds living in shelters. While the number of sheltered individuals in 2022 approached the 2020 pre-pandemic level again, the increase in the nation's homeless is **primarily due to a rise in the unsheltered homeless population.**

War, china: China Foresees End Of Ukraine War This Summer: Report

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 10:20 PM

A fascinating new report in *Nikkei Asia* has unearthed and detailed the findings of an elite Chinese state-linked think tank which reports directly to the People's Liberation Army. *Nikkei* in the context of examining the timing and motives behind China's 12-point peace plan said that Chinese military experts are **predicting the Russia-Ukraine war will end this summer**.

To review, the 12-point plan urged implementation of a ceasefire and the resumption of negotiations toward a permanent peaceful settlement, and was unveiled on the one-year Feb.24 anniversary of the war. But the Nikkei report asserts there's specific rationale driving Beijing: **"The reason for China's sudden change can be traced back to a report issued two months earlier by a top think tank in Beijing."**

US Cattle Prices Hit Nine-Year High As National Herd Drops To Half-Century Low

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 09:00 PM

If you've been to your local butcher or checked out the meat section in a supermarket, you're aware that beef prices are still high, and in some instances, are continuing to rise.

Readers have been well informed about "beeflation" and why it's happening:

- *Dwindling US Cattle Herd Implies Supermarket Beef Prices May Rise Even More*
- *Hamburger Prices Might Continue To Rise As US Cattle Herd Shrinks*
- *US Beef Herd Drops To Lowest Since 1962 As Global Food Crisis Intensifies*

"Worst Since Lehman": Banks Break The World Again

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 08:20 PM

Last week we detailed BofA's Michael Hartnett's warning that ***"The Fed will tighten until something breaks"***.

Well, something just broke...

SVB's collapse - the second biggest US bank failure in history - dominated any reaction to this morning's mixed bag from the BLS (hotter than expected earnings growth, rising unemployment (especially for Latinos), better than expected payrolls gains).

Things started off badly as SVB crashed 65% in the pre-market before being halted. SVB bonds were puking hard and when the FDIC headline hit, the bonds collapsed further...

Journal, stats, government: US Special Ops Wants To Use Deepfakes To Conduct 'Propaganda And Deception' Campaigns (saw this one coming)

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 05:40 PM

US Special Operations Command (SOCOM) **wants to use deepfake videos** to conduct propaganda and deception campaigns online, according to federal contracting documents reviewed by *The Intercept*.

Have We Reached "Peak Idiocracy" Yet?

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 05:20 PM

Authored by Michael Snyder via The End of The American Dream blog,

We should all be absolutely horrified by what has happened to our society. Everywhere you look, people seem to be going completely and utterly nuts. Once upon a time, the crazy people were a very small segment of the population that could be easily ignored. But now the lunatics are literally running the asylum. If you doubt this, just look at our statehouses around the nation and the current crop of politicians that we have in Washington. Sadly, the truth is that the people that are representing us are a very accurate reflection of what we have become as a nation. **We truly have become a raging "idiocracy", and the rest of the world is literally laughing at us.**

Colin Kaepernick Accuses His Own White Adoptive Parents Of "Perpetuating Racism"

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 04:45 PM

Authored by Eric Lendrum via American Greatness,

Former NFL player Colin Kaepernick has released a new memoir, in which **he insults the White couple that adopted him and raised him, accusing them of “problematic” behavior and “perpetuating racism.”**

Stats, government, inflation: Buffett, Buybacks, & Who Really Benefits

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 01:49 PM

Authored by Lance Roberts via RealInvestmentAdvice.com,

Stock Buybacks Do Help Keep The Market Afloat

As John Authers pointed out:

“For much of the last decade, companies buying their own shares have accounted for all net purchases. The total amount of stock bought back by companies since the 2008 crisis even exceeds the Federal Reserve’s spending on buying bonds over the same period as part of quantitative easing. Both pushed up asset prices.”

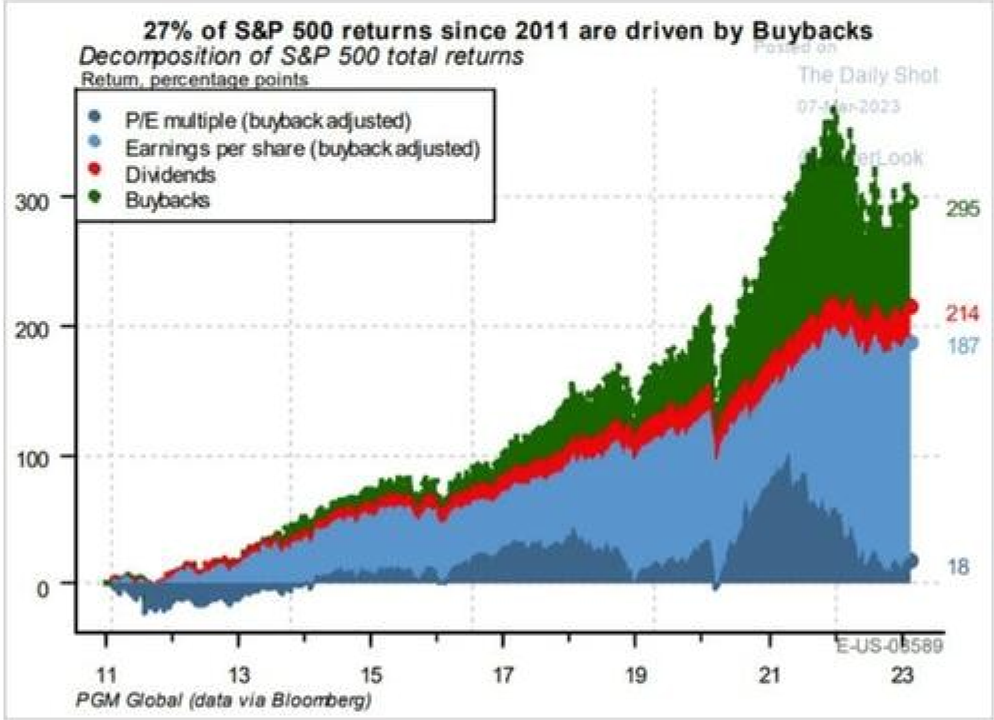
In other words, between the Federal Reserve injecting massive liquidity into the financial markets and corporations buying back their shares, **there have been no other real buyers in the market.**

“*U.S. stocks have received support from a key source during 2023’s shaky market environment: companies repurchasing their own shares.*

Stock buybacks by companies in the S&P 500 are projected to top $1 trillion in 2023 for the first time in a calendar year, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. Authorizations for repurchases are picking up pace: As of Feb. 17, they totaled more than $220 billion, a record for that point in the year, according to a Goldman Sachs analysis of S&P 500 and Russell 3000 companies.” – *Jannah Miao, WSJ*

The chart below via Pavilion Global Markets shows the impact stock buybacks have had on the market over the last decade. The returns for the S&P 500 breaks down as follows:

- 6.1% from multiple expansions *(21% at Peak),*
- 57.3% from earnings *(31.4% at Peak),*
- 9.1% from dividends *(7.1% at Peak), and*
- **27% from share buybacks** *(40.5% at Peak)*



Stats, censorship: Judge Overturns "Misgendering" Conviction For Street Preacher Reported To Terror Watchdog

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 12:25 PM

Authored by Owen Evans via The Epoch Times,

A **judge has overturned the conviction** of a Christian street preacher who was arrested and reported to Prevent **for “misgendering” a member of the public.**

War, china, middle east, iran: Archrivals Iran & Saudi Arabia Restore Ties In China-Brokered Deal

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 10:16 AM

Iran and Saudi Arabia announced that the two longtime rivals and enemies are restoring diplomatic relations following years of tensions, which involved each side charging the other with state-sponsored terrorism. Crucially, China helped see the deal through and hosted meetings of the two sides in Beijing.

NBC describes that "The deal, which will see the two countries reopen embassies in each other’s capitals, was sealed during a meeting in China — **a boost to Beijing’s efforts to rival the United States as a broker on the global stage**." Indeed this is the message China is quick to emphasize:

SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN TALK IN BEIJING IS VICTORY OF PEACE: WANG YI

Journal, markets, government: Futures Tumble As SVB Implosion Spark Global Banking Turmoil; Payrolls Loom **(how in the fuck?……SVB now? How long have they been around?)**

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 09:01 AM

US futures and European stocks pared broader declines earlier sparked by a rush to havens amid concerns about the health of the US banking system following the collapse of Silvergate and the rout that has crushed Silicon Valley Bank, sending it shares down 40% premarket after plunging 60% on Thursday amid a spreading liquidity crisis. The collapse of the lender was sufficiently traumatic to push today's payrolls report - until yesterday the highlight of the week - off the front page.

Censorship, stats: British Minister Faces New Charges Under Counter-Terrorism Laws For Criticizing A Trans Woman

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 07:30 AM

Authored by Jonathan Turley,

Today, a trial will begin for a French politician who was charged for criticizing immigration as a public danger.

In the meantime, a Christian street preacher was reportedly facing criminal charges in the United Kingdom for declaring that a trans woman was really a “gentleman” and a “man in woman’s clothing.”

The counter-terrorism unit arrested David McConnell, a Christian preacher who was already convicted last year for “harassment” in the incident last year.

For the earlier offense, McConnell was sentenced to a 12-month community order with 80 hours unpaid work.

However, according to the Daily Mail, he was also reported to the counter-terrorism unit and, according to McConnell’s probation officer, **he is “viewed [as] persistently and illegally espousing an extreme point of view” with his preaching.**

That is all that it takes now in the UK and most of Europe today: ***“an extreme point of view.”***

Energy, war, Russia: Russian Oil Production Returns To Near Pre-War Levels

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 06:00 AM

By Princeton Policy Advisors

The EIA, the analytics arm of the US Department of Energy, published the February oil markets data in its latest STEO (Short-term Energy Outlook) yesterday. The EIA reports that Russian oil production rose to 11.13 mbpd in February, the highest since April 2022 and a whopping 1.1 mbpd higher than the EIA's forecast from two months ago.

War, Russia, china: World's Longest-Lasting Cyclone To Hit Africa For Second Time

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 03:45 AM

Last month, Tropical Cyclone Freddy formed off the North Australian coast in the Indian Ocean. It has now broken the record for the longest-lasting recorded storm as it churns off the coast of Madagascar. There are forecasts that it will make landfall again in the southern African country of Mozambique.

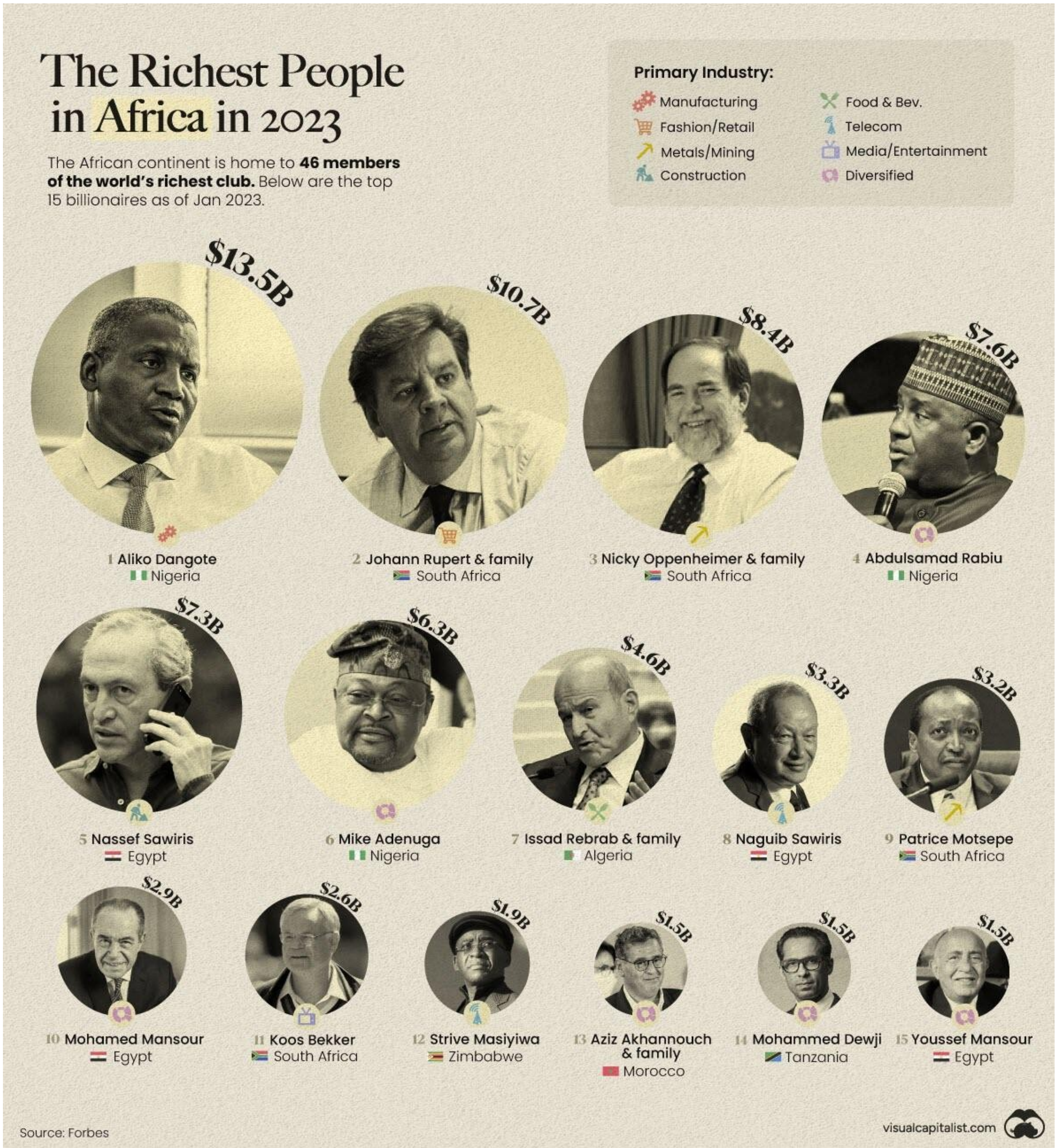
Another Near-Miss At Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Plant: 'One Day Our Luck Will Run Out'

Stats, government: These Are The Richest People In Africa

BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 05:15 AM

The African continent is **home to 46 billionaires,** the second-lowest total of any global region.



BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 10, 2023 - 04:30 AM

Authored by Jake Johnson via Common Dreams,

The largest nuclear energy plant in Europe, located in southern Ukraine, **lost all off-site power for the sixth time in a year** as Russian forces carried out a massive missile attack on Thursday, once again raising fears of a nuclear catastrophe with continent-wide implications.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, expressed dismay over the repeated near-misses at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant and said he is "astonished by the complacency" in the face of such a threat.

Journal, vaccine: **COVID Conspiracy Theories Become Conspiracy Facts (anti-vaxxers could end up looking very bad in the event of a much larger outbreak..Why are the major media organizations suddenly playing into the anti-vax narrative?)**

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 11:20 PM

Authored by Ramesh Thakur via The Brownstone Institute,

At first slowly but in recent weeks with seemingly gathering pace, two trends have emerged.

On the one hand, many of the core claims behind lockdowns, masks, and vaccines are unravelling and the prevailing narrative has been in retreat on all three fronts.

But there is still a long way to go, as indicated by the cussed refusal of the Biden administration to let Novak Djokovic play at Indian Wells.

On the other hand, the explosive lockdown files in the UK have blown apart the official narrative. We the sceptics were right in our dark suspicions of the motives, scientific basis, and evidence behind government decisions, but even we did not fully grasp just how venal, evil, and utterly contemptuous of their citizens some of the bastards in charge of our health, lives, livelihoods, and children's future were. "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here" (Shakespeare, *The Tempest*) indeed. They will have to build a new circle of hell to accommodate all the perpetrators of evil let loose upon the world since 2020.

Stats, government: **Democrat Bill In Baltimore Would Prevent Anyone Under Age 25 From Facing Felony Murder Charges**

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 10:20 PM

Democrats in Baltimore, Maryland have introduced a bill **that would prevent anyone under the age of 25 from facing first-degree murder charges** in certain circumstances.

NOT CROSS
SIRCHIE

The legislation, House Bill 1180, was introduced by Democratic Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, who hilariously calls it the 'Youth Accountability and Safety Act.'

Stats, inflation: "Dollar Tree Dinners": TikToker Goes Viral After Showing People How To Cook For $35 A Week

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 08:20 PM

With rising inflation putting pressure on household finances, some low-income Americans have turned to "Dollar Tree Dinners" as their meal of choice.

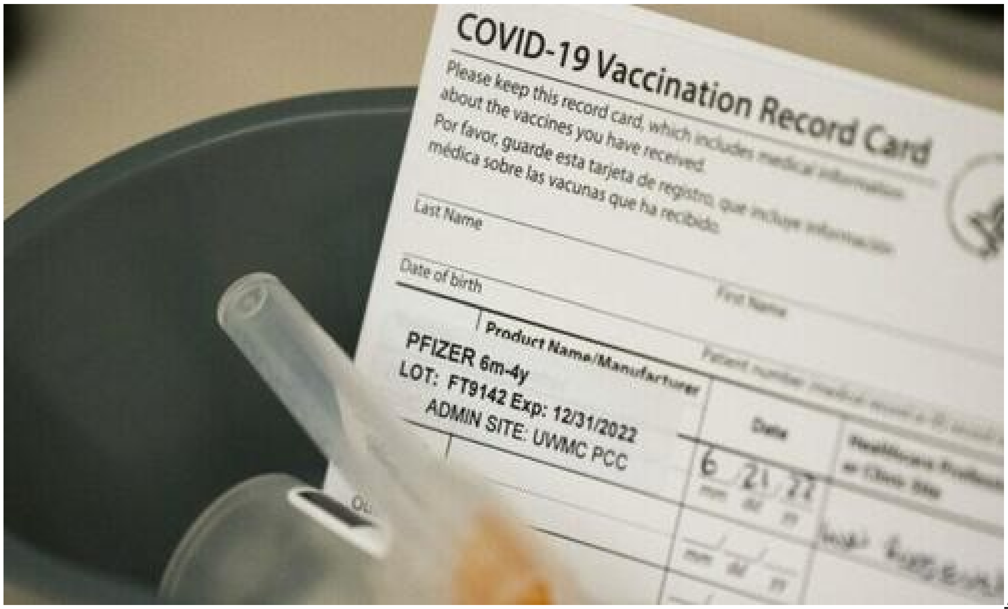
Vaccine: **Mother Sues Doctor Who Allegedly Administered COVID-19 Vaccines To Children Without Consent**

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 06:40 PM

Authored by Zachary Stieber via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

A doctor violated the law by administering COVID-19 vaccines to children without consent, according to a new lawsuit.



Doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and vaccination record cards for children under 5 in Seattle, Wash., in a June 21, 2022, file image. (David Ryder/Getty Images)

Dr. Janine Rethy, chief of community pediatrics at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, is being accused of holding two children in a room until she convinced them to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

The minors are both children of NaTonya McNeil, a Washington resident who brought the suit in D.C. Superior Court.

“**Ms. McNeil’s two minor children were held in a room by Defendant until she overcame their will and forcibly vaccinated them while physically preventing them from consulting with their mother, who was right outside the room,**” the 9-page suit states.

Stats, readlater, journal: **Victor Davis Hanson: The Price Of Eliminating Consequences**

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 05:20 PM

Authored by Victor Davis Hanson via AmGreatness.com,

Magnanimity demonstrated to those harming us at home and abroad is interpreted as American weakness, if not decadence to be further exploited...

Stats, censorship: **WWE Lobbying For Sports Betting On Its Pre-Scripted Matches**

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 01:50 PM

As if rigged stock markets weren't enough...

The WWE is now reportedly talking to state gambling regulators in Colorado and Michigan to lobby for legalized gambling on their matches. The catch? Unlike sport, the outcomes of these wrestling matches *have already been determined ahead of time.*

Energy, government: Investors Start To Realize The Energy Transition Will Take Decades

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 01:30 PM

Authored by Tsvetana Paraskova via OilPrice.com,

fossil fuels account for just over 80% of global energy supply.

"There's a much broader push for decarbonization globally, and there's also a much broader realization that we are 'stuck' with hydrocarbons until we can achieve that decarbonization," Dan Pickering, founder and chief investment officer at Houston-based Pickering Energy Partners, told The Wall Street Journal.

"A bunch more people are saying it's going to take time," Pickering added.

Supermajors Warn Of Price Spikes In A Disorderly Transition

Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude oil exporter, has been warning for years that the rush to ditch fossil fuels and the reluctance to invest in new supply would create shortages in oil and gas while the world still needs them.

Now the top executives of the biggest international oil and gas firms are joining Saudi state oil giant Aramco in calling for an "orderly" transition in which people should get secure and affordable energy supply they currently need and they currently get from fossil fuels.

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investment, if outright biased against the oil and gas industry, is a threat to energy affordability and energy security, Amin Nasser, the chief executive of the world's largest oil firm, Saudi Aramco, said last month.

"If ESG-driven policies are implemented with an automatic bias against any and all conventional energy projects, the resulting underinvestment will have serious implications. For the global economy. For energy affordability. And for energy security," Nasser said at the Saudi Capital Markets Forum 2023.

War, government: mar9 **Russia's Huge 'Retaliation' Strikes Include Hypersonic Missiles As NATO Sees Bakhmut Falling "In Coming Days"**

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 11:20 AM

As we detailed Wednesday, Russian forces have at this point taken full control of the eastern part of the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut as one of the bloodiest battles of the year-long war appears close to ending.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has since acknowledged that Bakhmut might fall to Russian forces in the "coming days" amid reports of rapid gains, which has been spearheaded by the Russian mercenary outfit Wagner Group. **"We cannot rule out that Bakhmut may eventually fall in the coming days,"** Stoltenberg told a press briefing in Stockholm. But like with statements from Pentagon generals of late, he quickly tried to downplay the city's strategic importance.

Markets, government, inflation: **Credit Suisse Delays Annual Report After SEC Call, Shares Plunge Towards All-Time Low**

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 07:55 AM

It has become almost predictable: every few weeks, we receive news that causes Credit Suisse stock to plunge.

On Thursday, the beleaguered Swiss investment bank's shares slumped 6% in Zurich trading -- closing in on the lowest level on record -- following the announcement that it would postpone the release of its annual report at the request of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Stats, holy roman empire, censorship: mar9 French Politician

Faces Criminal Trial For Immigration Criticism

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 07:30 AM

Authored by Jonathan Turley,

We have previously discussed the alarming rollback on free speech rights in the West, particularly in France (here and here and here and here and here and here and here). The latest such case is **a criminal trial of French Senator Stéphane Ravier for stating that "immigration kills the youth of France."**

Ravier faces trial tomorrow in the criminal court of Marseilles on charges of incitement to discrimination, hatred, or violence. **The case is based on a tweet**, on January 11, 2022, in which Ravier reacted to the murder of a teen in Paris by a 62-year-old man from Senegal.

He tweeted ***"Theo, 18 years old, murdered yesterday by a Senegalese [migrant]… Immigration kills the youth of France."***

A complaint was filed by the International League against Racism and Anti-Semitism (Licra) and the League for Human Rights (LDH) against Ravier over allegations of spreading hatred toward migrants.

Alain Lothe also alleged that by publishing his tweet "the elected official is not content to react to a news event but wants to highlight the nationality of its author and to involve all people from immigrant backgrounds."

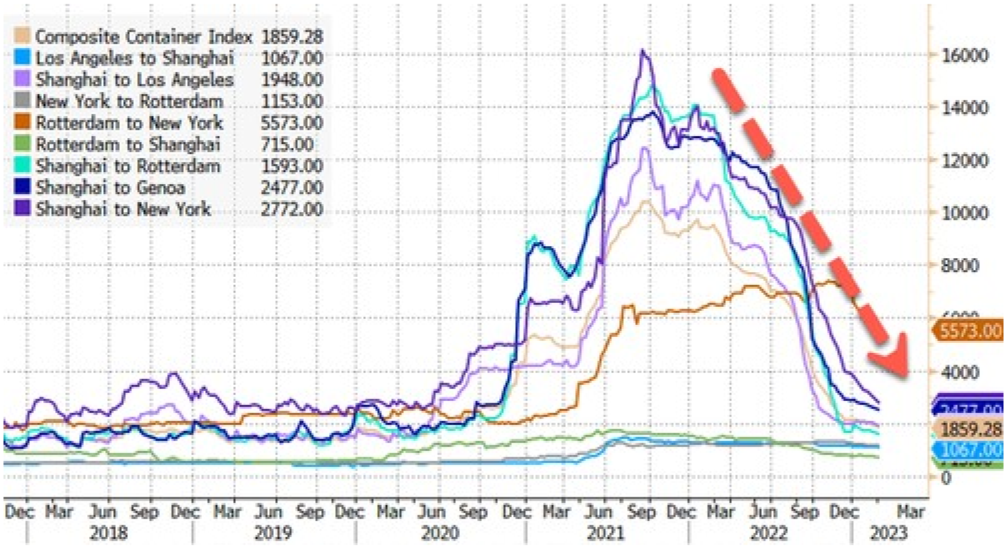
It is another example of criminalizing political speech. Just last year, Ravier was convicted for another comment made against a female socialist senator that was deemed to be sexist and given a fine of 1,500 euros.

Markets, china, government, inflation: mar9 US Container Imports Plunge As Recession Fears Mount

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 06:45 AM

Amid the mounting speculation of a soft landing and even talk of a "no landing" (read: here and here), we've pointed out multiple strategists who don't share that sense of optimism but rather one that is typical of an end-cycle environment (read: here & here).

Container rates worldwide for 40-foot boxes have returned to levels before the pandemic. This comes as global central banks aggressively hike interest rates in response to inflation, curbing consumer spending.



The financial burden of soaring inflation and increasing rates falls heavily on low-income consumers. Given that consumerism represents 68.5% of GDP, the troubling slowdown in container shipping suggests that the economy is showing signs of faltering.

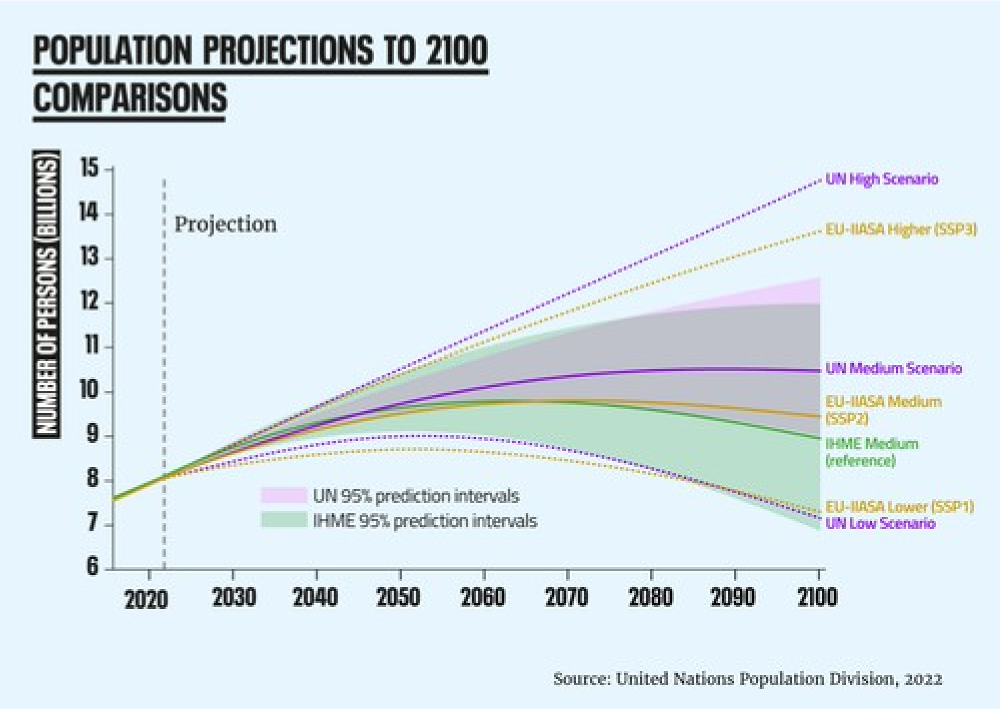
Descartes said container volumes from China, Japan, and Germany slumped the most.

Container import declines into the world's largest economy is an ominous sign as some strategists believe a recession might unfold in the second half of the year. Also, rate increases from last year are only beginning to filter in and will strongly curb economic activity in the coming months.

Journal, stats: Is The World Nearing Peak Population

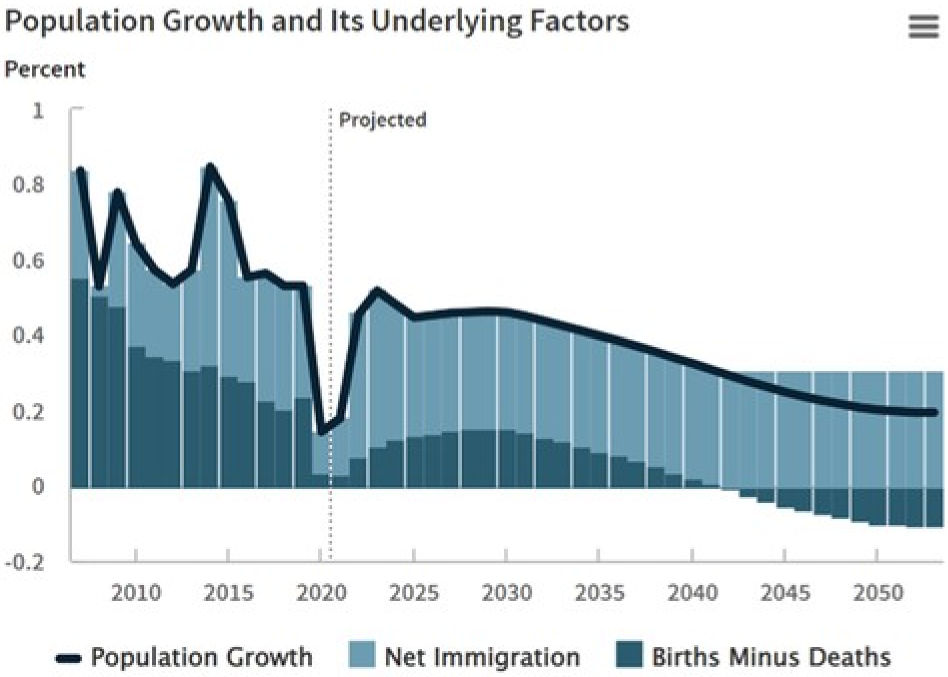
BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 06:00 AM

Authored by Bill King via RealClearPolitics.com,

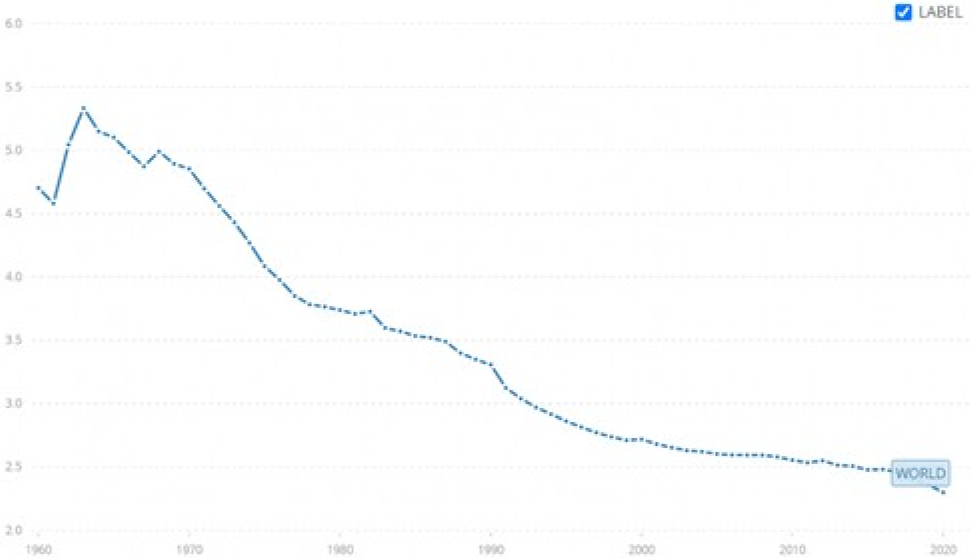


POPULATION PROJECTIONS TO 2100 COMPARISONS

Source: United Nations Population Division, 2022



Population Growth and Its Underlying Factors



COVID "Not Deadly Enough" To Justify Risk Of Fast-Track Vaccines, Chris Whitty Told UK Govt

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 03:00 AM

Authored by Will Jones via DailySceptic.org,

COVID-19 was not dangerous enough to justify cutting short vaccine trials as the vaccine had to be "very safe", Chris Whitty advised the Government in the early weeks of the outbreak, it has emerged.

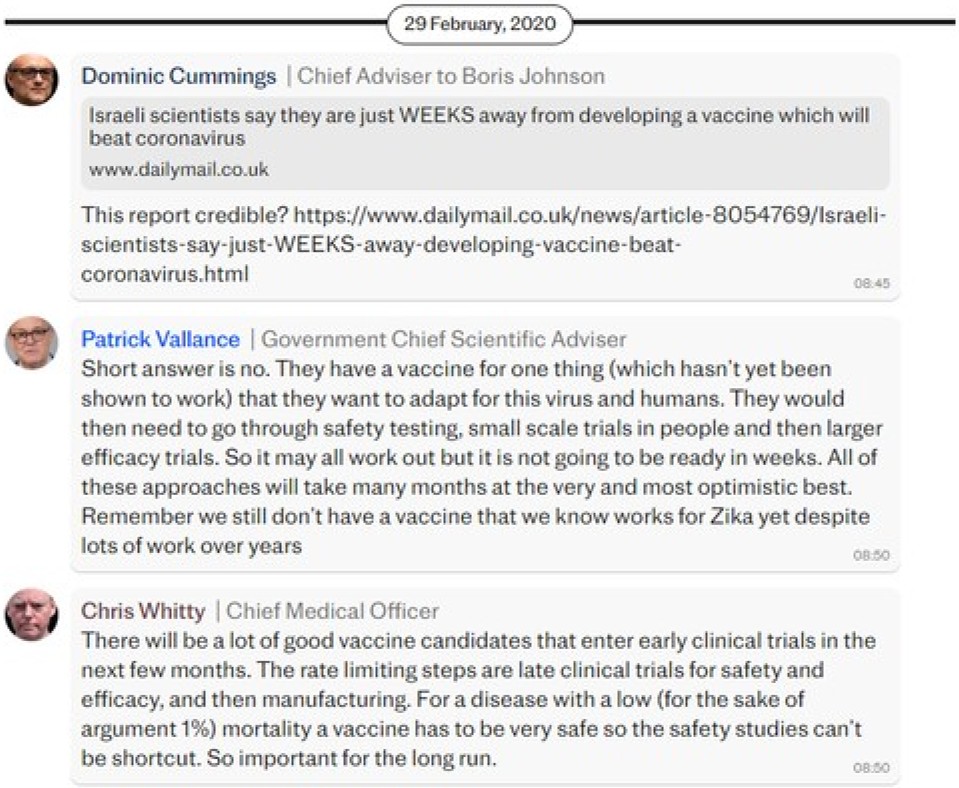
Writing on WhatsApp on February 29th 2020, the Chief Medical Officer told Government figures:

"For a disease with a low (for the sake of argument 1%) mortality a vaccine has to be very safe so the safety studies can't be shortcut. So important for the long run."

The estimate of 1% turned out to be an overestimate, as the infection fatality rate in Europe and the Americas was found to be 0.3-0.4%.

Chief Scientist Patrick Vallance agreed with this advice and wrote that existing drugs should be relied on instead:

*“**Agree, existing drugs best things to try for this outbreak.** Accelerate vaccine testing where we have good candidates for future, and prepare for manufacturing capacity for longer term.”*



29 February, 2020

Dominic Cummings | Chief Adviser to Boris Johnson

Israeli scientists say they are just WEEKS away from developing a vaccine which will beat coronavirus
www.dailymail.co.uk

This report credible? https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8054769/Israeli-scientists-say-just-WEEKS-away-developing-vaccine-beat-coronavirus.html
08:45

Patrick Vallance | Government Chief Scientific Adviser

Short answer is no. They have a vaccine for one thing (which hasn't yet been shown to work) that they want to adapt for this virus and humans. They would then need to go through safety testing, small scale trials in people and then larger efficacy trials. So it may all work out but it is not going to be ready in weeks. All of these approaches will take many months at the very and most optimistic best. Remember we still don't have a vaccine that we know works for Zika yet despite lots of work over years
08:50

Chris Whitty | Chief Medical Officer

There will be a lot of good vaccine candidates that enter early clinical trials in the next few months. The rate limiting steps are late clinical trials for safety and efficacy, and then manufacturing. For a disease with a low (for the sake of argument 1%) mortality a vaccine has to be very safe so the safety studies can't be shortcut. So important for the long run.
08:50

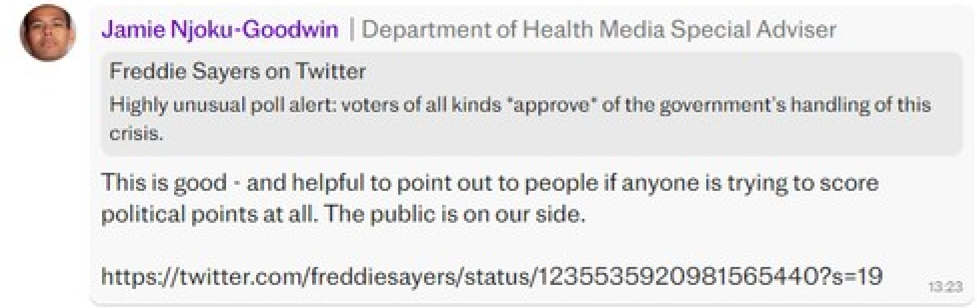
It has not been reported what led to this approach being changed, but the advice was given before a pandemic had been declared or any country except China had imposed a lockdown. Public opinion, and Government responses around the world, shifted considerably after that point.

The *Telegraph* has published an article looking at what the Lockdown Files WhatsApp messages show about how the Government came to impose lockdown on March 23rd as it came under pressure during March to do more.

On March 2nd Patrick Vallance said he and Whitty estimated that the chance of a reasonable worst case scenario (at one point reportedly estimated by Whitty to involved up to 820,000 U.K. deaths) was one in five:

For percentage probability of RWCS [reasonable worst case scenario] we don’t have a calculated figure and can’t give one on the data we have. But Chris and I both think that looking at Wuhan so far the RWCS is relatively low probability, say one in five chance. But that is an impression not a calculation.

On March 5th a poll showed the public were still happy with the Government's calm approach.



Jamie Njoku-Goodwin | Department of Health Media Special Adviser

Freddie Sayers on Twitter
Highly unusual poll alert: voters of all kinds *approve* of the government's handling of this crisis.

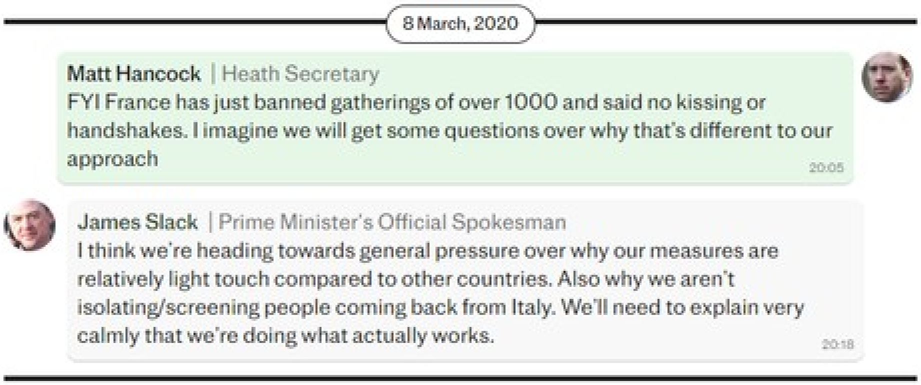
This is good - and helpful to point out to people if anyone is trying to score political points at all. The public is on our side.

https://twitter.com/freddiesayers/status/1235535920981565440?s=19

13:23

However, this was probably the last time that was true. As images from Italy – "where hospitals were overwhelmed by gasping Covid victims and distraught doctors were having to turn away the dying patients" – were beamed into living rooms over the following days the panic buying began as the sense of doom grew.

On March 8th France banned large gatherings as Italy locked down the entire north of the country, and Government figures began to feel the pressure to do more.



8 March, 2020

Matt Hancock | Heath Secretary
FYI France has just banned gatherings of over 1000 and said no kissing or handshakes. I imagine we will get some questions over why that's different to our approach

20:05

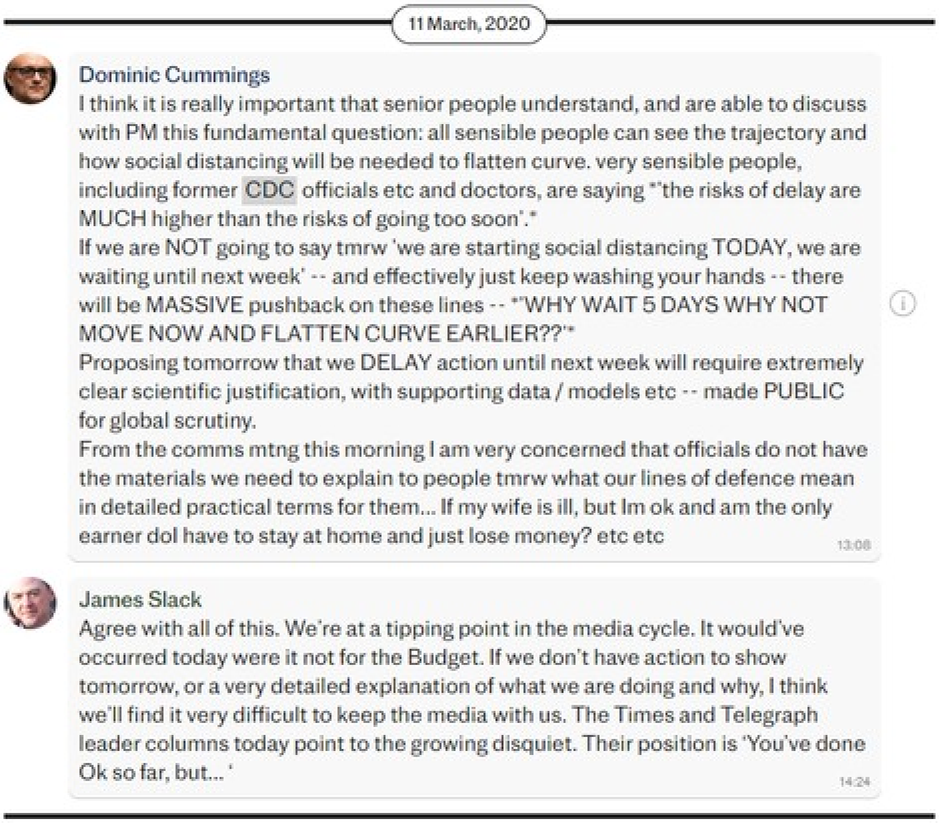
James Slack | Prime Minister's Official Spokesman
I think we're heading towards general pressure over why our measures are relatively light touch compared to other countries. Also why we aren't isolating/screening people coming back from Italy. We'll need to explain very calmly that we're doing what actually works.

20:18

By March 11th Boris Johnson's Chief Adviser Dominic Cummings was stressing how difficult it was to continue to hold the liberal line – and not very subtly implying he agreed with the critics.

On March 12th and 13th Patrick Vallance and other Government figures did one last media round arguing for sticking with a calm, liberal response that would lead to herd immunity, but it was no longer well-received by the media or much of the public. In line with that plan, contact tracing was stopped around March 15th as the country moved from containment (where contact tracing makes sense) to mitigation (where it doesn't), but **behind the scenes this change was opposed and the idea that we should be ramping up testing and**

contact tracing for indefinite use became a new orthodoxy. Cummings wrote: “We *really* need to explain our testing policy tomorrow – neither I nor PM understand it and we need to explain and ramp up as fast as humanly possible.”



11 March, 2020

Dominic Cummings

I think it is really important that senior people understand, and are able to discuss with PM this fundamental question: all sensible people can see the trajectory and how social distancing will be needed to flatten curve. very sensible people, including former CDC officials etc and doctors, are saying *'the risks of delay are MUCH higher than the risks of going too soon'.*
If we are NOT going to say tmrw 'we are starting social distancing TODAY, we are waiting until next week' -- and effectively just keep washing your hands -- there will be MASSIVE pushback on these lines -- *'WHY WAIT 5 DAYS WHY NOT MOVE NOW AND FLATTEN CURVE EARLIER??'*
Proposing tomorrow that we DELAY action until next week will require extremely clear scientific justification, with supporting data / models etc -- made PUBLIC for global scrutiny.
From the comms mtng this morning I am very concerned that officials do not have the materials we need to explain to people tmrw what our lines of defence mean in detailed practical terms for them... If my wife is ill, but Im ok and am the only earner doI have to stay at home and just lose money? etc etc

13:08

James Slack

Agree with all of this. We're at a tipping point in the media cycle. It would've occurred today were it not for the Budget. If we don't have action to show tomorrow, or a very detailed explanation of what we are doing and why, I think we'll find it very difficult to keep the media with us. The Times and Telegraph leader columns today point to the growing disquiet. Their position is 'You've done Ok so far, but... '

14:24

On the evening of March 16th – the day Neil Ferguson’s Report 9, projecting over 500,000 deaths without severe suppression measures, was published – Boris Johnson told the nation that, without drastic action, the virus would spiral out of control.

These modellers had a track record of drastically exaggerating threats, but this seemed not to matter. As Carl Heneghan and Tom Jefferson write in an excoriating piece in the *Mail* this morning: “Faith was placed in experts who, in the past two decades, wrongly predicted 136,000 U.K. deaths from new variant CJD contracted by eating meat infected with BSE (or mad cow disease); 65,000 deaths from swine flu; and 700,000 deaths from bird flu.” As a second lockdown loomed later in the year, Dr. Heneghan and others tried to bring actual data and a sense of perspective to bear, but it quickly became clear that most ministers had no interest in anything that might make earlier decisions look unwise: “Our efforts were to no avail. A fixed ideology had rooted itself in Downing Street and the second lockdown in November 2020 went ahead.”

It was in those 11 days, from March 6th to 16th, that the country was transformed from a stoic survivor facing with calm courage the approaching tide to a gibbering wreck cowering in homes and refusing to go to work. The slow recovery from those traumatic days of spring three years ago is still ongoing.

The Right To Be Let Alone: When The Government Wants To Know All Your Business

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAR 09, 2023 - 12:40 AM

Authored by John and Nisha Whitehead via The Rutherford Institute,

There was a time when the census was just a head count.

Individuals who receive the ACS must complete it or be subject to monetary penalties.

total fines could range from upwards of $10,000 and $50,000 for noncompliance.

In an age when the government has significant technological resources at its disposal to not only carry out warrantless surveillance on American citizens but also to harvest and mine that data for its own dubious purposes, whether it be crime-mapping or profiling based on whatever criteria the government wants to use to target and segregate the populace, the potential for abuse is grave.

As such, the ACS qualifies as a government program whose purpose, while sold to the public as routine and benign, raises significant constitutional concerns.

The Rutherford Institute has received hundreds of inquiries from individuals who have received the ACS and are not comfortable sharing such private, intimate details with the government or are unsettled by the aggressive tactics utilized by Census Bureau agents seeking to compel responses to ACS questions.

The following Q&A is provided as a resource to those who want to better understand their rights in respect to the ACS.

Q: What kind of questions are contained in the ACS?

A: The ACS contains questions that go far beyond typical census questions about the number of individuals within the household and their age, race, and sex. The survey combines intrusive questions with highly detailed inquiries about your financial affairs. Furthermore, the questionnaire also demands that recipients provide information about their family and other people in their home, such as their educational levels, how many years of school were completed, what languages they speak, when they last worked at a job, and when occupants of your home are away from the house.

Q: How will this information be used?

A: The Census Bureau states that information from this survey is used to assist a wide variety of entities, from federal, state and local governments to private corporations, nonprofit organizations, researchers and public advocacy groups. The Bureau lists 35 different categories of questions on its website and offers an explanation on how the information is to be used. For 12 of those categories, the information is used to assist private corporations. For another 22, the information is used to aid advocacy groups, and in nine of those cases, the Census Bureau states that the responses will be used by advocacy groups to “advocate for policies that benefit their groups,” including advocacy based on age, race, sex, and marital status. Thus, information obtained through the ACS is not simply used to inform government policy in a neutral manner, but is also being provided to private actors for the purpose of promoting corporate and/or political agendas.

One concern raised by the Brookings Institute is the use of ACS information by law enforcement for “crime mapping,” a surveillance tool used to predict crime and preemptively target certain neighborhoods for policing. It is “most effective” when “analysts can see the relationship between various types of criminal incidents (e.g., homicides, drug dealing) and neighborhood characteristics (risk *factors such as poverty, population density, and vacant housing), pinpoint where crimes are most likely to occur (hot spots), and focus police resources accordingly." The Brookings Institute notes that because the ACS provides data every year, rather than every ten years, crime mapping is more effective and cheaper.*

Q: Are my responses kept confidential?

A: While the Census Bureau claims that an individual's information will be kept strictly confidential, it does require a recipient to put their name on the survey, ostensibly for the purpose of asking follow-up questions in the event of missing or incomplete answers. This means your answers could be linked to you even if it is forbidden by law to share your individual responses.

Q: Am I required by law to fully complete the American Community Survey?

A: Federal law makes it mandatory to answer all questions on the ACS. A refusal to answer any question on the ACS or giving an intentionally false answer is a federal offense. The Census Bureau also maintains that responding to the ACS is mandatory and that recipients are legally obligated to answer all questions.

Q: Is there a penalty for refusing to answer American Community Survey questions?

A: The law requiring answers to the ACS also provides that a person who fails to answer "shall be fined not more than $100." The actual fine for a refusal to complete the ACS could be much greater because a failure to respond to certain ACS questions could be considered a separate offense subject to the $100 fine.

Q: Has the government prosecuted persons for refusing to answer the American Community Survey?

A: While The Rutherford Institute has been made aware of Census Bureau agents engaging in harassing tactics and threatening behavior, to date, we are unaware of the Census Bureau having levied any financial penalties for non-compliance with the ACS. However, a refusal to answer the survey violates the letter of the law and a prosecution might be brought if the government decides to adopt a policy to do so.

Q: How does the Census Bureau typically ensure that people complete the survey?

A: Those who do not answer the ACS risk repeated overtures—by mail, by phone and in person—from Census Bureau employees seeking to compel a *response. Typically, the Census Bureau will telephone those who do not respond to the survey and may visit their homes to coerce the targets to respond.*

The Census Bureau boasts a 97% response rate to the survey via these methods, but critics argue this constitutes harassment. One recipient who did complete the survey but whose answers were misplaced by the Census Bureau wrote about his experience. First, a Census Bureau employee left a note at his apartment asking him to contact her. When he did, the employee asked him to allow her into his home. When he refused, the employee "turned up twice unannounced at my apartment, demanding entry, and warning me of the fines I would face if I didn't cooperate." Only after he filed a complaint with the Census Bureau did the agency realize he had actually completed the survey, thus ending its attempts to enter his home.

Q: Is this an unconstitutional invasion of privacy?

A: There are significant and legitimate questions concerning the authority of the government to require, under threat of prosecution and penalty, that persons answer questions posed by the ACS. The ACS is not part of the enumeration required by Article I of the Constitution, and that constitutional provision only applies to a census for purposes of counting the number of people in each state. As noted, the ACS seeks much more information than the number of persons in a household.

In other contexts, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that citizens have no obligation to answer questions posed by the government and are free to refuse to do so. This same principle could apply to questions posed by ACS agents. However, because the government has not brought a prosecution for a refusal to respond to the ACS, the question of a person's right to refuse has not yet been decided by a court.

Q: What are my options for objecting to the ACS survey as an intrusion on my Fourth Amendment rights?

A: If you receive notice that you have been targeted to respond to the ACS and you desire to assert your right of privacy, you can voice those objections and your intent not to respond to the ACS by writing a letter to the Census Bureau. The Rutherford Institute has developed a form letter that you may use in standing up against the government's attempt to force you to disclose personal information.

If you are contacted by Census Bureau employees, either by telephone or in person, demanding your response, you can assert your rights by politely, but firmly, informing the employee that you believe the ACS is an improper invasion *of your privacy, that you do not intend to respond and that they should not attempt to contact you again. Be sure to document any interactions you have with Bureau representatives for your own files.*

If you believe you are being unduly harassed by a Census Bureau employee, either by telephone or in person, it is in your best interest to carefully document the time, place and manner of the incidents and file a complaint with the U.S. Census Bureau.

Battle of Leipzig: largest battle in European history before World War , fought from 16 to 19 October 1813 at Leipzig, Saxony. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Sixth_Coalition

Prussian Reform Movement: German historians, such as Heinrich von Treitschke, saw the reforms as the first steps towards the unification of Germany and the foundation of the German Empire before the First World War.

The treaty was signed at Berlin on 18 August 1866, between the preliminary and the final peace treaty between Austria and Prussia, which formally ended the Austro-Prussian War.

german march revolution, forced resignation of Klemens von Metternich, abdication by King Louis-Philippe of France and his exile in Britain. [

The revolutions spread from France across Europe; they erupted soon thereafter in Austria and Germany, beginning with the large demonstrations on March 13, 1848, in Vienna. This resulted in the resignation of Prince von Metternich as chief minister to Emperor Ferdinand I of Austria, and his going into exile in Britain.[1] Because of the date of the Vienna demonstrations, the revolutions in Germany are usually called the March Revolution (German: *Märzrevolution*).

Fearing the fate of Louis-Philippe, some monarchs in Germany accepted some of the demands of the revolutionaries, at least temporarily. In the south and west, large popular assemblies and mass demonstrations took place. They demanded freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, written constitutions, arming of the people, and a parliament.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_revolutions_of_1848%E2%80%931849

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klemens_von_Metternich

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_revolutions_of_1848%E2%80%931849

The **Frankfurt Parliament** (German: *Frankfurter Nationalversammlung*, literally *Frankfurt National Assembly*) was the first freely elected parliament for all German states, including the German-populated areas of Austria-Hungary,[1] elected on 1 May 1848 (see German federal election, 1848).[2]

The session was held from 18 May 1848 to 31 May 1849, in the Paulskirche at Frankfurt am Main. Its existence was both part of and the result of the "March Revolution" within the states of the German Confederation.

After long and controversial debates, the assembly produced the so-called Frankfurt Constitution (*Paulskirchenverfassung* or St. Paul's Church Constitution, officially the *Verfassung des Deutschen Reiches*) which proclaimed a German Empire based on the principles of parliamentary democracy. This constitution fulfilled the main demands of the liberal and nationalist movements of the Vormärz and provided a foundation of basic rights, both of which stood in opposition to Metternich's system of Restoration. The parliament also proposed a constitutional monarchy headed by a hereditary emperor (*Kaiser*).

The Prussian king Frederick William IV refused to accept the office of emperor when it was offered to him on the grounds that such a constitution and such an offer were an abridgment of the rights of the princes of the individual German states. In the 20th century, however, major elements of the Frankfurt constitution became models for the Weimar Constitution of 1919 and the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany of 1949.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frankfurt_Parliament

The German March revolution not only started in Baden, but also ended here when Rastatt Fortress, the last bastion of the revolutionaries, was captured by Prussian troops on 23 July 1849.

The Baden Revolution had two phases: between the beginning of March 1848 and September 1848 there were two attempts to form a republic in southwestern Germany: the Hecker Uprising and the rebellion led by Gustav Struve in Lörrach. With the defeat of Friedrich Hecker and his followers at Kandern and his flight into exile, and the arrest of Gustav Struve in September, this first phase ended.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baden_Revolution#:~:text=The%20Baden%20Revolution%20(German%3A%20Badische,Central%20Europe%20at%20that%20time.

The following table shows the connexion between the revolution in Baden, the events in the German Confederation and Europe.

Period	Grand Duchy of Baden	German Confederation

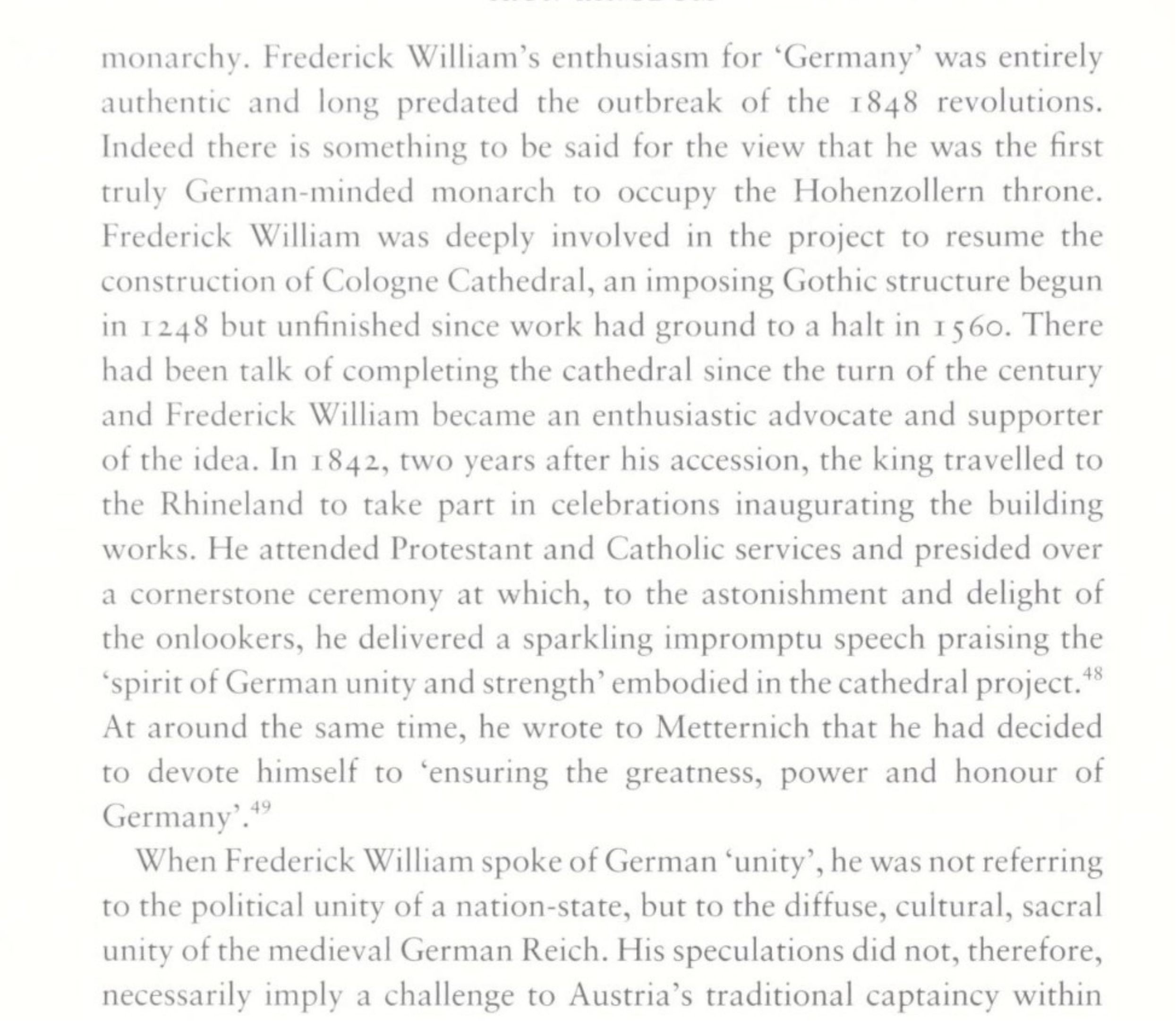
1847		
September	Offenburg Assembly	
October		Heppenheim Assembly
November		
1848	Baden Revolution	German revolutions
February	Mannheim Popular Assembly	
March	Heidelberg Assembly	March Revolution Berlin: Barricade Uprising; March Revolution victims; Vienna: Revolutions in the Austrian Empire; Revolution in Sigmaringen
April	Hecker Uprising Battle on the Scheideck; Battle of Günterstal; Storming of Freiburg; Battle of Dossenbach	
June		Pentecost Uprising in Prague
September	Struve Putsch Battle of Staufen	Rebellion in Frankfurt
October		Vienna Uprising
1849		
April		Storming of the Zeughaus in Prüm
May	Baden Revolution (mutiny); to July 1849, Baden Revolutionary Government; Baden constitutional assembly; Battle of	Reichsverfassungskampagne; Kaiser Deputation Dresden Uprising; Palatine Uprising; Iserlohn Uprising; Elberfeld Uprising

	Waghäusel; Rastatt Fortress;		

With the military defeat of this last rebellion, primarily by Prussian troops, the March Revolution of 1848/1849 in the states of the German Confederation finally ended on 23 July 1849 with the capture of Rastatt Fortress, the last bastion of the Baden revolutionaries, by federal forces under Prussian leadership.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Constitution_campaign

king doesnt accept legitimacy from frankfurt assembly, saying it is meaningless.



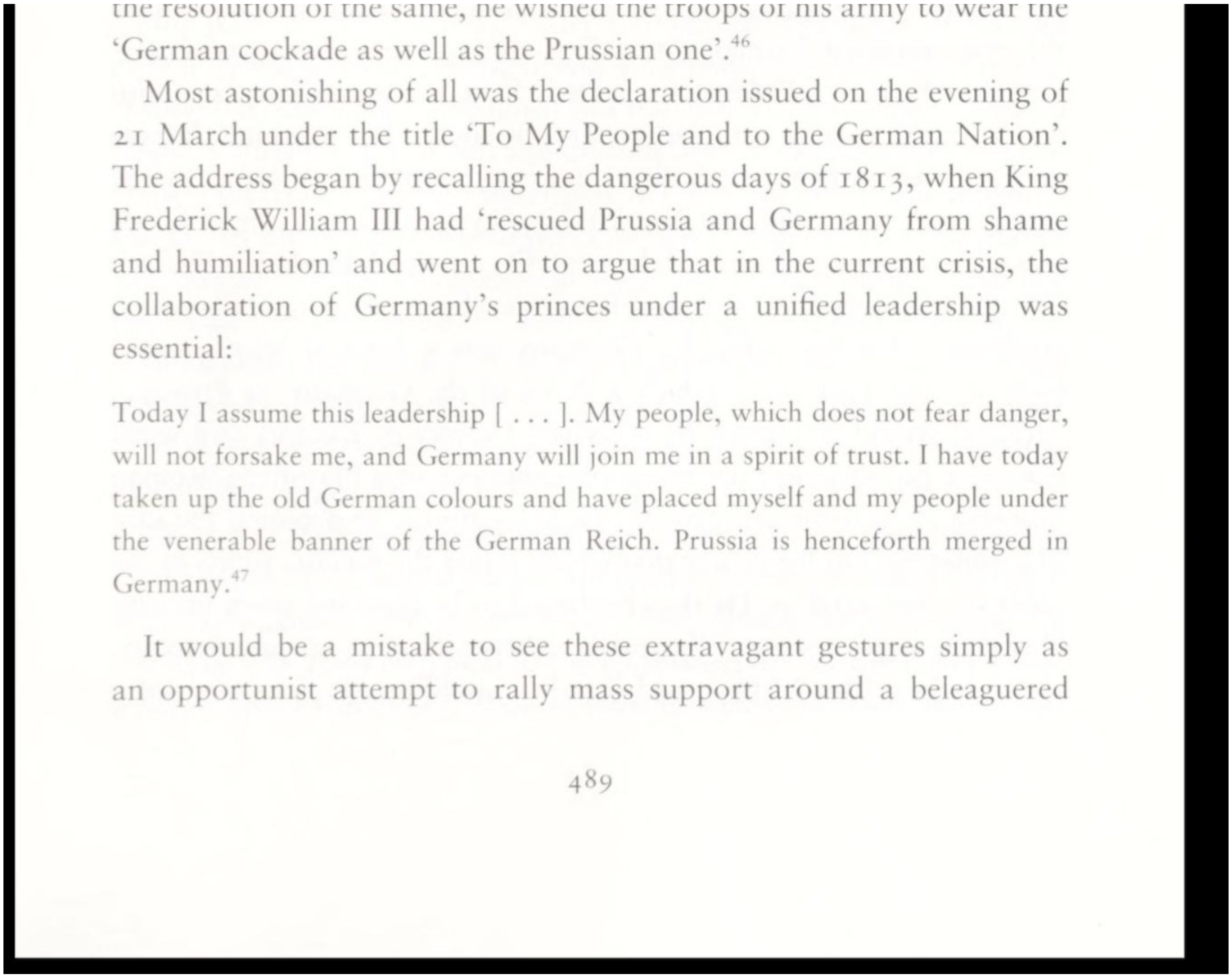
monarchy. Frederick William's enthusiasm for 'Germany' was entirely authentic and long predated the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions. Indeed there is something to be said for the view that he was the first truly German-minded monarch to occupy the Hohenzollern throne. Frederick William was deeply involved in the project to resume the construction of Cologne Cathedral, an imposing Gothic structure begun in 1248 but unfinished since work had ground to a halt in 1560. There had been talk of completing the cathedral since the turn of the century and Frederick William became an enthusiastic advocate and supporter of the idea. In 1842, two years after his accession, the king travelled to the Rhineland to take part in celebrations inaugurating the building works. He attended Protestant and Catholic services and presided over a cornerstone ceremony at which, to the astonishment and delight of the onlookers, he delivered a sparkling impromptu speech praising the 'spirit of German unity and strength' embodied in the cathedral project.[48] At around the same time, he wrote to Metternich that he had decided to devote himself to 'ensuring the greatness, power and honour of Germany'.[49]

When Frederick William spoke of German 'unity', he was not referring to the political unity of a nation-state, but to the diffuse, cultural, sacral unity of the medieval German Reich. His speculations did not, therefore, necessarily imply a challenge to Austria's traditional captaincy within new 'German Empire'. 'Against my own declared and well-motivated will,' he complained to a close conservative associate, '[Arnim-Suckow] wants to present me!!!!!! with the imperial title . . . I will *not* accept the crown.'[51]

Yet the king's objection to a Prussian imperial title was by no means categorical. It would be another matter entirely if the other German princes voluntarily elected him to a position of pre-eminence and the Austrians were willing to renounce their ancient claim to leadership within the German Commonwealth. Under these circumstances, he told King Frederick August II of Saxony during the first week of May, he would be willing to consider accepting the crown of a new German Reich.[52] These were highly speculative reflections at the time, but as events unfolded over the summer and autumn of 1848, they came to seem increasingly plausible.

Within a month of the outbreak of the revolution, Prussia had an opportunity to demonstrate its willingness to show leadership in the defence of the German national interest. A crisis was brewing over the future of the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, predominantly agrarian principalities that straddled the frontier between German- and Danish-speaking northern Europe. The complex legal and constitutional status of the two duchies was defined by three awkward facts: firstly, a law dating back to the fifteenth century forbade the separation of the two

When Frederick William spoke of German 'unity', he was not referring to the political unity of a nation-state, but to the diffuse, cultural, sacral unity of the medieval German Reich. His speculations did not, therefore, necessarily imply a challenge to Austria's traditional captaincy within the community of German states. Even during the war crisis of 1840–41, when Frederick William supported efforts to extend Prussia's influence over the security arrangements of the south German states, he was reluctant to contemplate a direct confrontation with Vienna. In the spring months of 1848, the Prussian king's vision of the German future was still in essence a vision of the past. On 24 April, Frederick William told the Hanoverian liberal and Frankfurt deputy Friedrich Christoph Dahlmann that his vision for Germany was a kind of reinvigorated Holy Roman Empire, in which a 'King of the Germans' (a Prussian, perhaps) would be chosen by a revived College of Electors and wield executive power under the honorary captaincy of a Habsburg 'Roman Emperor'.[50] As a romantic monarchical legitimist, he deplored the idea of a unilateral bid for power that would injure the historic rights of the other German crowns. He thus professed to be horrified when his new liberal foreign minister (Heinrich Alexander von Arnim-Suckow, appointed 21 March) proposed that he should accept the crown of a



the resolution of the same, he wished the troops of his army to wear the 'German cockade as well as the Prussian one'.[46]

Most astonishing of all was the declaration issued on the evening of 21 March under the title 'To My People and to the German Nation'. The address began by recalling the dangerous days of 1813, when King Frederick William III had 'rescued Prussia and Germany from shame and humiliation' and went on to argue that in the current crisis, the collaboration of Germany's princes under a unified leadership was essential:

> Today I assume this leadership [. . .]. My people, which does not fear danger, will not forsake me, and Germany will join me in a spirit of trust. I have today taken up the old German colours and have placed myself and my people under the venerable banner of the German Reich. Prussia is henceforth merged in Germany.[47]

It would be a mistake to see these extravagant gestures simply as an opportunist attempt to rally mass support around a beleaguered

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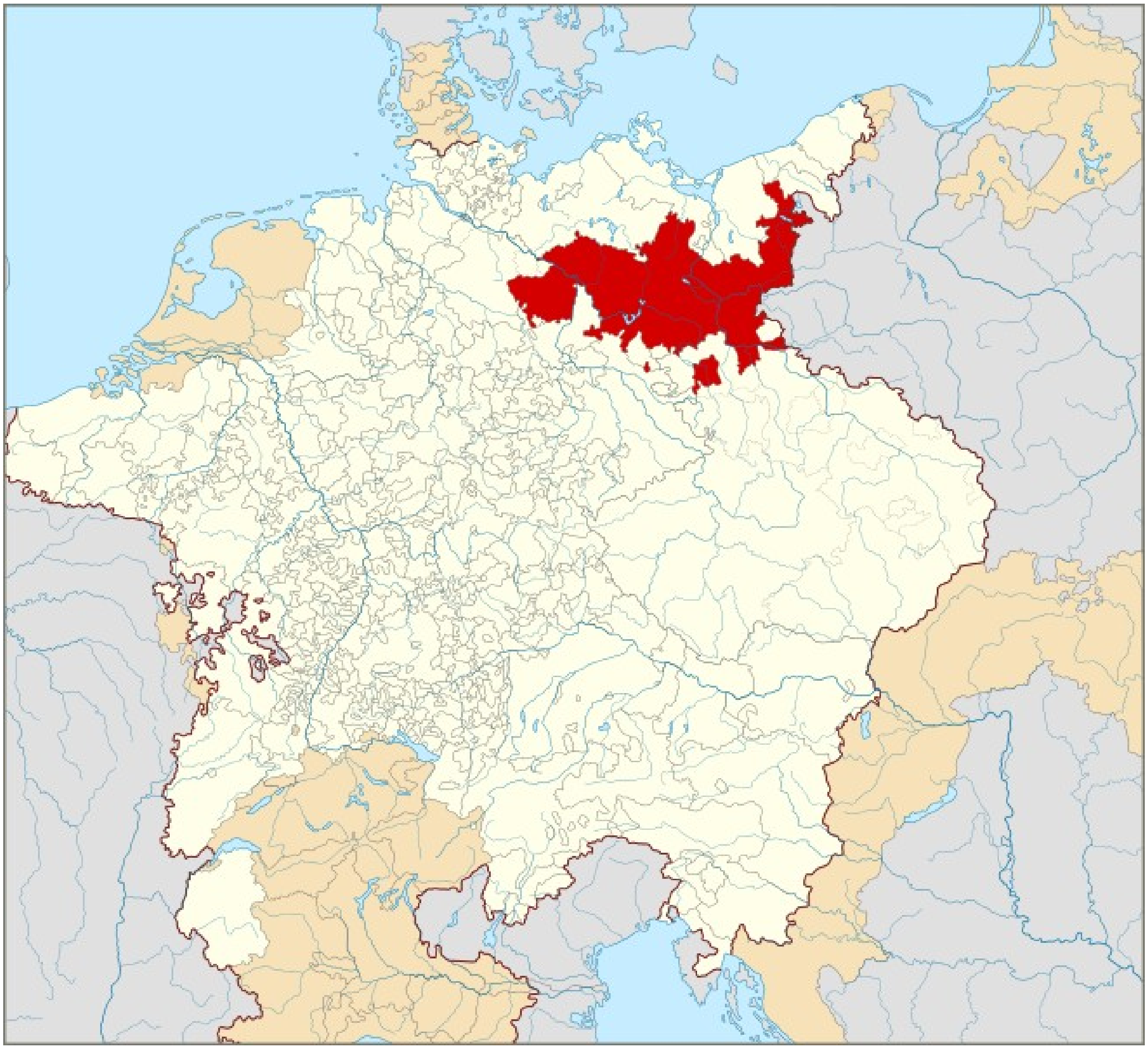
The Margraviate of Brandenburg (German: Markgrafschaft Brandenburg) was a major principality of the Holy Roman Empire from 1157 to 1806, playing a pivotal role in the history of Germany and Central Europe.

Brandenburg developed out of the Northern March founded in the territory of the Slavic Wends. It derived one of its names from this inheritance, the **March of Brandenburg** (*Mark Brandenburg*). Its ruling margraves were established as prestigious prince-electors in the Golden Bull of 1356, allowing them to vote in the election of the Holy Roman Emperor. The state thus became additionally known as **Electoral Brandenburg** or the **Electorate of Brandenburg** (*Kurbrandenburg* or *Kurfürstentum Brandenburg*).

The House of Hohenzollern came to the throne of Brandenburg in 1415. In 1417, Frederick I moved its capital from Brandenburg an der Havel to Berlin. By 1535, the electorate had an area of some 10,000 square miles (26,000 km^2) and a population of 400,000.[3] Under Hohenzollern leadership, Brandenburg grew rapidly in power during the 17th century and inherited the Duchy of Prussia. The resulting Brandenburg-Prussia was the predecessor of the Kingdom of Prussia, which became a leading German state during the 18th century. Although the electors' highest title was "King in/of Prussia", their power base remained in Brandenburg and its capital Berlin.

The Margraviate of Brandenburg ended with the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806. It was replaced after the Napoleonic Wars with the Prussian Province of Brandenburg in 1815. The Hohenzollern Kingdom of Prussia was the primary driving force behind the unification of Germany. The Prussian-dominated North German Confederation later transformed in 1871 into the German Empire was the legal predecessor of the united German Reich of 1871–1945, and as such a direct ancestor of the present-day Federal Republic of Germany,



March of Brandenburg[edit]

Main article: Margraviate of Brandenburg

In the beginning of the 12th century, the German kings re-established control over the mixed Slav-inhabited lands on the eastern borders of the Holy Roman Empire. In 1134, in the wake of the Wendish Crusade of 1147, the German magnate Albert the Bear was granted the Northern March by Emperor Lothair III. The Slavs were subsequently assimilated by German settlers during the Ostsiedlung. The church under Albert established dioceses, which with their walled towns protected the townspeople from attack. With the arrival of monks and bishops begins anew the recorded history of the town of Brandenburg, from which would develop the eponymous margraviate.

Albert's control of the region was nominal for several decades, but he engaged in a variety of military and diplomatic actions against the Wends, and saw his control become more real by the middle of the century. In 1150, Albert formally inherited Brandenburg from its last Hevelli ruler, the Christian Pribislav. Albert and his Ascanian descendants made considerable progress in Christianising the captured lands.[8]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_March
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Hohenzollern

Thor: popular german god pre-christianization, a term they've been using to describe the process with which europe adopted christianism.

The first clear example of this occurs in the Roman historian Tacitus's late first-century work *Germania*, where, writing about the religion of the Suebi (a confederation of Germanic peoples), he comments that "among the gods Mercury is the one they principally worship. They regard it as a religious duty to offer to him, on fixed days, human as well as other sacrificial victims. Hercules and Mars they appease by animal offerings of the permitted kind" and adds that a portion of the Suebi also venerate "Isis".[11] In this instance, Tacitus refers to the god Odin as "Mercury", Thor as "Hercules", and the god Týr as "Mars", and the identity of the Isis of the Suebi has been debated. In Thor's case, the identification with the god Hercules is likely at least in part due to similarities between Thor's hammer and Hercules' club.[12] In his *Annals*, Tacitus again refers to the veneration of "Hercules" by the Germanic peoples; he records a wood beyond the river Weser (in what is now northwestern Germany) as dedicated to him.[13] A deity known as Hercules Magusanus was venerated in Germania Inferior; due to the Roman identification of Thor with Hercules, Rudolf Simek has suggested that *Magusanus* was originally an epithet attached to the Proto-Germanic deity **Þunraz*.[14]

Post-Roman era

"Donar" redirects here. For other uses, see Donar (disambiguation).

Boniface bears his crucifix after felling Thor's Oak in *Bonifacius* (1905) by Emil Doepler

The first recorded instance of the name of the god appears upon the Nordendorf fibulae, a piece of jewelry created during the Migration Period and found in Bavaria. The item bears an Elder Futhark inscribed with the name *Þonar* (i.e. *Donar*), the southern Germanic form of Thor's name.[15]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thor

Canterbury charm

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(Redirected from Canterbury Charm)

The original runes, with Latin transliteration.

The **Canterbury charm** is an Old Norse runic charm discovered inserted in the margin of an Anglo-Saxon manuscript from the year 1073.[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canterbury_charm

Demonisation[edit]

In later material composed during the Christian period such as the legendary sagas, *jötnar* are often portrayed as uncivilised and cannibalistic. In the case of *Bárðar saga Snæfellsáss* and Hálfdanar saga Brönufóstra they specifically eat both human and horse meat, the latter of which was directly associated with heathen practices.[64] The post-Christian association between *jötnar* and pre-Christian practices is also seen in Beowulf, in which the man-eating *eoten* Grendel is described as having a "heathen soul" and "heathenish hand-spurs".[65] Female *jötnar* are explicitly described as being heathen in some later sources such as *Orms þáttr Stórólfssonar*, in which religion prevents her from being with the hero, and the legendary saga Þorsteins þáttr bæjarmagns, in which she must be baptised before marrying the hero.[48]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%B6tunn

Post-Viking age

In the 12th century, more than a century after Norway was "officially" Christianized, Thor was still being invoked by the population, as evidenced by a stick bearing a runic message found among the Bryggen inscriptions in Bergen, Norway. On the stick, both Thor and Odin are called upon for help; Thor is asked to "receive" the reader, and Odin to "own" them.[29]

Swastikas

Further information: Swastika (Germanic Iron Age)

Detail of swastika on the 9th century Snoldelev Stone

The swastika symbol has been identified as representing the hammer or lightning of Thor.[64] Scholar Hilda Ellis Davidson (1965) comments on the usage of the swastika as a symbol of Thor:

> The protective sign of the hammer was worn by women, as we know from the fact that it has been found in women's graves. It seems to have been used by the warrior also, in the form of the swastika. ... Primarily it appears to have had connections with light and fire, and to have been linked with the sun-wheel. It may have been on account of Thor's association with lightning that this sign was used as an alternative to the hammer, for it is found on memorial stones in Scandinavia besides inscriptions to Thor. When we find it on the pommel of a warrior's sword and on his sword-belt, the assumption is that the warrior was placing himself under the Thunder God's protection.[65]

Swastikas appear on various Germanic objects stretching from the Migration Period to the Viking Age, such as the 3rd century Værløse Fibula (DR EM85;123) from Zealand, Denmark; the Gothic spearhead from Brest-Litovsk, Belarus; numerous Migration Period bracteates; cremation urns from early Anglo-Saxon England; the 8th century Sæbø sword from Sogn, Norway; and the 9th century Snoldelev Stone (DR 248) from Ramsø, Denmark.

Origin, theories, and interpretations

Thor closely resembles other Indo-European deities associated with the thunder: the Celtic Taranis,[71][72] the Estonian Taara (or Tharapita), the Baltic Perkūnas, the Slavic Perun,[73] and particularly the Hindu Indra, whose thunderbolt weapon the vajra is an obvious parallels noted already by Max Müller.[74] Scholars have compared Indra's slaying of Vritra with Thor's battle with Jörmungandr.[72] Although in the past it was suggested that Thor was an indigenous sky god or a Viking Age import into Scandinavia, these Indo-European parallels make him generally accepted today as ultimately derived from a Proto-Indo-European deity.[72][75][76][77]

Vladimir the Great: Originally a follower of Slavic paganism, Vladimir converted to Christianity in 988[13][14][15] and Christianized the Kievan Rus'.[11] Due to this act, which fundamentally altered the historical trajectory of the Rus' and led to his declaration as a saint in both Western Christianity and the Eastern Orthodox Church, Vladimir is thus also known as Saint Vladimir or Saint Volodymyr. Modern scholars often prefer Volodimer I,[16][17][18] or Volodimir.[19]

He may have attempted to reform Slavic paganism in an attempt to identify himself with the various gods worshipped by his subjects. He built a pagan temple on a hill in Kiev dedicated to six gods: Perun—the god of thunder and war, a god favored by members of the prince’s druzhina (military retinue)"; Slav gods Stribog and Dazhd'bog; Mokosh—a goddess representing Mother Nature "worshipped by Finnish tribes"; Khors and Simargl, "both of which had Iranian origins, were included, probably to appeal to the Poliane."[26]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_the_Great

Rurik dynasty (862-1610)

Following the disintegration of Kievan Rus', the most powerful state to eventually arise was the Grand Duchy of Moscow, initially a part of Vladimir-Suzdal, which, along with the Novgorod Republic, established the basis of the modern Russian nation.[3] Ivan III threw off the control of the Golden Horde and consolidated the whole of central and northern Rus', ruling it as "Prince of All Rus'".[4][5] Ivan IV assumed the title "Tsar of All Rus'" and transformed the state into the Tsardom of Russia. The Rurik line ruled until 1598, following which they were succeeded by the House of Romanov, after the Time of Troubles.[6]

The Romanovichi branch of the dynasty ruled southwestern Rus' and part of central Rus'. These territories were unified by Roman the Great and his son Daniel Romanovich, who was in 1253 crowned by Pope Innocent IV[7] as king of Galicia–Volhynia. After the line's extinction, the principality was annexed by Poland and Lithuania, and the title of its prince eventually passed to the ruler of Austro-Hungary. According to Ukrainian historiography continuous Rurikid sovereignty from the ninth century to the fourteenth represents part of Ukraine's historical process.[8] In Ukrainian historiography of the 19th century, Ukrainian historiographer Mykhailo Hrushevsky, who wrote a book under a similar name, referred to Rus' civilization as Ukraine-Rus'.[9] According to his studies Rus' is not considered to have ended in 1240, but merely to have shifted its centre slightly westward.[10][8]

As a ruling dynasty, the Rurik dynasty held its own in some parts of Rus' for a total of twenty-one generations in male-line succession, from Rurik (died 879) to Feodor I of Russia (died 1598), a period of more than 700 years. They are one of Europe's oldest royal houses, with numerous existing cadet branches.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rurik_dynasty

List of people who have been considered deities https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_who_have_been_considered_deities

North German Confederation Treaty, 1866: The treaty was signed at Berlin on 18 August 1866, between the preliminary and the final peace treaty between Austria and Prussia, which formally ended the Austro-Prussian War.

The full name of the treaty, translated to English, is *Treaty of Alliance between Anhalt, Bremen, Brunswick, Hamburg, Lippe, Lübeck, Oldenburg, Prussia, Reuss-Schleitz, Saxe-Altenburg, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the Grand Duchy of Saxony, Schaumberg-Lippe, Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, and Waldeck and Pyrmont, signed at Berlin on 18 August 1866.*[1]

leading Prussian politician was Otto von Bismarck, who had been chancellor since 1862.

Parties[edit]

The Kingdom of Prussia was the dominant party to the treaty. The other parties to the treaty pledged their military forces under the command of the King of Prussia.

The following states signed the treaty on 18 August and submitted ratifications on 8 September 1866:

- Duchy of Anhalt
- Bremen
- Duchy of Brunswick

- Hamburg
- Principality of Lippe
- Free City of Lübeck
- Grand Duchy of Oldenburg
- Kingdom of Prussia
- Principality of Reuss-Gera
- Duchy of Saxe-Altenburg
- Saxe-Coburg and Gotha
- Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach
- Principality of Schaumburg-Lippe
- Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt
- Schwarzburg-Sondershausen
- Principality of Waldeck

The following states submitted ratifications or accessions to the agreement at dates later in 1866:

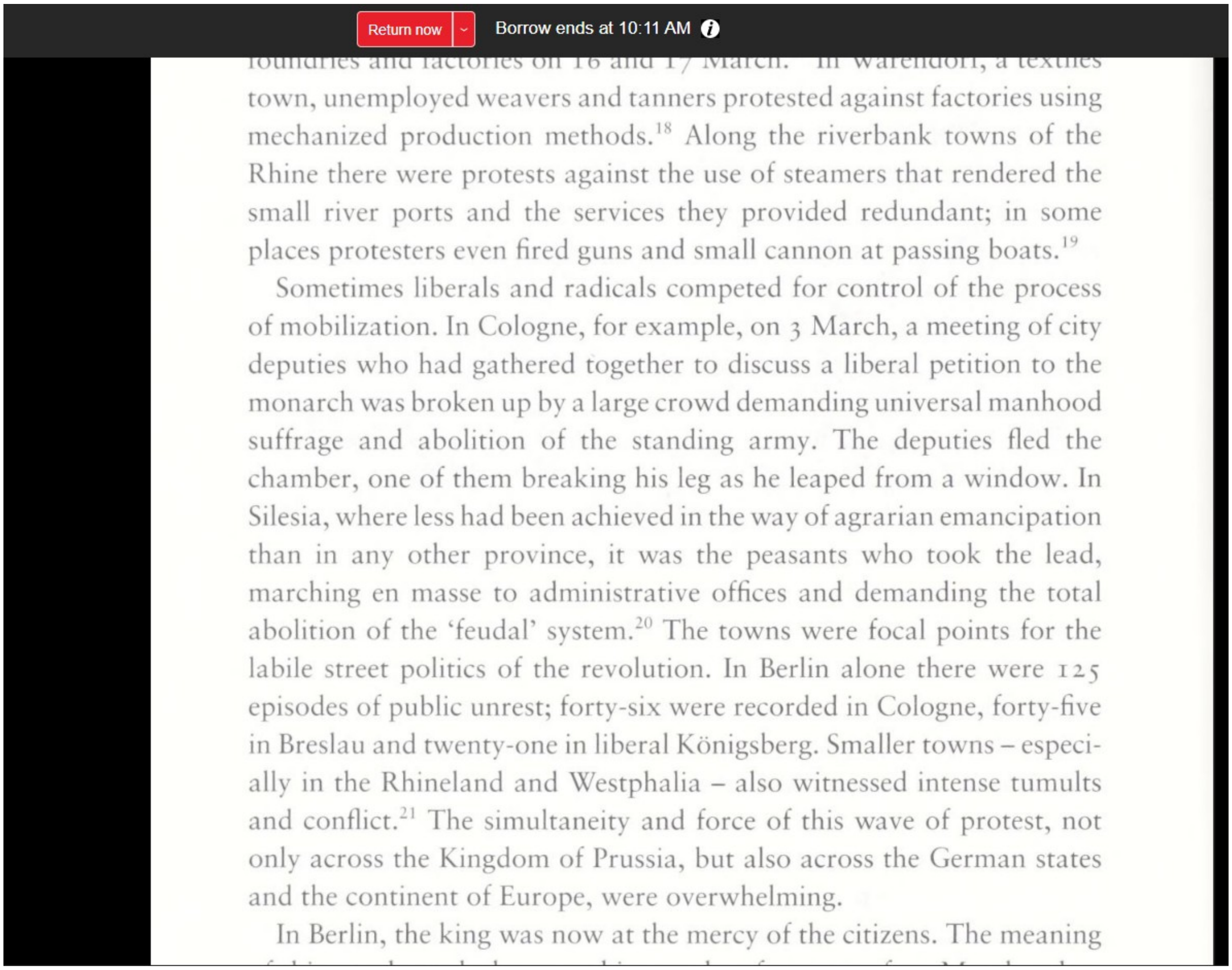
- Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin[3]
- Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz[3]
- Grand Duchy of Hesse (northern parts only)[4]
- Principality of Reuss-Greiz[5]
- Duchy of Saxe-Meiningen[6]
- Kingdom of Saxony[7]

The Duchy of Lauenburg was not formally a member of the treaty, but it was implicated in the agreement because its duke was, from 1865, the Prussian king.

At the same time, the original East Prussian craddle of the Prussian statehood as well as the Prussian-held Polish- or Kashubian-speaking territories of Province of Posen, West Prussia, the Lauenburg and Bütow Land and Draheim were formally annexed into Germany.

the German Reich having 25 member states and unification of germany: "led by the Kingdom of Prussia of the Hohenzollerns on 18 January 1871"

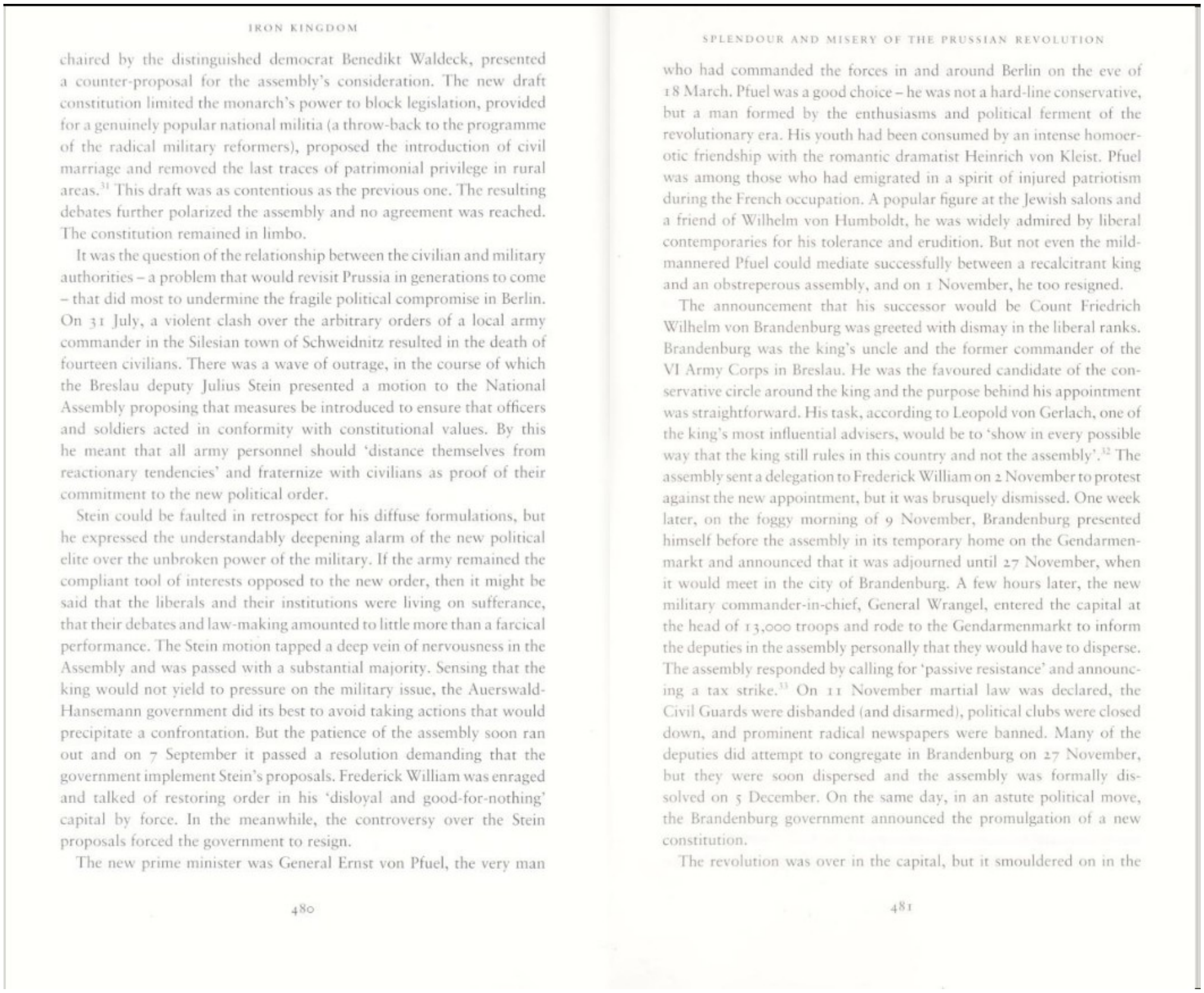
Nice reference book for Prussian history: Iron Kingdom https://archive.org/details/ironkingdomrised00chri/page/477/mode/1up?view=theater



foundries and factories on 16 and 17 March. In Warendorf, a textiles town, unemployed weavers and tanners protested against factories using mechanized production methods.[18] Along the riverbank towns of the Rhine there were protests against the use of steamers that rendered the small river ports and the services they provided redundant; in some places protesters even fired guns and small cannon at passing boats.[19]

Sometimes liberals and radicals competed for control of the process of mobilization. In Cologne, for example, on 3 March, a meeting of city deputies who had gathered together to discuss a liberal petition to the monarch was broken up by a large crowd demanding universal manhood suffrage and abolition of the standing army. The deputies fled the chamber, one of them breaking his leg as he leaped from a window. In Silesia, where less had been achieved in the way of agrarian emancipation than in any other province, it was the peasants who took the lead, marching en masse to administrative offices and demanding the total abolition of the 'feudal' system.[20] The towns were focal points for the labile street politics of the revolution. In Berlin alone there were 125 episodes of public unrest; forty-six were recorded in Cologne, forty-five in Breslau and twenty-one in liberal Königsberg. Smaller towns – especially in the Rhineland and Westphalia – also witnessed intense tumults and conflict.[21] The simultaneity and force of this wave of protest, not only across the Kingdom of Prussia, but also across the German states and the continent of Europe, were overwhelming.

In Berlin, the king was now at the mercy of the citizens. The meaning



chaired by the distinguished democrat Benedikt Waldeck, presented a counter-proposal for the assembly's consideration. The new draft constitution limited the monarch's power to block legislation, provided for a genuinely popular national militia (a throw-back to the programme of the radical military reformers), proposed the introduction of civil marriage and removed the last traces of patrimonial privilege in rural areas.[31] This draft was as contentious as the previous one. The resulting debates further polarized the assembly and no agreement was reached. The constitution remained in limbo.

It was the question of the relationship between the civilian and military authorities – a problem that would revisit Prussia in generations to come – that did most to undermine the fragile political compromise in Berlin. On 31 July, a violent clash over the arbitrary orders of a local army commander in the Silesian town of Schweidnitz resulted in the death of fourteen civilians. There was a wave of outrage, in the course of which the Breslau deputy Julius Stein presented a motion to the National Assembly proposing that measures be introduced to ensure that officers and soldiers acted in conformity with constitutional values. By this he meant that all army personnel should 'distance themselves from reactionary tendencies' and fraternize with civilians as proof of their commitment to the new political order.

Stein could be faulted in retrospect for his diffuse formulations, but he expressed the understandably deepening alarm of the new political elite over the unbroken power of the military. If the army remained the compliant tool of interests opposed to the new order, then it might be said that the liberals and their institutions were living on sufferance, that their debates and law-making amounted to little more than a farcical performance. The Stein motion tapped a deep vein of nervousness in the Assembly and was passed with a substantial majority. Sensing that the king would not yield to pressure on the military issue, the Auerswald-Hansemann government did its best to avoid taking actions that would precipitate a confrontation. But the patience of the assembly soon ran out and on 7 September it passed a resolution demanding that the government implement Stein's proposals. Frederick William was enraged and talked of restoring order in his 'disloyal and good-for-nothing' capital by force. In the meanwhile, the controversy over the Stein proposals forced the government to resign.

The new prime minister was General Ernst von Pfuel, the very man

who had commanded the forces in and around Berlin on the eve of 18 March. Pfuel was a good choice – he was not a hard-line conservative, but a man formed by the enthusiasms and political ferment of the revolutionary era. His youth had been consumed by an intense homoerotic friendship with the romantic dramatist Heinrich von Kleist. Pfuel was among those who had emigrated in a spirit of injured patriotism during the French occupation. A popular figure at the Jewish salons and a friend of Wilhelm von Humboldt, he was widely admired by liberal contemporaries for his tolerance and erudition. But not even the mild-mannered Pfuel could mediate successfully between a recalcitrant king and an obstreperous assembly, and on 1 November, he too resigned.

The announcement that his successor would be Count Friedrich Wilhelm von Brandenburg was greeted with dismay in the liberal ranks. Brandenburg was the king's uncle and the former commander of the VI Army Corps in Breslau. He was the favoured candidate of the conservative circle around the king and the purpose behind his appointment was straightforward. His task, according to Leopold von Gerlach, one of the king's most influential advisers, would be to 'show in every possible way that the king still rules in this country and not the assembly'.[32] The assembly sent a delegation to Frederick William on 2 November to protest against the new appointment, but it was brusquely dismissed. One week later, on the foggy morning of 9 November, Brandenburg presented himself before the assembly in its temporary home on the Gendarmenmarkt and announced that it was adjourned until 27 November, when it would meet in the city of Brandenburg. A few hours later, the new military commander-in-chief, General Wrangel, entered the capital at the head of 13,000 troops and rode to the Gendarmenmarkt to inform the deputies in the assembly personally that they would have to disperse. The assembly responded by calling for 'passive resistance' and announcing a tax strike.[33] On 11 November martial law was declared, the Civil Guards were disbanded (and disarmed), political clubs were closed down, and prominent radical newspapers were banned. Many of the deputies did attempt to congregate in Brandenburg on 27 November, but they were soon dispersed and the assembly was formally dissolved on 5 December. On the same day, in an astute political move, the Brandenburg government announced the promulgation of a new constitution.

The revolution was over in the capital, but it smouldered on in the

Revolutions of 1848, german royalty

Revolutions of 1848[edit]

Caricature of Frederick William IV titled, "There should be no piece of paper between me and my people!", referring to the constitution written by the liberal government. c. 1848-49

When revolution broke out in Prussia in March 1848, part of the larger series of Revolutions of 1848, the king initially moved to repress it with the army, but on 19 March he decided to recall the troops and place himself at the head of the movement. He committed himself to German unification, formed a liberal government, convened a national assembly, and ordered that a constitution be drawn up. Once his position was more secure, however, he quickly had the army reoccupy Berlin and in December dissolved the assembly.

He did, however, remain dedicated to unification for a time, leading the Frankfurt Parliament to offer him the crown of Germany on 3 April 1849, which he refused, purportedly saying that he would not accept a "crown from the gutter" (German: "Krone aus der Gosse"). The King's refusal was rooted in his Romantic aspiration to re-establish the medieval Holy Roman Empire, comprising smaller, semi-sovereign monarchies under the limited authority of a Habsburg emperor.

With the imperial crown offered to him by the parliamentarians of the Frankfurt National Assembly in hand, Prussian king Frederick William IV decides whether or not to accept it by counting off the buttons on his jacket: "Should I take it? Should I not? Should I?! Buttons, you want me to! Well, that's exactly why I won't!!", c. 1849

Therefore, Frederick William would only accept the imperial crown after being elected by the German princes, as per the former empire's ancient customs.[7] He expressed this sentiment in a letter to his sister the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna of Russia, in which he said the Frankfurt Parliament had overlooked that "in order to give, you would first of all have to be in possession of something that can be given."[8] In the king's eyes, only a reconstituted College of Electors could possess such authority.[9]

With the failed attempt by the Frankfurt Parliament to include the Habsburgs in a newly unified German Empire, the Parliament turned to Prussia. Seeing Austrian ambivalence towards Prussia taking a more powerful role in German affairs, Frederick William began considering a Prussian-led union. All German states, excluding those of the Habsburgs, would be unified under Hohenzollern authority, and these two polities would be linked in an overarching political framework.[10] Frederick William, therefore, did attempt to establish the Erfurt Union, a union of the German states except for Austria, but abandoned the idea by the Punctation of Olmütz on 29 November 1850, in the face of renewed Austrian and Russian resistance. The German Confederation remained the common government of German Europe.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_William_IV_of_Prussia

Frederick married Victoria, Princess Royal, oldest child of Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom.

Personal life[edit]

Early life and education[edit]

Frederick William, ca. 1841

Frederick William was born in the New Palace at Potsdam in Prussia on 18 October 1831.[7] He was a scion of the House of Hohenzollern, rulers of Prussia, then the most powerful of the German states. Frederick's father, Prince William, was the second son of King Frederick William III and, having been raised in the military traditions of the Hohenzollerns, developed into a strict disciplinarian. William fell in love with his cousin Elisa Radziwill, a princess of the Polish nobility, but the court felt Elisa's rank was not suitable for the bride of a Prussian prince and forced a more suitable match.[8] The woman selected to be his wife, Princess Augusta of Saxe-Weimar, had been raised in the more intellectual and artistic atmosphere of Weimar, which gave its citizens greater participation in politics and limited the powers of its rulers through a constitution;[9][10] Augusta was well known across Europe for her liberal views.[11] Because of their differences, the couple did not have a happy marriage and,[9][10] as a result, Frederick grew up in a troubled household, which left him with memories of a lonely childhood.[9][12] He had one sister, Louise (later Grand Duchess of Baden), who was seven years his junior and very close to him. Frederick also had a very good relationship with his uncle, the future King Frederick William IV, who has been called "the romantic on the throne".[13]

Frederick grew up during a tumultuous political period as the concept of liberalism in Germany, which evolved during the 1840s, was gaining widespread and enthusiastic support.[14] The liberals sought a unified Germany and were constitutional monarchists who desired a constitution to ensure equal protection under the law, the protection of property, and the safeguarding of basic civil rights.[15] Overall, the liberals desired a government ruled by popular representation.[10] When Frederick was 17, these emergent nationalistic and liberal sentiments sparked a series of political uprisings across the German states and elsewhere in Europe. In Germany, their goal was to protect freedoms, such as the freedom of assembly and freedom of the press, and to create a German parliament and constitution.[14][16] Although the uprisings ultimately brought about no lasting changes, liberal sentiments remained an influential force in German politics throughout Frederick's life.[17]

In 1853, Frederick was initiated into Freemasonry by his father, then Prince William of Prussia, and would later become Master of the Order of the Grand Landlodge of the Freemasons of Germany.[21] During his brief reign, he would serve as the patron of the German Freemasons.

Marriage and family[edit]

See also: Rulers of Germany family tree

Victoria, Princess Royal—eldest daughter of Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom—whom Frederick married in 1858

Frederick and his son, Wilhelm, in October 1863 at Balmoral castle

Royal marriages of the 19th century were arranged to secure alliances and to maintain blood ties among the European nations. As early as 1851, Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom and her German-born husband, Prince Albert, were making plans to marry their eldest daughter, Victoria, Princess Royal, to Frederick. The royal dynasty in Britain was predominantly German; there was little British blood in Queen Victoria, and none in her husband.[22] They desired to maintain their family's blood ties to Germany, and Prince Albert further hoped that the marriage would lead to the liberalization and modernization of Prussia. King Leopold I of Belgium, uncle of both Victoria and Albert, also favoured this pairing; he had long treasured Baron Stockmar's idea of a marriage alliance between Britain and Prussia.[23] Frederick's father, Prince William, had no interest in the arrangement, hoping instead for a Russian grand duchess as his daughter-in-law.[22] However, Princess Augusta was greatly in favour of a match for her son that would bring closer connections with Britain.[1] In 1851, his mother sent Frederick to England, ostensibly to visit the Great Exhibition but in truth, she hoped that the cradle of liberalism and home of the industrial revolution would have a positive influence on her son. Prince Albert took Frederick under his wing during his stay but it was Albert's daughter, only eleven at the time, who guided the German prince around the Exhibition. Frederick only knew a few words of English, while Victoria could converse fluently in German. He was impressed by her mix of innocence, intellectual curiosity and simplicity, and their meeting proved to be a success. A regular exchange of letters between Victoria and Frederick followed.[13]

Frederick proposed to Victoria in 1855, when she was 14 years old. The betrothal of the young couple was announced on May 19, 1857, at Buckingham Palace and the Prussian Court,[24] and their marriage took place on 25 January 1858 in the Chapel Royal of St. James's Palace, London. To mark the occasion, Frederick was promoted to major-general in the Prussian army. Although it was an arranged marriage, the newlyweds were compatible from the start and their marriage was a loving one;[25][26] Victoria too had received a liberal education and shared her husband's views. Of the two, Victoria was the dominant one in the relationship.[13] The couple often resided at the Crown Prince's Palace and had eight children: Wilhelm in 1859, Charlotte in 1860, Henry in 1862, Sigismund in 1864, Victoria in 1866, Waldemar in 1868, Sophia in 1870 and Margaret in 1872. Sigismund died at the age of 2 and Waldemar at age 11,[27] and their eldest son, Wilhelm, suffered from a withered arm—probably Erb's Palsy due to his difficult and dangerous breech birth, although it could have also resulted from a mild case of cerebral palsy.[28][29] Wilhelm, who became emperor after Frederick's death, shared none of his parents' liberal ideas; his mother viewed him as a "complete Prussian".[30] This difference in ideology created a rift between Wilhelm and his parents (which was exacerbated by Bismarck's interference), and relations between them were strained throughout their lives.[30][31]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_III,_German_Emperor

Religion[edit]

Emperor Frederick III was a Lutheran member of the Evangelical State Church of Prussia's older Provinces. It was a United Protestant denomination, bringing together Reformed and Lutheran believers.

The causes of the Franco-Prussian War are strongly rooted in the events surrounding the gradual march toward the unification of the German states under Otto von Bismarck.

Second French Empire

was the 18-year Imperial Bonapartist regime of Napoleon III from 14 January 1852 to 27 October 1870, between the Second and the Third Republic of France.

In international policy, Napoleon III tried to emulate his uncle Napoleon I, engaging in numerous imperial ventures around the world as well as several wars in Europe. He began his reign with French victories in Crimea and in Italy, gaining Savoy and Nice. Using very harsh methods, he built up the French Empire in North Africa and in Southeast Asia. Napoleon III also launched an intervention in Mexico seeking to erect a Second Mexican Empire and bring it into the French orbit, but this ended in a fiasco. He badly mishandled the threat from Prussia, and by the end of his reign, the French emperor found himself without allies in the face of overwhelming German force.[7] His rule was ended during the Franco-Prussian War, when he was captured by the Prussian army at Sedan in 1870, and dethroned by French republicans. He later died in exile in 1873, living in the United Kingdom.

History[edit]

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Coup of 1851[edit]

Main article: 1851 French coup d'état

On 2 December 1851, Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte, who had been elected President of the Republic, staged a coup d'état by dissolving the National Assembly without having the constitutional right to do so. He thus became sole ruler of France, and re-established universal suffrage, previously abolished by the Assembly. His decisions were popularly endorsed by a referendum later that month that attracted a 92 percent support.[8]

Religion[edit]

The idea of Italian unification, which would inevitably end the temporal power of the popes, outraged French Catholics, who had been the leading supporters of the Empire. A keen Catholic opposition sprang up, voiced in Louis Veuillot's paper the *Univers*, and was not silenced even by the Syrian expedition (1860) in favour of the Catholic Maronite side of the Druze–Maronite conflict.[12]

Ultramontane Catholicism, longing for close links to the Pope in Rome, played a pivotal role in the democratisation of culture. The pamphlet campaign led by Mgr Gaston de Ségur, at the height of the Italian question in February 1860, made the most of the freedom of expression enjoyed by the Catholic Church in France. The goal was to mobilise Catholic opinion and encourage the government to support the Pope. A major result of the Catholic ultramontane campaign was to trigger reforms in the cultural sphere, which also granted freedoms to their political enemies the Republicans and freethinkers.[13]

Although the Second Empire strongly favoured Catholicism, the official state religion, it tolerated Protestants and Jews, with no persecutions or pogroms. The state dealt with the small Protestant community of Calvinist and Lutheran churches, whose members included many prominent businessmen who supported the regime. The emperor's Decree Law of 26 March 1852 led to greater government interference in Protestant church affairs, thus reducing self-regulation in favor of Catholic bureaucrats who misunderstood and mistrusted Protestant doctrine. Their administration affected not only church-state relations but also the internal lives of Protestant communities.[14]

Napoleon III doubled the area of the French overseas Empire; he established French rule in New Caledonia, and Cochinchina, established a protectorate in Cambodia (1863); and colonised parts of Africa. He joined Britain in sending an army to China during the Second Opium War and the Taiping Rebellion (1860), but French ventures failed to establish influence in Japan (1867) and Korea (1866).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_French_Empire

The **Constitution of 1848** is the constitution passed in France on 4 November 1848 by the National Assembly, the constituent body of the Second French Republic. It was repealed on 14 January 1852 by the constitution of 1852 which profoundly changed the face of the Second Republic and served as the basis for the Second French Empire.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Constitution_of_1848

Paul von Hindenburg: was a German field marshal and statesman who led the Imperial German Army during World War I. He later became President of Germany from 1925 and held the position until his death. During his presidency, he played a key role in the Nazi seizure of power in January 1933 when, under pressure from his advisers, he appointed Adolf Hitler as Chancellor of Germany.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_K%C3%B6niggr%C3%A4tz
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_von_Hindenburg
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reich_Flight_Tax#The_Reich_Flight_Tax_in_Nazi_Germany
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuremberg_Laws

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wars_and_battles_involving_Prussia

silisian wars, germany, 1740-1763: Maria Theresa's contested succession to the Habsburg monarchy under the Pragmatic Sanction of 1713 provided an opportunity for Prussia to strengthen itself relative to regional rivals such as Saxony and Bavaria. All three wars are

generally considered to have ended in Prussian victories, and the first resulted in Austria's cession of the majority of Silesia to Prussia. Prussia emerged from the Silesian Wars as a new European great power and the leading state of Protestant Germany, while Catholic Austria's defeat by a lesser German power significantly damaged the House of Habsburg's prestige. The conflict over Silesia foreshadowed a wider Austro-Prussian struggle for hegemony over the German-speaking peoples, which would later culminate in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866.

In the early 18th century Brandenburg–Prussia's ruling House of Hohenzollern held dynastic claims to several duchies within the Habsburg province of Silesia, a populous and prosperous region contiguous with Prussia's core territory in the Margraviate of Brandenburg.[1] Besides its value as a source of tax revenue, industrial output and military recruits, Silesia held great geostrategic importance to multiple parties. The valley of the Upper Oder formed a natural military conduit between Brandenburg, the Kingdom of Bohemia and the Margraviate of Moravia, and whichever power held the territory could threaten its neighbours. Silesia also lay along the north-eastern frontier of the Holy Roman Empire, allowing its controller to limit the influence of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth and of the Russian Empire within Germany.[2]

Prussia[edit]

Prussia's unexpected victory over the Habsburg monarchy set it apart from German rivals such as Bavaria and Saxony,[91] marking Prussia's rise to the status of a European great power,[87] as well as the leading power of Protestant Germany.[92] The kingdom had gained some 35,000 square kilometres (14,000 sq mi) of new territory and around a million new subjects in Glatz and Silesia,[93] a populous and densely industrialised region that would contribute substantial manpower and taxes to the Prussian state.[94][95] Geostrategically, Silesia also gave Prussia a threatening position with respect to Saxony and Austria and a strong defence against encirclement by Poland.[2] Frederick's personal reputation was enormously enhanced by his successes in the wars, winning him the epithet "Frederick the Great".[96] His debts to fortune (Russia's about-face after Elizabeth's death) and to British financial support were soon forgotten, while the memories of his energetic leadership and tactical genius were strenuously promoted.[97] His small kingdom had defeated the Habsburg monarchy and defended its prize against Austria, Britain, Saxony, Russia, Sweden, and France, an accomplishment that appeared miraculous to contemporary observers.[98]

Though sometimes depicted as a key moment in Prussia's rise to greatness, the wars nonetheless left the kingdom's economy and population devastated, and much of the remainder of Frederick's reign was spent repairing the damage. To mitigate population losses, the King continued his father's policy of encouraging Protestant refugees from Catholic realms to resettle in Prussia.[99] The repeated currency devaluations imposed to finance the conflicts led to rapid inflation and great economic disruption in Prussia (and in occupied Saxony).[100] After the wars the state began using its network of military grain depots and the excise on grain to stabilise food prices and alleviate grain shortages. Prussia also established a rudimentary social welfare system for impoverished and disabled veterans of the Silesian Wars.[99]

Prussia's armed forces experienced heavy casualties in the wars, and the officer corps was severely depleted. After the peace of Hubertusburg the state had neither the money nor the manpower to rebuild the army to what it had been at Frederick's accession.[101] In the succeeding War of the Bavarian Succession (1778–1779) the Prussians fought poorly, despite again being personally led by Frederick, and the Prussian army did not fare well against revolutionary France in 1792–1795. In 1806 the Prussians were shattered by Napoleon's French at the Battle of Jena; only after a series of reforms motivated by the disasters of 1806–1807 did Prussian military power again begin to grow.[102]

Austria[edit]

The defeats of the Silesian Wars cost the Habsburg monarchy its wealthiest province,[91] and capitulating to a lesser German prince significantly dented the House of Habsburg's prestige.[103] Prussia's confirmation as a first-rate power and the enhanced prestige of its king and army were long-term threats to Austria's hegemony in Germany.[104] Still, by winning Prussia's support for the imperial elections of her husband and son, Maria Theresa ensured the continuation of her family's titular preeminence in the Holy Roman Empire, though this was far less than she had hoped for.[105] Defeat in the first two Silesian Wars at the hands of an enemy so apparently inferior created a strong impetus for change within the Habsburg Monarchy, resulting in the first wave of Theresian reforms: a broad restructuring of the Habsburg administration and military, and a total realignment of Habsburg foreign policy through the "Diplomatic Revolution".[106]

After the renewed disappointment of the Third Silesian War, a second wave of Theresian reforms ensued. In 1761 the Habsburg monarchy implemented newly centralised administrative and policymaking bodies to streamline what had often been a chaotic executive process. The 1760s and 1770s saw vigorous efforts to improve tax collection, particularly in Lombardy and the Austrian Netherlands, which led to significant increases in state revenues.[107] In 1766 the crown promulgated its first common code of laws, the *Codex Theresianus*, in an effort to unify the realm's legal systems.[108] Aiming to increase the peasantry's ability to contribute to the state's tax base, Maria Theresa issued a series of Robot Patents between 1771 and 1778 restricting forced peasant labour in her German and Bohemian lands, and her son would carry the process further with his Serfdom Patent.[109] The state also implemented compulsory primary education and established a system of secular public schools.[110] Beginning with these steps, wide-ranging efforts to modernise the Habsburg monarchy over the next half century grew out of Austria's defeats, culminating in the Josephinism of the 1780s.[111]

Brandenburg–Prussia's claims in Silesia were based, in part, on a 1537 inheritance treaty between the Silesian Piast Duke Frederick II of Legnica and the Hohenzollern Prince-Elector Joachim II Hector of Brandenburg, whereby the Silesian Duchies of Liegnitz, Wohlau and Brieg were to pass to the Hohenzollerns of Brandenburg should the Piast dynasty in Silesia become extinct. At the time, the Habsburg King Ferdinand I of Bohemia (Silesia's feudal overlord) rejected the agreement and pressed the Hohenzollerns to repudiate it.[3] In 1603, Hohenzollern

Elector Joachim III Frederick of Brandenburg separately inherited the Silesian Duchy of Jägerndorf from his cousin, Margrave George Frederick of Brandenburg-Ansbach, and installed his second son, Johann Georg, as duke.[4]

Two generations later, the newly crowned Hohenzollern King Frederick II of Prussia formed designs on Silesia soon after succeeding to the throne in May 1740.[10] Frederick judged that his dynasty's claims were credible,[1] and he had inherited from his father a large and well trained Prussian army and a healthy royal treasury.[11] Austria was in financial distress, and its army had not been reinforced or reformed after an ignominious performance in the 1737–1739 Austro-Turkish War.[12] The European strategic situation was favourable for an attack on Austria, as Britain and France were occupying each other's attentions in the War of Jenkins' Ear, and Sweden was moving toward war with Russia.[13] The Electors of Bavaria and Saxony also had claims against Austria and seemed likely to join in the attack.[1] Though the Hohenzollerns' dynastic claims provided a legalistic *casus belli*, considerations of *Realpolitik* and geostrategy played the leading role in provoking the war.[14]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silesian_Wars

real example of an aristocrat throwing someone in jail for simply reciting a poem that somebody else had wirtten...

Arnim is known to this day for his remarks as Prussian Interior Minister during the *Vormärz* era concerning Heinrich Heine's poem *The Silesian Weavers*. The verses were published in the *Vorwärts!* weekly newspaper after an 1844 riot in the Province of Silesia, which later also inspired the drama *The Weavers* by Gerhart Hauptmann. In a report to King Frederick William IV he described Heine's poetry as "an address to the poor amongst the populace, held in an inflammatory tone and filled with criminal utterances" ("*eine in aufrührerischem Ton gehaltene und mit verbrecherischen Äußerungen angefüllte Ansprache an die Armen im Volke*"). Subsequently, the Royal Prussian Kammergericht banned the poem, which in 1846 led to a prison sentence for a person who had dared to publicly recite it.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Heinrich_von_Arnim-Boitzenburg

after attempting to enter the field of politics, businessman tries, but then quickly leaves due to the unrest caused by the 1848 european revolutions

During the Revolutions of 1848 in Germany, Ludolf Camphausen stepped suddenly from his banker's desk at Cologne to the presidential chair of the Ministry of State at Berlin, being called by King Frederick William IV of Prussia to succeed Count Arnim-Boitzenburg as prime minister, on 29 March. Ludolf availed himself largely of his younger brother's (Otto) proven business talents, and the two might have succeeded had they not to encounter the insincerity of the monarch on the one side, and the distrust of the Radical and Progressist majority of the Assembly on the other side.

germany, key education history stat: Several elements of the Humboldtian model heavily influenced and subsequently became part of the concept of the research university. The Humboldtian model goes back to Wilhelm von Humboldt, who in the time of the Prussian reforms relied on a growing, educated middle class to promote his claims about general education.

Humboldt's educational model went beyond vocational training in Germany. In a letter to the Prussian king, he wrote:

There are undeniably certain kinds of knowledge that must be of a general nature and, more importantly, a certain cultivation of the mind and character that nobody can afford to be without. People obviously cannot be good craftworkers, merchants, soldiers or businessmen unless, regardless of their occupation, they are good, upstanding and – according to their condition – well-informed human beings and citizens. If this basis is laid through schooling, vocational skills are easily acquired later on, and a person is always free to move from one occupation to another, as so often happens in life.[1]

The philosopher and former State Minister for Culture of the Federal Republic of Germany, Julian Nida-Rümelin has criticized discrepancies between Humboldt's ideals and the contemporary European education policy, which narrowly understands education as preparation for the labor market, arguing instead that one needs to decide between McKinsey and Humboldt's ideals.[2]

The concept of holistic academic education (compare Bildung) was an idea of Wilhelm von Humboldt, a Prussian philosopher, government functionary and diplomat. As a privy councilor in the Interior Ministry, he reformed the Prussian education system according to humanist principles. He founded the University of Berlin (now the Humboldt University of Berlin), appointing distinguished scholars to both teach and conduct research there.[3] Several scholars have labeled him the most influential education official in German history. Humboldt sought to create an educational system based on unbiased knowledge and analysis, combining research and teaching while allowing students to choose their own course of study. The University of Berlin was later named after him and his brother, the naturalist Alexander von Humboldt.

Impact[edit]

University of Berlin, now the Humboldt University of Berlin, c. 1850

These principles, in particular the idea of the research-based university, rapidly made an impact both in Germany and abroad. The Humboldtian university concept profoundly influenced higher education throughout central, eastern, and northern Europe.[22] It was in competition with the post-Revolutionary French concept of the *grandes écoles*. The French system lacked the freedom of German universities and instead imposed severe discipline and control over curriculum, awarding of degrees, conformity of views, and personal habits, instituting, for example, a ban on beards in 1852.[23] Universities built on the Humboldtian model have provided students with the ability to address recalcitrant problems, leading to major scientific breakthroughs with important economic effects.[24][25]

American universities, starting with University of Virginia and then Johns Hopkins University, were early to adopt several of the German educational and scientific principles, which during the 20th century were globally recognized as valuable.[26][27][28][29]

One flaw with the Humboldtian model is that unlike English universities, German universities traditionally did not provide housing for their students. Following in the footsteps of the great German universities, the University of California adhered to that rule for over 80 years after its 1868 founding.[30] After Clark Kerr became the first chancellor of UC Berkeley in 1952, he shifted UC Berkeley from the German model to the English model in which universities assume responsibility for providing and operating student housing.[30]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humboldtian_model_of_higher_education

University of berlins history seems to be deeply intertwined with the world wars.

It was established by Frederick William III on the initiative of Wilhelm von Humboldt, Johann Gottlieb Fichte and Friedrich Ernst Daniel Schleiermacher as the **University of Berlin** (*Universität zu Berlin*) in 1809, and opened in 1810,[7] making it the oldest of Berlin's four universities. From 1828 until its closure in 1945, it was named **Friedrich Wilhelm University** (German: *Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität*).[8][9] During the Cold War, the university found itself in East Berlin and was *de facto* split in two when the Free University of Berlin opened in West Berlin. The university received its current name in honour of Alexander and Wilhelm von Humboldt in 1949.[10]

It was regarded as the world's preeminent university for the natural sciences during the 19th and early 20th century, as the university is linked to major breakthroughs in physics and other sciences by its professors, such as Albert Einstein.[13] Past and present faculty and notable alumni include 57 Nobel Prize laureates[5] (the most of any German university by a substantial margin), as well as eminent philosophers, sociologists, artists, lawyers, politicians, mathematicians, scientists, and heads of state; among them are: Albert Einstein, Hermann von Helmholtz, Emil du Bois-Reymond, Robert Koch, Theodor Mommsen, Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Otto von Bismarck, W. E. B. Du Bois, Angela Davis, Arthur Schopenhauer, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Walter Benjamin, Max Weber, Georg Simmel, Karl Liebknecht, Ernst Cassirer, Heinrich Heine, Eduard Fraenkel, Max Planck and the Brothers Grimm.

As one of Germany's most prestigious institutions of higher education, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin has been conferred the title of "University of Excellence" under the German Universities Excellence Initiative.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humboldt_University_of_Berlin

Eugen Fischer

21 languages

- Article
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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For the historian, see Eugen Fischer (historian).

Eugen Fischer

Eugen Fischer in 1934

Born	5 July 1874 Karlsruhe, Grand Duchy of Baden, German Empire
Died	9 July 1967 (aged 93) Freiburg im Breisgau, West Germany
Nationality	German
Occupation	Professor
Known for	Nazi eugenics
Political	Nazi Party

party

Eugen Fischer (5 July 1874 – 9 July 1967) was a German professor of medicine, anthropology, and eugenics, and a member of the Nazi Party. He served as director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Anthropology, Human Heredity, and Eugenics, and also served as rector of the Frederick William University of Berlin.

Fischer's ideas informed the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 which served to justify the Nazi Party's belief in German racial superiority to other "races", and especially the Jews.[1] Adolf Hitler read Fischer's work while he was imprisoned in 1923 and he used Fischer's eugenic notions in support of a pure Aryan society in his manifesto, *Mein Kampf* (*My Struggle*).[1]

Fischer was born in Karlsruhe, Grand Duchy of Baden, in 1874. He studied medicine, folkloristics, history, anatomy, and anthropology in Berlin, Freiburg and Munich.[2] In 1918, he joined the Anatomical Institute in Freiburg,[3] part of the University of Freiburg.[4]

In 1927, Fischer became the director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Anthropology, Human Heredity, and Eugenics (KWI-A), a role for which he'd been recommended the prior year by Erwin Baur.[5]

In 1933 Fischer signed the *Vow of allegiance of the Professors of the German Universities and High-Schools to Adolf Hitler and the National Socialistic State*.

In 1933, Adolf Hitler appointed him rector of the Frederick William University of Berlin, now Humboldt University.[6] Fischer retired from the university in 1942. Otmar Freiherr von Verschuer was a student of Fischer.[7][8]

After the war, he completed his memoirs, it is believed that in them he lessened his role in the genocidal programme of Nazi Germany. He died in 1967.

Early work[edit]

Head of Herero prisoner at Shark Island used for medical experimentation.

In 1906, Fischer conducted field research in German South West Africa (now Namibia). He studied the Basters, offspring of German or Boer men and Black African (Khoekhoe) women in that area. His study concluded with a call to prevent the production of a "mixed race" by the prohibition of "mixed marriages" such as those which he had studied. It included human experimentation on the Herero and Namaqua people.[9] He argued that while the existing "Mischling" descendants of the mixed marriages might be useful for Germany, he recommended that they should not continue to reproduce. His recommendations were followed and by 1912 interracial marriage was prohibited throughout the German colonies.[10][11] As a precursor to his experiments on Jews in Nazi Germany, he collected bones and skulls for his studies, in part from medical experimentation on African prisoners of war in Namibia during the Herero and Namaqua Genocide.[12][13]

His ideas which were related to the maintenance of the apparent purity of races, influenced future German Nazi legislation on race, including the Nuremberg laws.[11]

In 1927, Fischer was a speaker at the World Population Conference which was held in Geneva, Switzerland.[14]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugen_Fischer

Rhineland Bastard

Rhineland Bastard (German: *Rheinlandbastard*) was a derogatory term used in Nazi Germany to describe Afro-Germans, believed fathered by French Army personnel of African descent who were stationed in the Rhineland during its occupation by France after World War I. There is evidence that other Afro-Germans, born from unions between German men and African women in former German colonies in Africa, were also referred to as *Rheinlandbastarde*.

After 1933, under Nazi racial theories, Afro-Germans deemed to be *Rheinlandbastarde* were persecuted. They were rounded up in a campaign of compulsory sterilization.[1]

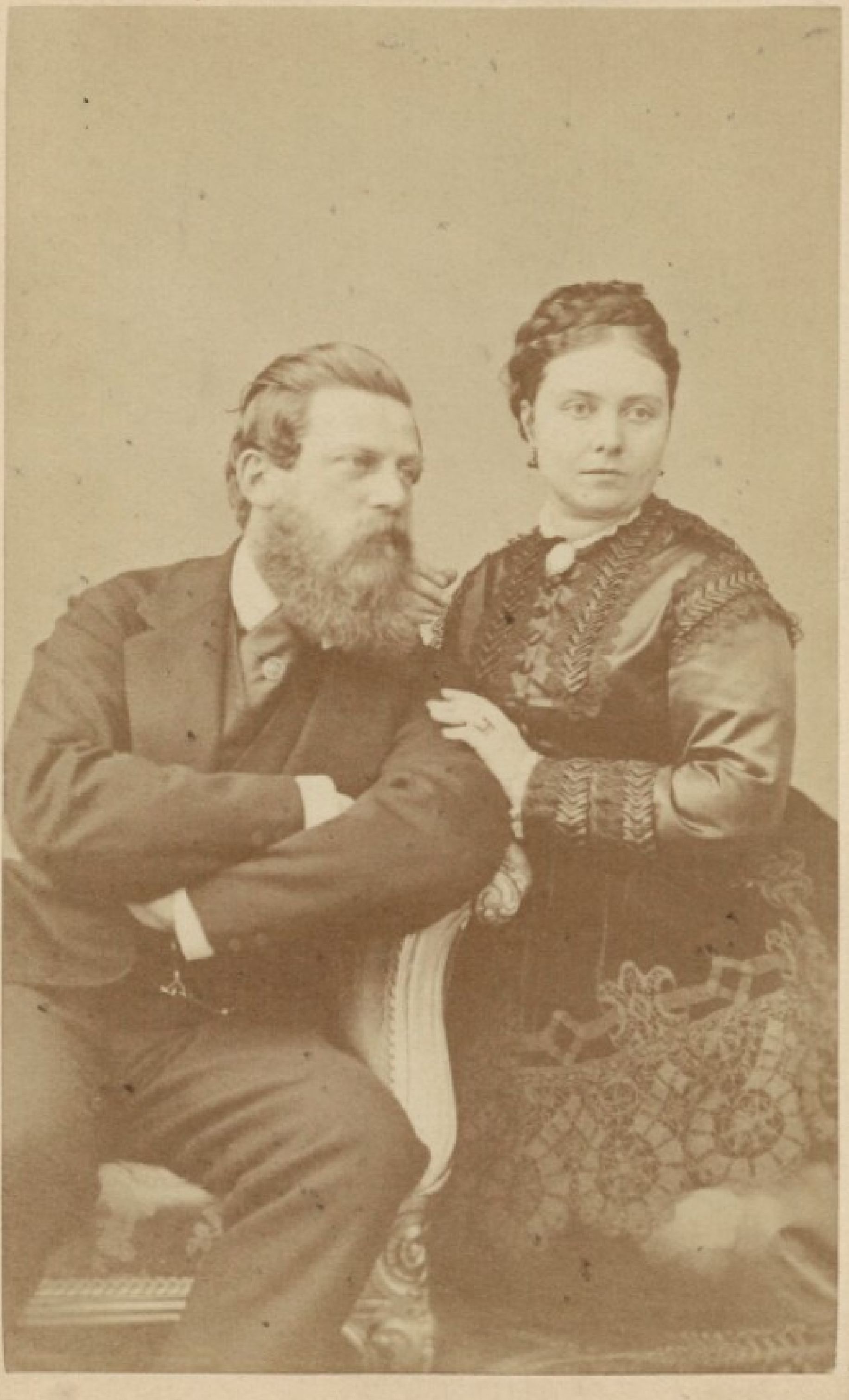
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhineland_Bastard

See also[edit]

- Karl Binding
- Josef Mengele
- Nazi eugenics
- Nazi human experimentation
- Nazi racial theories
- Otmar Freiherr von Verschuer
- Racial policy of Nazi Germany
- Racism in Germany
- Scientific racism
- Subsequent Nuremberg trials
- Doctors' Trial
- Anthropometry
- Fischer-Saller scale
- Shark Island Concentration Camp
- Rhineland Bastards
    - **Frederick III was a reputed liberal and married to the United Kingdom's liberal Princess Royal Victoria. He died after only 99 days of rule on 15 June 1888. Frederick's**

son, Wilhelm II, then succeeded to the throne at age 29, eventually going on tol lead germany into WW1. The end of WW1 led to the fall of the german empire

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_of_the_Three_Emperors
-
- The three different emperors who ruled over Germany during this year were Wilhelm I, Frederick III and Wilhelm II.
-
- Following the death of Frederick William IV in 1861, Wilhelm I became King of Prussia.



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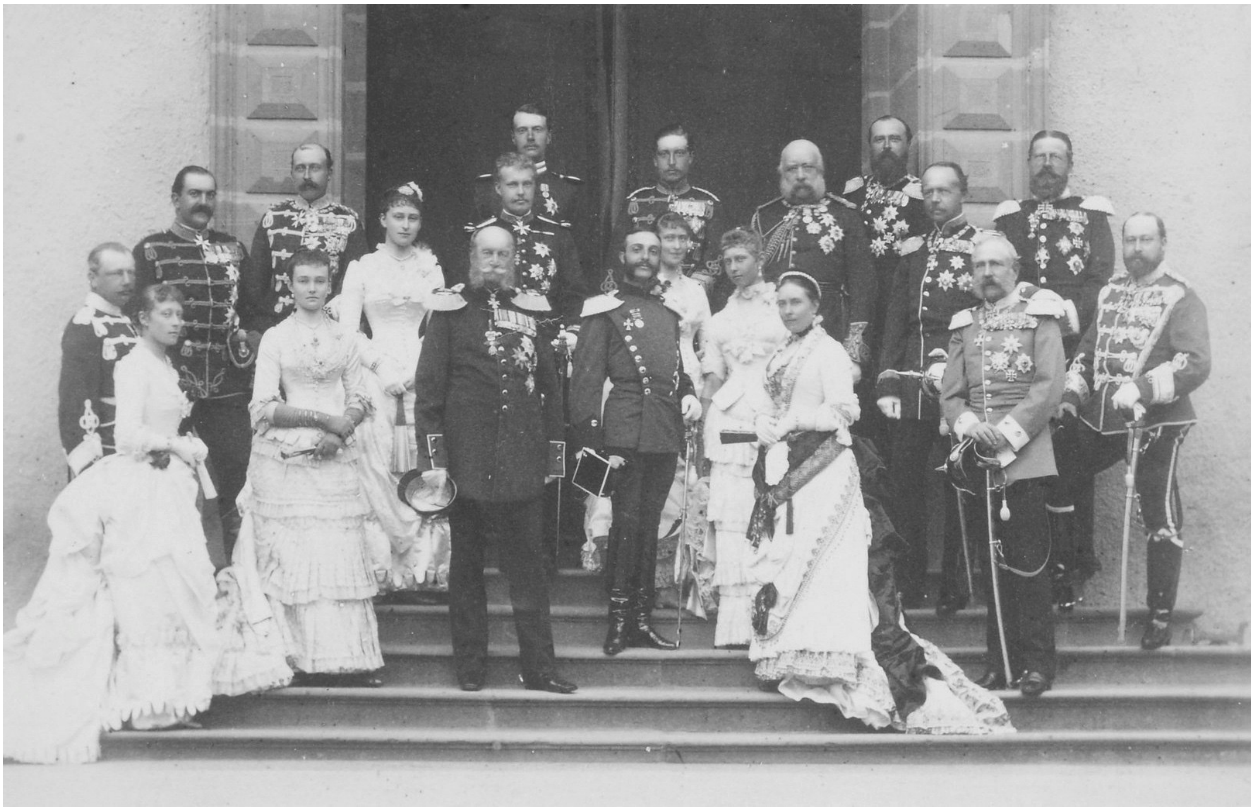
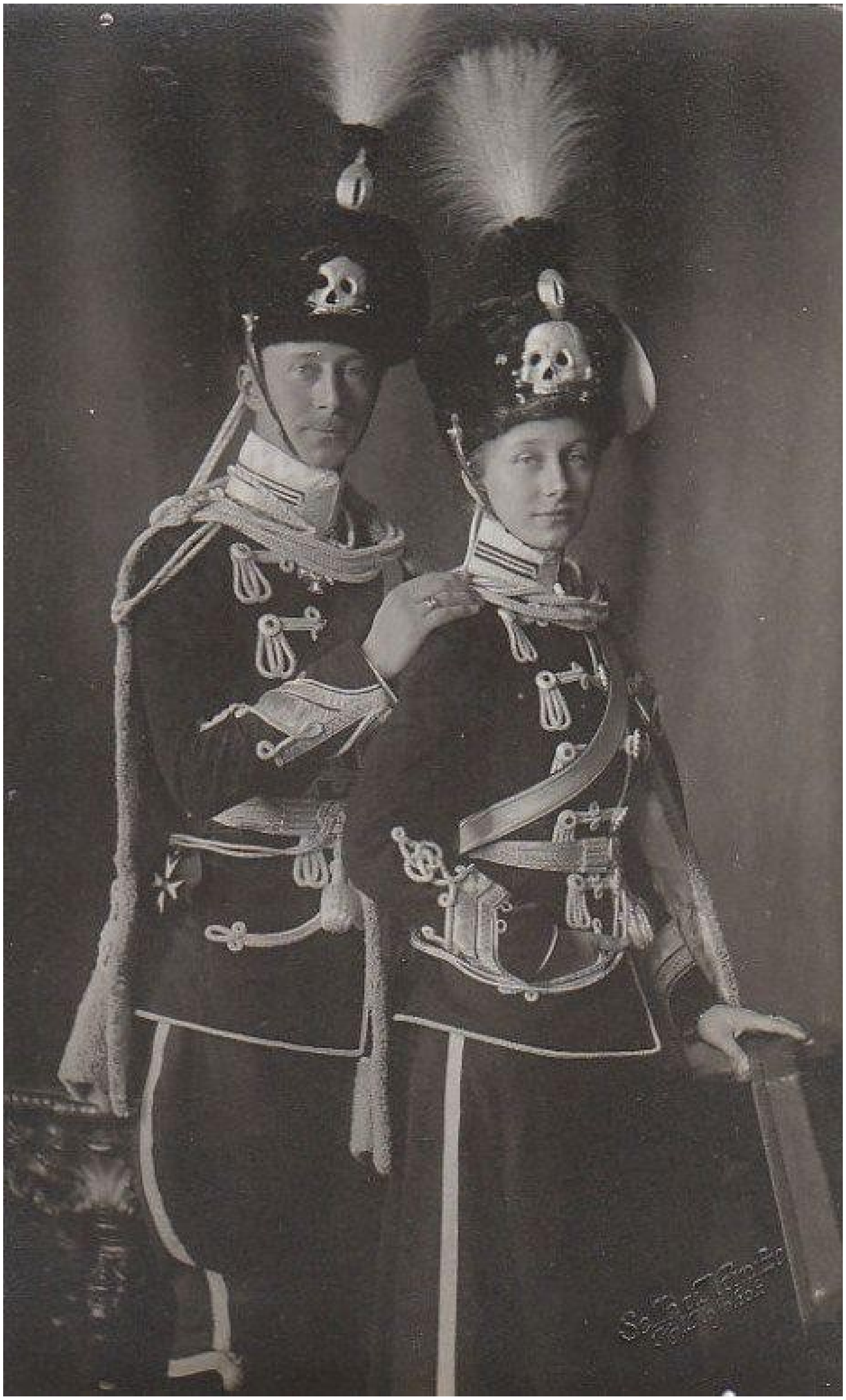
https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw194277/Frederick-III-Emperor-of-Germany-and-King-of-Prussia-Victoria-Empress-of-Germany-and-Queen-of-Prussia



Kaiser Wilhelm I, King Alfonso XII, King Carlos I, Victoria, Princess Royal, Prince Albert Edward of Wales (Edward VII), Crown Prince Frederick William (Frederick III), Prince Wilhelm of Prussia (Wilhelm II) and other royals at Homburg Castle in 1883 [1612 x 1035]

redditdotcom/r/HistoryPorn/comments/pivldz/
kaiser_wilhelm_i_king_alfonso_xii_king_carlos_i/

redditdotcom/r/HistoryPorn/comments/109huhs/
queen_victoria_the_grandmother_of_europe_with/



Crown prince Wilhelm and princess Victoria Louise, both children of Kaiser Wilhelm II, posing in hussar uniforms. 1910's [465x771]

unification of Germany, 1866

Participants	**First phase:** Kingdom of Prussia (enlarged) as a whole Kingdom of Saxony Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz Grand Duchy of Oldenburg Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach Duchy of Anhalt Duchy of Brunswick Duchy of Saxe-Altenburg Duchy of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha Duchy of Saxe-Meiningen Principality of Lippe Principality of Reuss-Gera Principality of Reuss-Greiz Principality of Schaumburg-Lippe Principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt Principality of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen Principality of Waldeck and Pyrmont **Second phase:** Kingdom of Bavaria Kingdom of Württemberg

- Grand Duchy of Baden
- Grand Duchy of Hesse
- Free Hanseatic City of Bremen
- Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg
- Free and Hanseatic City of Lübeck

Austria and Prussia were the most powerful states in the Holy Roman Empire by the 18th and 19th centuries and had engaged in a struggle for supremacy in Germany.; Both countries were the main Central Powers during World War I (1914-1918).

Both opponents first met in the Silesian Wars and Seven Years' War during the middle 18th century until the conflict's culmination in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866.

The German term is *Deutscher Dualismus* (literally *German dualism*), which does not cover only rivalry but also cooperation, for example in the Napoleonic Wars. Indeed, both powers did jointly dominate the German Confederation which functioned only in times of cooperation (1815-1848 and 1851-1859). They still fought on the same side (against Denmark) in the Second Schleswig War (1864).

After 1866 (North German Confederation) and 1871, the new German nation state was dominated by Prussia. As Austria (or Austria-Hungary, since 1867) no longer struggled over the hegemony in Germany, the term *Deutscher Dualismus* became meaningless. Germany and Austria-Hungary soon became close allies, as proven by the *Zweibund* of 1879. Both countries were the main Central Powers during World War I (1914-1918). After that war, Austria-Hungary fell apart, and Germany became a republic.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austro-Prussian_rivalry

The House of Hohenzollern came to the throne of Brandenburg in 1415. In 1417, Frederick I moved its capital from Brandenburg an der Havel to Berlin. By 1535, the electorate had an area of some 10,000 square miles (26,000 km^2) and a population of 400,000.[3] Under Hohenzollern leadership, Brandenburg grew rapidly in power during the 17th century and inherited the Duchy of Prussia. The resulting Brandenburg-Prussia was the predecessor of the Kingdom of Prussia, which became a leading German state during the 18th century. Although the electors' highest title was "King in/of Prussia", their power base remained in Brandenburg and its capital Berlin.

The Margraviate of Brandenburg ended with the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806. It was replaced after the Napoleonic Wars with the Prussian Province of Brandenburg in 1815. The Hohenzollern Kingdom of Prussia was the primary driving force behind the unification of Germany. The Prussian-dominated North German Confederation later transformed in 1871 into the German Empire was the legal predecessor of the united German Reich of 1871–1945, and as such a direct ancestor of the present-day Federal Republic of Germany,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margraviate_of_Brandenburg

Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service: one of the first anti-Semitic and racist laws to be passed in Germany.

Article 1 of the Law claimed that in order to re-establish a "national" and "professional" civil service, members of certain groups of tenured civil servants were to be dismissed.[1] Civil servants who were not of Aryan descent were to retire. Non-Aryans were defined as someone descended from non-Aryans, especially those descended from Jewish parents, or grandparents.[2] Members of the Communist Party, or any related or associated organisation were to be dismissed.[3] This meant that Jews, other non Aryans, and political opponents could not serve as teachers, professors, judges, or other government positions. Shortly afterwards, a similar law was passed concerning lawyers, doctors, tax consultants, musicians, and notaries.

As the law was first drafted by the Interior Minister Wilhelm Frick, all those of "non-Aryan descent" were to be fired immediately at the *Reich*, *Länder* and municipal levels of government. However, the President of Germany, Paul von Hindenburg objected to the bill until it had been amended to exclude three classes of civil servants from the ban:

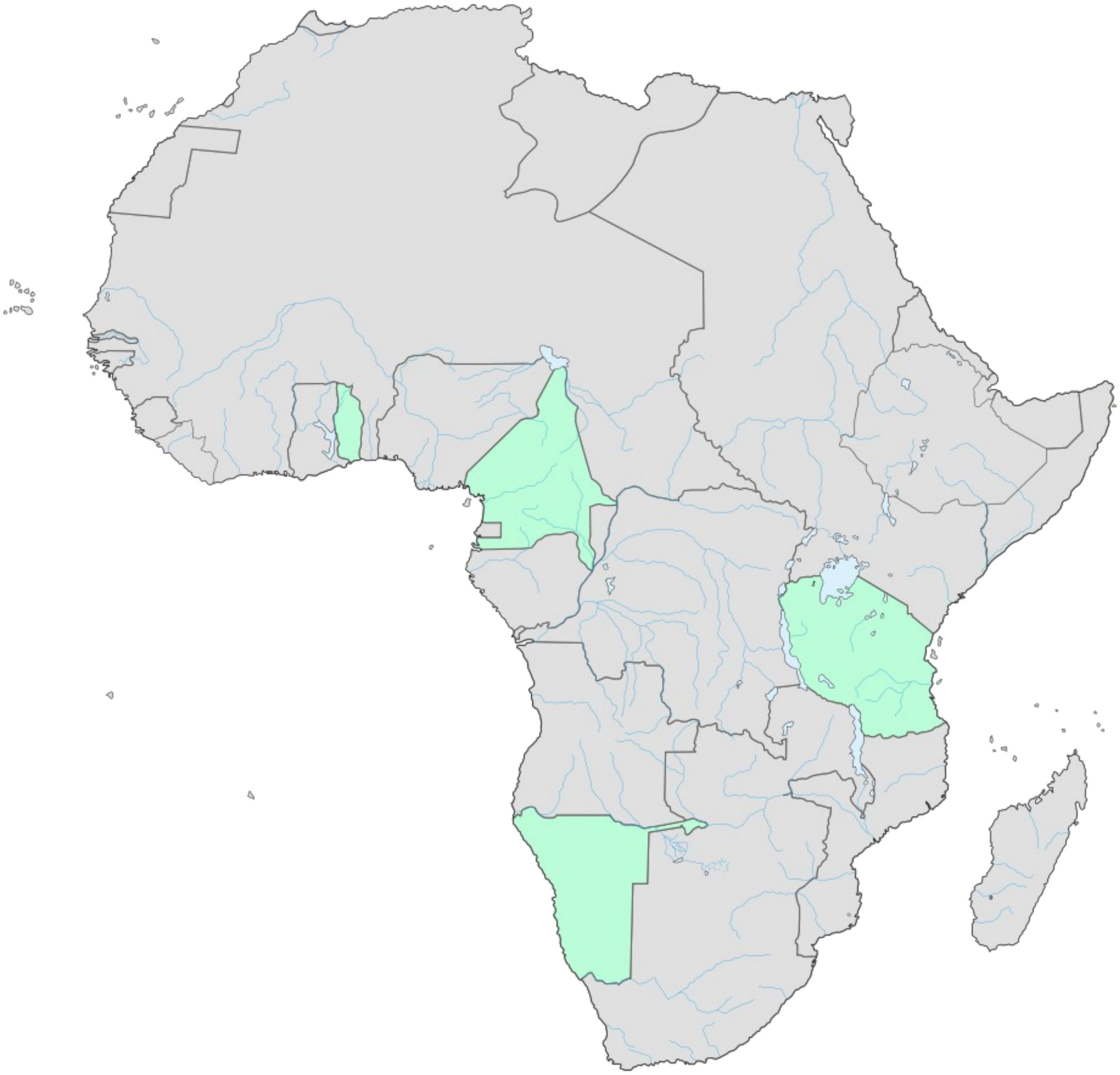
- World War I veterans who had served at the front
- those who had been in the civil service continuously since 1 August 1914 (*i.e.* since the start of the War)
- those who lost a father or son in combat in the Great War[4]

Hitler agreed to these amendments and the bill was signed into law on 7 April 1933.[5] In practice, the amendments excluded most Jewish civil servants and not until after Hindenburg's death in 1934, were they disallowed. Nonetheless, passage of the law was a crucial turning point in the history of German Jewry, for it marked the first time since the last German Jews had been emancipated in 1871 that an anti-Semitic law had been passed in Germany.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_for_the_Restoration_of_the_Professional_Civil_Service

german colonial empire, read later

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_colonial_empire

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_colonization_of_Africa



House of Hohenzollern

a German royal (and from 1871 to 1918, imperial) dynasty whose members were variously princes, electors, kings and emperors of Hohenzollern, Brandenburg, Prussia, the German Empire, and Romania. The family came from the area around the town of Hechingen in Swabia during the late 11th century and took their name from Hohenzollern Castle.[5] The first ancestors of the Hohenzollerns were mentioned in 1061.

The Hohenzollern family split into two branches, the Catholic Swabian branch and the Protestant Franconian branch,[6] which ruled the Burgraviate of Nuremberg and later became the Brandenburg-Prussian branch. The Swabian branch ruled the principalities of Hohenzollern-Hechingen and Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen until 1849, and also ruled Romania from 1866 to 1947. Members of the Franconian branch became Margrave of Brandenburg in 1415 and Duke of Prussia in 1525.

The Margraviate of Brandenburg and the Duchy of Prussia were ruled in personal union after 1618 and were called Brandenburg-Prussia. From there, the Kingdom of Prussia was created in 1701, eventually leading to the unification of Germany and the creation of the German Empire in 1871, with the Hohenzollerns as hereditary German Emperors and Kings of Prussia.

Germany's defeat in World War I in 1918 led to the German Revolution. The Hohenzollerns were overthrown and the Weimar Republic was established, thus bringing an end to the German and Prussian monarchy. Georg Friedrich, Prince of Prussia is the current head of the formerly royal Prussian line, while Karl Friedrich, Prince of Hohenzollern is the head of the formerly princely Swabian line.[6]

German Emperors (1871–1918)[edit]

Main article: German Emperor

Prussia in the German Empire, 1871–1918

In 1871, the German Empire was proclaimed. With the accession of William I to the newly established imperial German throne, the titles of King of Prussia, Duke of Prussia and Elector of Brandenburg were always attached to the title of German Emperor.

Prussia's Minister President Otto von Bismarck convinced William that German Emperor instead of Emperor of Germany would be appropriate. He became *primus inter pares* among other German sovereigns.

William II intended to develop a German navy capable of challenging Britain's Royal Navy. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria on 28 June 1914 set off the chain of events that led to World War I. As a result of the war, the German, Russian, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires ceased to exist.

In 1918, the German empire was abolished and replaced by the Weimar Republic. After the outbreak of the German revolution in 1918, both Emperor William II and Crown Prince William signed the document of abdication.

- William I (1871–1888)
-

Frederick III (1888)

- **William II (1888–1918)**

Brandenburg-Prussian branch since 1918 abdication[edit]

Georg Friedrich, the head of the Prussian Hohenzollerns and his wife

In June 1926, a referendum on expropriating the formerly ruling princes of Germany without compensation failed and as a consequence, the financial situation of the Hohenzollern family improved considerably. A settlement between the state and the family made Cecilienhof property of the state but granted a right of residence to Crown Prince Wilhelm and his wife Cecilie. The family also kept the ownership of Monbijou Palace in Berlin, Oleśnica Castle in Silesia, Rheinsberg Palace, Schwedt Palace and other property until 1945.

Since the abolition of the German monarchy, no Hohenzollern claims to imperial or royal prerogatives are recognized by Germany's Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany of 1949, which guarantees a republic.

The communist government of the Soviet occupation zone expropriated all landowners and industrialists; the House of Hohenzollern lost almost all of its fortune, retaining a few company shares and Hohenzollern Castle in West Germany. The Polish government appropriated the Silesian property and the Dutch government seized Huis Doorn, the Emperor's seat in exile.

After German reunification, however, the family was legally able to reclaim their portable property, namely art collections and parts of the interior of their former palaces. Negotiations on the return of or compensation for these assets are not yet completed.

The Berlin Palace, home of the German monarchs, was rebuilt in 2020. The Berlin Palace and the Humboldt Forum are located in the middle of Berlin.

Order of succession[edit]

Name	Titular reign	Relation to predecessor
Wilhelm II	1918–1941	Succeeded himself as pretender to the throne.
Crown Prince Wilhelm	1941–1951	Son of
Louis Ferdinand, Prince of Prussia	1951–1994	Son of
Georg Friedrich, Prince of Prussia	since 1994	Grandson of
Carl Friedrich, Prince of Prussia		Son of (heir apparent)

- Wilhelm II, the last incumbent of the throne

- Crown Prinz Wilhelm

- Louis Ferdinand

- Georg Friedrich

The head of the house is the titular King of Prussia and German Emperor. He also bears a historical claim to the title of Prince of Orange. Members of this line style themselves princes of Prussia.

Georg Friedrich, Prince of Prussia, the current head of the royal Prussian House of Hohenzollern, was married to Princess Sophie of Isenburg on 27 August 2011. On 20 January 2013, she gave birth to twin sons, Carl Friedrich Franz Alexander and Louis Ferdinand Christian Albrecht, in Bremen. Carl Friedrich, the elder of the two, is the heir apparent.[12]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Hohenzollern

The denarius: silver roman coin from its introduction in the Second Punic War c. 211 BC[1] to the reign of Gordian III (AD 238–244), when it was gradually replaced by the antoninianus

The word *dēnārius* is derived from the Latin *dēnī* "containing ten", as its value was originally of 10 assēs.[note 1] The word for "money" descends from it in Italian (*denaro*), Slovene (*denar*), Portuguese (*dinheiro*), and Spanish (*dinero*). Its name also survives in the dinar currency.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denarius

M·ANTON·IMP·AVG·III·VIR·R·P·C·M·BARBAT·Q·P
CAESAR·IMP·PONT·III·VIR·R·P·C

Germany, history: German Confederation: created by the Congress of Vienna in 1815 as a replacement to the former Holy Roman Empire, which had been dissolved in 1806. dissolved after the victory of the Kingdom of Prussia in the Seven Weeks' War over the Austrian Empire in 1866. The dispute over which had the inherent right to rule German lands ended in favour of Prussia, leading to the creation of the North German Confederation under Prussian leadership in 1867

A number of South German states remained independent until they joined the North German Confederation, which was renamed and proclaimed as the "German Empire" in 1871, as the unified Germany (aside from Austria) with the Prussian king as emperor (Kaiser) after the victory over French Emperor Napoleon III in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870.

The German revolutions of 1848–1849, motivated by liberal, democratic, socialist, and nationalist sentiments, attempted to transform the Confederation into a unified German federal state with a liberal constitution (usually called the Frankfurt Constitution in English). The Federal Convention was dissolved on 12 July 1848, but was re-established in 1850 after the revolution was crushed by Austria, Prussia, and other states.[5]

The War of the Third Coalition lasted from about 1803 to 1806. Following defeat at the Battle of Austerlitz by the French under Napoleon in December 1805, Holy Roman Emperor Francis II abdicated, and the Empire was dissolved on 6 August 1806.

The member states, drastically reduced to 39 from more than 300 (see *Kleinstaaterei*) under the Holy Roman Empire, were recognized as fully sovereign. The members pledged themselves to mutual defense, and joint maintenance of the fortresses at Mainz, the city of Luxembourg, Rastatt, Ulm, and Landau.

However, the defeat of Napoleon enabled conservative and reactionary regimes such as those of the Kingdom of Prussia, the Austrian Empire, and Tsarist Russia to survive, laying the groundwork for the Congress of Vienna and the alliance that strove to oppose radical demands for change ushered in by the French Revolution. With Austria's position on the continent now intact and ostensibly secure under its reactionary premier Klemens von Metternich, the Habsburg empire would serve as a barrier to contain the emergence of Italian and German nation-states as well, in addition to containing France. But this reactionary balance of power, aimed at blocking German and Italian nationalism on the continent, was precarious.

After Napoleon's final defeat in 1815, the surviving member states of the defunct Holy Roman Empire joined to form the German Confederation (*Deutscher Bund*)—a rather loose organization, especially because the two great rivals, the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Prussia, each feared domination by the other.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Confederation

Creation[edit]

The state of North Rhine-Westphalia was established by the British military administration's "Operation Marriage" on 23 August 1946, by merging the province of Westphalia and the northern parts of the Rhine Province, both being political divisions of the former state of Prussia within the German Reich.[4][5] On 21 January 1947, the former state of Lippe was merged with North Rhine-Westphalia.[4] The constitution of North Rhine-Westphalia was then ratified through a referendum.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Rhine-Westphalia

A social history of Germany.

This book covers the important period of german history, from 1800-1914, that should help one understand the power dynamics that lead to up world war 1. Start on p175
https://archive.org/details/socialhistoryofg0000saga/page/182/mode/1up

German noble family whose line can be traced back to the 1100's....Why have I not heard of these people before?! They are an example of the german prices that could vote in the holy roman empire. I haven't quite looked into it yet, so this definitely fast tracked the whole process. What even more interesting is tha tthey are apparently still alive, with some ofthem oewning important land.

The **House of Hohenlohe** (pronounced [hoːənˈloːə]) is a former German princely dynasty. It ruled an immediate territory within the Holy Roman Empire which was divided between several branches. The Hohenlohes became imperial counts in 1450. The county was divided numerous times and split into several principalities in the 18th century.

In 1806 the Princes of Hohenlohe lost their independence through mediatisation initialized by Napoleon, and their lands became parts of the kingdoms of Bavaria and of Württemberg by the Act of the Confederation of the Rhine (12 July 1806), a confederation of client states of the First French Empire.[1] In 1806 the area of Hohenlohe was 1,760 km² and its estimated population was 108,000.[2]

Having lost their Imperial immediacy, the Princes of Hohenlohe still kept their private possessions. Until the German Revolution of 1918–19, just as other mediatized families,

they also retained important political privileges. They were considered equal by birth (*Ebenbürtigkeit*) to the European sovereign houses.
In Bavaria, Prussia and Württemberg the Princes of Hohenlohe received hereditary seats in the Houses of Lords. In 1825, the German Confederation recognized the right of all members of the house to be styled *Serene Highness (Durchlaucht)*, with the title *Fürst* for the heads of its branches, and princes/princesses for the other members.[3]

The Hohenlohes were Imperial Counts having two voices in the Diet (or Assembly, called *Kreistag*) of the Franconian Circle.[8] They also had six voices in the Franconian College of Imperial Counts *(Fränkisches Reichsgrafenkollegium)* of the Imperial Diet (*Reichstag*).[9] The right to vote in the Imperial Diet gave a German noble family the status of imperial state (*Reichsstände*) and made them belong to the High Nobility (*Hoher Adel*), on a par with ruling princes and dukes.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hohenlohe#Partitions_of_Hohenlohe_under_House_of_Hohenlohe_rule

Berlin grew from 172,000 people in 1800 to 826,000 in 1870
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Confederation

The **Bourbon Restoration** was the period of French history during which the House of Bourbon returned to power after the first fall of Napoleon on 3 May 1814. Briefly interrupted by the Hundred Days War in 1815, the Restoration lasted until the July Revolution of 26 July 1830. Louis XVIII and Charles X, brothers of the executed King Louis XVI, successively mounted the throne and instituted a conservative government intended to restore the proprieties, if not all the institutions, of the Ancien Régime. Exiled supporters of the monarchy returned to France but were unable to reverse most of the changes made by the French Revolution. Exhausted by decades of war, the nation experienced a period of internal and external peace, stable economic prosperity and the preliminaries of industrialization.[4]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bourbon_Restoration_in_France

Louis Philippe remained in exile for 21 years until the Bourbon Restoration. He was proclaimed king in 1830 after his cousin Charles X was forced to abdicate by the July Revolution (and because of the Spanish renunciation). The reign of Louis Philippe is known as the July Monarchy and was dominated by wealthy industrialists and bankers. He followed conservative policies, especially under the influence of French statesman François Guizot during the period 1840–1848. He also promoted friendship with Great Britain and sponsored colonial expansion, notably the French conquest of Algeria. His popularity faded as economic conditions in France deteriorated in 1847, and he was forced to abdicate after the outbreak of the French Revolution of 1848.

He lived for the remainder of his life in exile in the United Kingdom. His supporters were known as Orléanists. The Legitimists supported the main line of the House of Bourbon, and the Bonapartists supported the Bonaparte family, which includes Napoleon I and Napoleon III.

Among his grandchildren were the monarchs Leopold II of Belgium, Empress Carlota of Mexico, Ferdinand I of Bulgaria, and Queen Mercedes of Spain.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Philippe_I

Dissolution of the Confederation[edit]

Rise of Bismarck[edit]

A new generation of statesmen responded to popular demands for national unity for their own ends, continuing Prussia's tradition of autocracy and reform from above. Germany found an able leader to accomplish the seemingly paradoxical task of conservative modernization. In 1851, Bismarck was appointed by King Wilhelm I of Prussia (the future Kaiser Wilhelm I) to circumvent the liberals in the Landtag of Prussia, who resisted Wilhelm's autocratic militarism. Bismarck told the Diet, "The great questions of the day are not decided by speeches and majority votes ... but by blood and iron" – that is, by warfare and industrial might.[30] Prussia already had a great army; it was now augmented by rapid growth of economic power.

Gradually, Bismarck subdued the more restive elements of the middle class with a combination of threats and reforms, reacting to the revolutionary sentiments expressed in 1848 by providing them with the economic opportunities for which the urban middle sectors had been fighting.[31]

Seven Weeks' War[edit]

The German Confederation ended as a result of the Austro-Prussian War of 1866 between the Austrian Empire and its allies on one side and the Kingdom of Prussia and its allies on the other. The Confederation had 33 members immediately before its dissolution. In the Prague peace treaty, on 23 August 1866, Austria had to accept that the Confederation was dissolved.[32] The following day, the remaining member states confirmed the dissolution. The treaty allowed Prussia to create a new *Bundesverhältnis* (a new kind of federation) in the North of Germany. The South German states were allowed to create a South German Confederation but this did not come into existence.

North German Confederation[edit]

Prussia created the North German Confederation in 1867, a federal state combining all German states north of the river Main and also the Hohenzollern territories in Swabia. Besides Austria, the South German states Bavaria, Württemberg, Baden, and Hesse-Darmstadt remained separate from the rest of Germany. However, due to the successful prosecution of the Franco-Prussian War, the four southern states joined the North German Confederation by treaties in November 1870.[33]

German Empire[edit]

As the Franco-Prussian War drew to a close, King Ludwig II of Bavaria was persuaded to ask King Wilhelm to assume the crown of the new German Empire. On 1 January 1871, the Empire was declared by the presiding princes and generals in the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles, near Paris. The Diet of the North German Confederation moved to rename the North German Confederation as the German Empire and gave the title of German Emperor to the King of Prussia.[34] The new constitution of the state, the Constitution of the German Confederation, effectively transformed the Diet of the Confederation into the German Parliament (*Reichstag*).[35]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Confederation

https://archive.org/details/socialhistoryofg0000saga/page/187/mode/2up
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Prussia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Rhine-Westphalia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cologne
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallic_Wars

The **Free State of Prussia** (German: *Freistaat Preußen*, pronounced [ˌfʁaɪ̯ʃtaːt ˈpʁɔɪ̯sn̩] (listen)) was one of the constituent states of Germany from 1918 to 1947. The successor to the Kingdom of Prussia after the defeat of the German Empire in World War I, it continued to be the dominant state in Germany during the Weimar Republic, as it had been during the empire, even though most of Germany's post-war territorial losses in Europe had come from its lands. It was home to the federal capital Berlin and had 62% of Germany's territory and 61% of its population. Prussia changed from the authoritarian state it had been in the past and became a parliamentary democracy under its 1920 constitution. During the Weimar period it was governed almost entirely by pro-democratic parties and proved more politically stable than the Republic itself. With only brief interruptions, the Social Democratic Party (SPD) provided the Minister President. Its Ministers of the Interior, also from the SPD, pushed republican reform of the administration and police, with the result that Prussia was considered a bulwark of democracy within the Weimar Republic.[2]

As a result of the Prussian coup d'état instigated by Reich Chancellor Franz von Papen in 1932, the Free State was subordinated to the Reich government and deprived of its independence. Prussia had thus de facto ceased to exist before the Nazi Party seized power in 1933, even though a Prussian government under Hermann Göring continued to function formally until 1945. After the end of the Second World War, by decree of the Allied Control Council, the *de jure* abolition of Prussia occurred on 25 February 1947.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_State_of_Prussia

Stats, censorship, history: **book-burning, example: univeristy of berlin, nazi regime, 1933**

After 1933, like all German universities, Friedrich Wilhelm University was affected by the Nazi regime. The rector during this period was Eugen Fischer. It was from the university's library that some 20,000 books by "degenerates" and opponents of the regime were taken to be burned on 10 May of that year in the Opernplatz (now the Bebelplatz) for a demonstration protected by the SA that also featured a speech by Joseph Goebbels. A monument to this can now be found in the center of the square, consisting of a glass panel opening onto an underground white room with empty shelf space for 20,000 volumes and a plaque, bearing an epigraph from an 1820 work by Heinrich Heine: "Das war ein Vorspiel nur, dort wo man Bücher verbrennt, verbrennt man am Ende auch Menschen" ("This was but a prelude; where they burn books, they ultimately burn people").

The Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service (German "Gesetz zur Wiederherstellung des Berufsbeamtentums") resulted in 250 Jewish professors and employees being fired from Friedrich Wilhelm University during 1933–1934 and numerous doctorates being withdrawn. Students and scholars and political opponents of

Nazis were ejected from the university and often deported. During this time nearly one third of all of the staff were fired by the Nazis.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humboldt_University_of_Berlin#Early_history

Russia Suspended New START Because Of Attacks On Strategic Sites

*"We know that those attacks would never be possible in absence of a very deep & **sophisticated assistance by the US to the Ukrainian military**."*

All Portland Walmart Stores To "Permanently Close" Amid Theft Wave

All Portland Walmart Stores To "Permanently Close" Amid Theft Wave

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAR 04, 2023 - 07:00 PM

In order to address the issue of **shoplifting and retail theft**, the **final two Walmart stores in the city of Portland will shutter their door**s in late March.

FOX 12 Oregon reported that the Walmart locations at 1123 North Hayden Meadows Drive and 4200 Southeast 82nd Avenue at the Eastport Plaza would close on Mar. 24.

"The **decision to close these stores** was made after a careful review of their overall performance. We consider many factors, including current and projected **financial performance**, location, population, customer needs, and the proximity of other nearby stores when making these difficult decisions. After we decide to move forward, our focus is on our associates and their transition, which is the case here," a spokesperson with Walmart told the local media outlet.

Discover Credit Cards Will Track Gun Purchases From April

Residents Told To Shelter In Place After Norfolk Southern Freight Train Derails In Ohio

Another Norfolk Southern freight train has derailed in Ohio.

"The Clark County Emergency Management Agency is asking **residents within 1,000 feet of a train derailment at Ohio 41 near the Prime Ohio Business Park to shelter-in-place out of an abundance of caution**," the county wrote in a Facebook post.

The post continued, "We ask that all residents in need of travel to Ohio 41 find alternate routes. **Local and state officials are on scene**, including the Springfield Fire Rescue Division and the Springfield Police Department."

WHO Urges Countries To Reveal Intel On COVID Origins After FBI Director's Statements

These Are The Most (And Least) Expensive Cities To Live In

These Are The Most (And Least) Expensive Cities To Live In

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, MAR 04, 2023 - 11:00 PM

There are **many benefits** to living in an iconic city like New York or Singapore, **but the amenities and exclusivity can come at a high cost.**

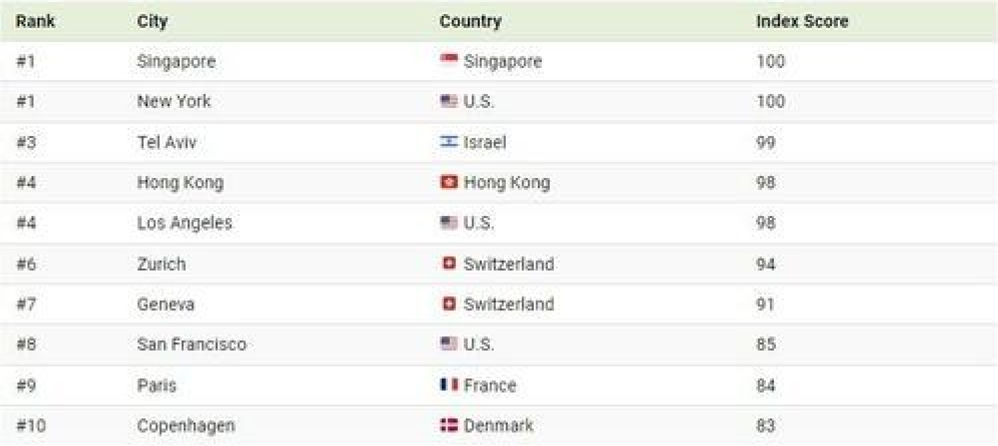
As Visual Capitalist's Avery Koop details below, cities become “expensive” due to a variety of factors such as high demand for housing, a concentration of high-paying businesses and industries, and a high standard of living. Additionally, factors such as taxes, transportation costs, and availability of goods and services can also contribute to the overall cost of living in global cities.

The infographic above uses data from EIU to rank the world most and least expensive cities to live in. To make the list, the EIU examines 400+ prices for over 200 products and services in 172 cities, surveying a variety of businesses to track price fluctuations over the last year.

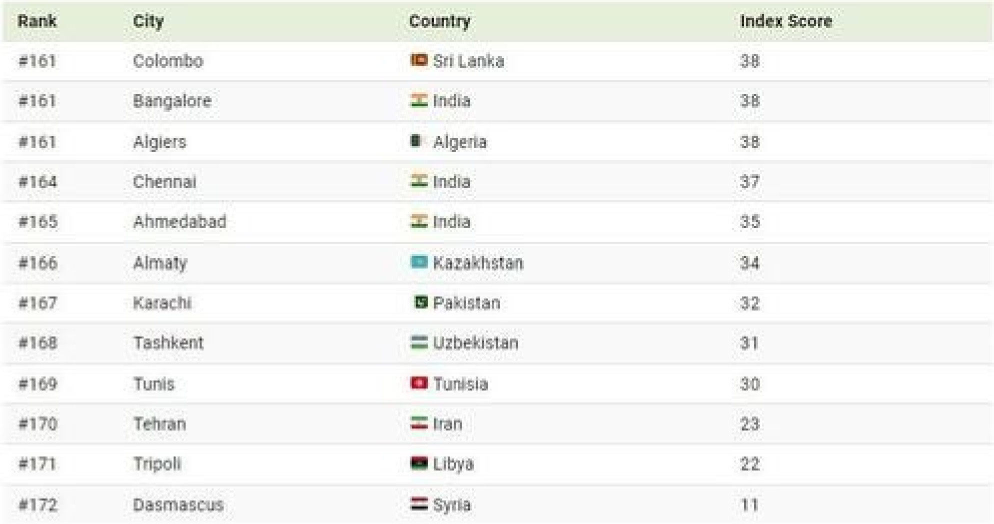
Inflation + Strong Currency = Expensive Cities

If you live in a city where many residents find it challenging to put a roof over their heads, food on their plates, and make ends meet, you live in an expensive city.

But if this inflation is compounded with a strong national currency, you may live in one of the world's *most* expensive cities.



Rank	City	Country	Index Score
#1	Singapore	Singapore	100
#1	New York	U.S.	100
#3	Tel Aviv	Israel	99
#4	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	98
#4	Los Angeles	U.S.	98
#6	Zurich	Switzerland	94
#7	Geneva	Switzerland	91
#8	San Francisco	U.S.	85
#9	Paris	France	84
#10	Copenhagen	Denmark	83



Rank	City	Country	Index Score
#161	Colombo	Sri Lanka	38
#161	Bangalore	India	38
#161	Algiers	Algeria	38
#164	Chennai	India	37
#165	Ahmedabad	India	35
#166	Almaty	Kazakhstan	34
#167	Karachi	Pakistan	32
#168	Tashkent	Uzbekistan	31
#169	Tunis	Tunisia	30
#170	Tehran	Iran	23
#171	Tripoli	Libya	22
#172	Dasmascus	Syria	11

Singapore and New York City tied for the first rank amongst the world's most expensive cities in 2022, pushing Israel's Tel Aviv from the first place in 2021 to the third place in 2022. Both these cities had high inflation and a strong currency. Surprisingly, this is the Big Apple's first time atop the ranking.

The city with one of the most expensive real estate markets worldwide, Hong Kong ranked fourth in this list, followed by Los Angeles, which moved up from its ninth rank in 2021.

Poor Economies = Cheaper Cities

Asia continues to dominate the list of the world’s least expensive cities, followed by parts of North Africa and the Middle East. Though affordability sounds good at face value, sitting at the bottom of the ranking isn’t necessarily a coveted position.

While the cost of living in some of the cities in these nations is low, it comes at the price of a weak currency, poor economy, and, in many cases, political and economic turmoil.

The decade-long conflict in Syria weakened the Syrian pound, led to a spiraling inflation and fuel shortages, and further collapsed its economy. It’s no surprise that its capital city of Damascus has maintained its position as the world’s cheapest city.

Tripoli and Tehran, the capitals of Libya and Iran, respectively, follow next on this list, reflecting their weakened economies.

Meanwhile, seven cities in Asia with the common denominator of high-income inequality and low wages dominate the list of the world’s cheapest cities. These include three Indian cities, Tashkent in Uzbekistan, Almaty in Kazakhstan, Pakistan’s most populous city of Karachi, and Sri Lankan capital–Colombo.

Ford Files For Patent That Can "Remotely Shut Down" Parts Of Your Car When Your Bill Isn't Paid

And the patent *coincidentally* comes along at a time when many car owners are experiencing difficulty keeping up with rising rates...

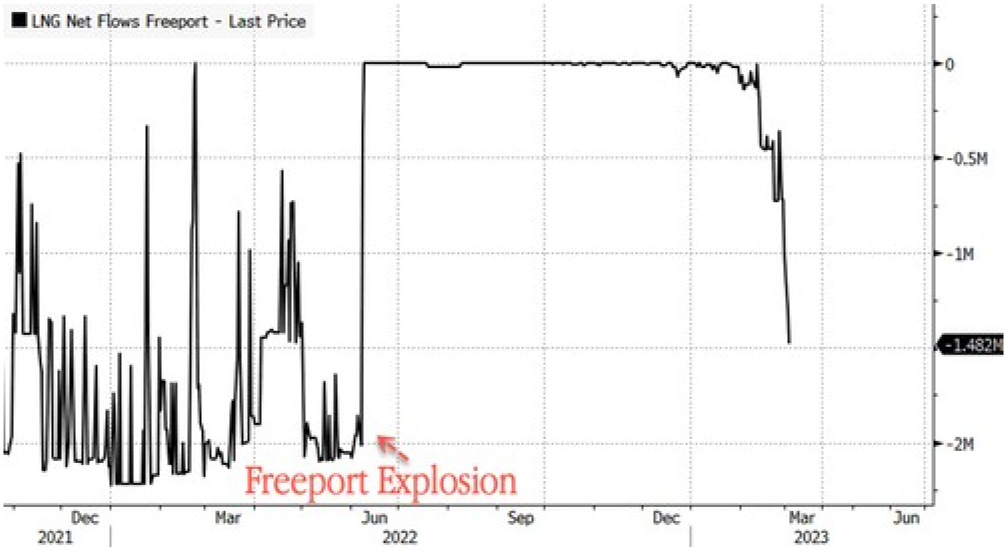
"Boon For Europe": US NatGas Flows To Freeport LNG Hit 'Record High'

Houston-based energy firm Criterion Research told clients Friday morning that the Freeport LNG export facility in Texas has recorded a surge in natural gas flowing into the plant. Inflows hit a daily record high as the export facility partially restarts operations.

According to Criterion Research flow data, Freeport LNG nominations have surged to nearly 1.5 Bcf/d as of this morning, which implies that the ***terminal now has two full LNG trains operating****. The* ***pop in Freeport volumes pushed net US LNG feed gas demand above 14 Bcf/d, which is a new all-time high****.*

Thus far, the FERC has given full regulatory approval for the restart of Trains 2 & 3, and there is a pending request by Freeport LNG to bring liquefaction Train 1 in the near term. ***Criterion currently believes the terminal could reach 2 Bcf/d by the end of March*** *if the FERC gives them clearance to activate Train 1 in a timely manner.*

... and when operating at full power, Freeport's three LNG trains will likely increase volumes north of 2 Bcf/d. Some analysts have suggested that the plant may not resume full capacity until late March or early April.



Twitter Challenges Persist As December Revenues, Adjusted Earnings Dropped 40%

Iran President Says Foreign Enemies Behind Poisonings At Girls' Schools

EPA Head Admits Kids Should Be Nowhere Near East Palestine Water

LA Elites Spend $150,000 For Protection Dogs As Crime Fears Worsen

LA Elites Spend $150,000 For Protection Dogs As Crime Fears Worsen

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, MAR 03, 2023 - 11:40 PM

Los Angeles' wealthiest residents are purchasing protection dogs that cost as much as a slightly used Mercedes G-Wagon over concerns of out-of-control violent crime and the growing homelessness crisis.

Los Angeles Times said protection dogs — typically German shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Dobermans, Cane Corso, or a mix of those breeds — are being sold by Delta K9 Academy in North Hollywood for as much as $70,000. Some trainers are selling dogs for upwards of $150,000.

LA Times spoke with Arteom Bulgadarian, the president of an aerospace manufacturing company, who lives in a multi-million dollar home in Sherman Oaks. He owns several guns and recently had his home wired with surveillance cameras but felt that security layer wasn't enough.

So Bulgadarian contacted Delta K9 and bought a $70,000 2.5-year-old German shepherd bred as an elite protection dog. First, the dog is a family pet but is highly trained to guard the home.

"What's the price that you would put for your family's security, especially when that particular house has been burglarized?

"Seventy-thousand dollars — you amortize it over 10 to 15 years, whatever the dog's life is, and it's not that big of a price tag," he said.

The recent 8% surge in violent crime in LA coincides with the tenure of George Gascon, the 'woke' district attorney, who has allegedly emboldened criminals and sparked great anxiety among homeowners, rich and poor. There have been surges in burglaries and property crime, smash-and-grab thefts, and home robberies, leaving some to believe Los Angeles is transforming into a third-world country.

Journal, vaccine: mar5 (More playing into the narrative) **CNN 'Lost A F*ckload Of Credibility' Over COVID Propaganda: Joe Rogan**

US Beef Herd Drops To Lowest Since 1962 As Global Food Crisis Intensifies

According to the latest biannual report from the USDA, **the number of beef cows in this country has fallen to the lowest level since 1962…**

The USDA's biannual cattle report showed that, as of Jan. 1, 2023, there is a 89.3 million head inventory — which is three percent lower than the total from a year ago and the lowest since 2015. Of that number, 38.3 million cows and heifers have calved.

Additionally, there are 28.9 million beef cows, which are those explicitly bred for slaughter and meat sales, as of the start of this year — which is down nearly four percent from last year and the lowest the agency has recorded since 1962.

In 1962, 184 million people lived in the United States.

Today, that number has risen to 331 million.

So we have a problem.

But even though beef prices have been soaring, most Americans don't realize the gravity of this shortage yet because we are still eating cattle that were slaughtered some time ago.

And according to livestock economist Kenny Burdine, "cattle production's downward trend does not seem like it will reverse in 2023"…

University of Kentucky's Kenny Burdine and James Mitchell, extension livestock economist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, recently explained that "There was no question that the beef cow herd had gotten smaller" and that the cattle production's downward trend does not seem like it will reverse in 2023."

"There is a pretty substantial biological lag in the beef supply chain," Mitchell noted. "What consumers experience at the grocery store is a product of what cattle producers were going through a year or two ago. It takes about two years for a new calf to become the steak on your dinner plate."

The corporate media is already calling beef "a luxury meat", and prices are inevitably going to go a lot higher in the months ahead.

So if you love beef, you should stock up now.

Meanwhile, food shortages continue to intensify all over the globe.

In **Yemen**, literally millions of children "suffer from acute malnutrition" at this point…

The Global Hunger Index currently ranks Yemen the worst in the world for level of hunger. Millions of Yemeni children, in some areas as many as 95% according to doctors in those areas that I spoke to, suffer from acute malnutrition.

The resulting stunted physical development had me convinced that I was in a kindergarten classroom when in fact I was meeting with eight and nine-year-olds. And those children were, as a colleague unnervingly put it, "the lucky ones."

In **North Korea**, ordinary citizens are "reportedly dropping dead on the streets every day" due to the severe famine that is taking place in that nation…

THIS is the moment Kim Jong-un and his cronies gorged on popcorn and champagne as North Korea faces the worst famine in three decades.

Stockpiles of food are dwindling fast in the secretive state, and dozens of malnourished North Koreans are reportedly dropping dead on the streets every day.

In **Somalia**, the "longest and most severe" drought in that country's history has produced unprecedented suffering…

About 1.3 million people, 80 percent women and children, have been internally displaced in Somalia by the drought sweeping the Horn of Africa. After five consecutive poor rainy seasons, the ongoing drought has already become the longest and most severe in Somalia's recent history.

Close to 23 million people are thought to be highly food insecure in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, according to a food security working group chaired by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the regional Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

Sadly, most of us in the western world don't care about poor people on the other side of the globe.

So let me give you an example from the western world.

In the UK, the largest supermarkets are now strictly rationing many fruits and vegetables…

The UK's largest supermarket, Tesco, and discounter Aldi have said they are putting limits of three per customer on sales of tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers.

Asda has capped sales of lettuces, salad bags, broccoli, cauliflowers and raspberry punnets to three per customer, along with tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers.

And Morrisons has set limits of two on cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuces and peppers.

And it is being reported that approximately **22 percent of all British households “skipped meals or even fasted for a whole day in January”…**

A British NGO has warned that as many as four million children are now in food poverty amid the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

The survey on behalf of the Food Foundation, an NGO which promotes healthy eating, found that 22 percent households said they had skipped meals or even fasted for a whole day in January this year, an increase on the 12 percent reporting the same at the start of last year.

This is really happening.

But it can be really easy for those that still have plenty of food to turn a blind eye to the suffering of others.

Sadly, this is just the beginning.

As I prove in my new book, global food production will drop precipitously in the years ahead no matter what our leaders do now.

We are running out of top soil, fertilizer supplies will become insanely tight in the years ahead, and trillions of extremely small particles of plastic are literally raining out of the sky on farms all over the planet.

Many of our leaders understand what is going to happen, but they don’t want to alarm the general public.

Those that are wise will see what is happening and will get prepared.

Unfortunately, most of the population continues to assume that everything will magically work out just fine somehow, and so they will not be ready for the horrors that are ahead of us.

Stats, government: mar5 **43% of millenaials owns home today, vs 67% for generation X**

Amazon has paused construction on its giant second headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, the company has confirmed to Bloomberg, which notes that the move comes amid sweeping job cuts following slowdowns in consumer and corporate spending.

Amazon real estate chief John Schoettler says that despite the pause, the company remains committed to HQ2, where it's committed to spend $2.5 billion by 2030 and hire some 25,000 workers

Read**later**, history**: wikipedia: the "imperial period" is by convention taken to last from 27 BCE to CE 284, starting with Augustus (r. 27 BC – AD 14), and ending with Diocletian and the beginning of the Christianization of the Roman Empire.**

In historiography, the "imperial period" is by convention taken to last from 27 BCE to CE 284. In archaeology, on the other hand, the term is usually taken to cover the period of c. CE 1 to 375 (the latter being a conventional date for the onset of the Migration Period).

The term "Roman imperial period" has been used as opposed to "Late Antiquity", i.e. implying the "early" and "middle" imperial period of the late 1st century BC to the 3rd century CE. The "Roman imperial period" in this sense would end with the reforms under Diocletian and the beginning of the Christianization of the Roman Empire. The period is roughly equivalent in span to the "Principate", the early period of Roman imperial rule from Augustus to Diocletian (r. 284–305), succeeded by the "Dominate".

Roman imperial period (chronology)

1 language

- Article
- Talk
  - Read
  - Edit
  - View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

show
This article **may be expanded with text translated from the corresponding article in German**. *(June 2022)* Click [show] for important translation instructions.

The **Roman imperial period** is the expansion of political and cultural influence of the Roman Empire. The period begins with the reign of Augustus (r. 27 BC – AD 14), and it is taken to end variously between the late 3rd and the late 4th century, with the beginning of Late Antiquity. Despite the end of the "Roman imperial period", the Roman Empire continued to exist under the rule of the Roman emperors into Late Antiquity and beyond, except in the Western Empire, over which the Romans' political and military control was lost in the course of the 5th-century fall of the Western Roman Empire.

Periodization[edit]

In historiography, the "imperial period" is by convention taken to last from 27 BCE to CE 284. In archaeology, on the other hand, the term is usually taken to cover the period of c. CE 1 to 375 (the latter being a conventional date for the onset of the Migration Period). This follows Hans Jürgen Eggers [de] (1955), who used a periodization of "early imperial period" (German: *frühkaiserzeitlich*) B1 to B2 and "late imperial period" (German: *spätkaiserzeitlich*) C1 to C3, reflecting the history of Roman pottery imports to Magna Germania and other parts of Barbaricum (Eggers A corresponds to La Tène D). In the chronology of Eggers (1955):[1]

La Tène period[2]	stage	D	C	B	A		
	absolute date	450–380 BCE	380–250 BCE	250–150 BCE	150–15 BCE		
Roman Empire (Barbaricum) [de] period (according to Eggers)	stage	A	B1	B2	C1	C2	C3
	absolute date	100–1 BCE	1–30 CE	30–150 CE	150–200 CE	200–300 CE	300–375 CE
Migration period[3] (according to Eggers)	stage	D					
	absolute date	375–568 CE					

The term "Roman imperial period" has been used as opposed to "Late Antiquity", i.e. implying the "early" and "middle" imperial period of the late 1st century BC to the 3rd century CE. The "Roman imperial period" in this sense would end with the reforms under Diocletian and the beginning of the Christianization of the Roman Empire. The period is roughly equivalent in span to the "Principate", the early period of Roman imperial rule from Augustus to Diocletian (r. 284–305), succeeded by the "Dominate".

See also[edit]

- History of the Roman Empire
- List of Roman Emperors
- Roman Iron Age

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1. ^ *Eggers, Hans Jürgen [in German] (1955). "zur absoluten Chronologie der römischen Kaiserzeit im Freien Germanien" [To the absolute chronology of the Roman Empire in free Germania]. Jahrbuch des römisch-germanischen Zentralmuseums II [Yearbook of the Roman-Germanic Central Museum II] (in German). Mainz. pp. 192–244.*

2. ^ *Die Welt der Kelten. Zentren der Macht. Kostbarkeiten der Kunst [The World of the Celts. Centers of power. Treasures of art] (in German). Ostfildern: Thorbecke Jan Verlag. 2012. p. 524. ISBN 978-3-7995-0752-3.*
3. ^ *Mączyńska, Magdalena [in Polish] (1993). Die Völkerwanderung. Geschichte einer ruhelosen Epoche im 4. und 5. Jahrhundert [The migration of peoples. History of a Restless Epoch in the 4th and 5th Centuries] (in German). Mannheim. ISBN 3-49-196127-0.*

Categories:
- European archaeology
- Iron Age Europe
- History of the Roman Empire

In the view of the Greek historian Dio Cassius, a contemporary observer, the accession of the emperor Commodus in 180 AD marked the descent "from a kingdom of gold to one of rust and iron"[19]—a famous comment which has led some historians, notably Edward Gibbon, to take Commodus' reign as the beginning of the decline of the Roman Empire.[20][21]

During the decades of the Constantinian and Valentinian dynasties, the empire was divided along an east–west axis, with dual power centres in Constantinople and Rome. The reign of Julian, who under the influence of his adviser Mardonius attempted to restore Classical Roman and Hellenistic religion, only briefly interrupted the succession of Christian emperors. Theodosius I, the last emperor to rule over both East and West, died in 395 AD after making Christianity the official religion of the empire.[25]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentinianic_dynasty

journal: check if this is true.

Human Sacrifice in the Celtic World

- Thread starterSalah
- Start dateApr 27, 2011

Salah

Joined Oct 2009
23,284 Posts | 78+
Maryland

Discussion Starter

- Apr 27, 2011
-
  - #1

Celtic peoples first enter history in the 6th Century BC, when they are mentioned under the name of "Keltoi" by the Greek writer Hekataeos. By the 1st Century AD, most of the Celtic tribes of Europe had been subjugated by Rome, but their cultural and linguistic legacy persists to the modern day. Recent descendants of the Celts played major roles in the colonization and conquest of the New World, and have fought with great heroism in all of the modern world's wars.

Very little is truly known of the ancient Celts' religion. The names of many of the gods worshipped by the tribes of Gaul are known through Latin or Gallo-Latin inscriptions made in late pre-Roman and Roman times - but the rituals with which these gods were celebrated have long since been forgotten. Likewise, the druids, who were apparently the "priests" of Celtic society, have been obscured by the passage of time and the secretive nature of their order.

All kinds of people - from spiteful Roman statesmen to admiring neo-pagans - have attempted to use, and misuse, what little is known of ancient Celtic religion for their respective agendas. The Romans were quick to point the Celts out as a race of heinous savages who lived to plunder the riches of civilization and brutally kill their captives - while many modern Celtophiles portray them as a race of noble mystics who lived in harmonious understanding with nature.

One of the charges the Greeks and especially the Romans laid at the feet of the ancient Celts is that of human sacrifice. Both the Greeks and Romans had a history of killing human beings for spiritual purposes - human sacrifice as we picture it was not completely outlawed in Rome until the reign of Trajan, and the gladiatorial combats were in fact descended from an Etruscan funerary sacrifice tradition. But by and large, the Greeks and Romans had abandoned the practice by the time they came into contact with Celtic peoples and even when they did sacrifice victims it was only in times of great crisis (e.g. the defeat at Cannae).

The Cimbri and Teutones, who invaded Gaul and northern Italy at the end of the 2nd Century BC, sacrificed captured Roman soldiers to their gods. The victims had their throats cut over giant gold cauldrons - not unlike the famous Gundestrup Cauldron found in Denmark. Incidentally, the Gundestrup Cauldron depicts a scene of a man being drowned in a cauldron. The Pictish stones of the Scottish Highlands, dating from about the 3rd to the 9th Centuries AD, also depict people being drowned in buckets or cauldrons.

The Lusitani of Portugal - a partially Hispanic, partially Celtic people - were said to have butchered pregnant women as offerings to their fertility goddess. The Galatians - descendants of Gaulish mercenaries who settled in Phrygia - were accused of human sacrifice on several occasions - most famously in the aftermath of a great victory over a Greek army, they killed all the most attractive and well-built captives. Lucan, Tacitus, and others record incidents of human sacrifice in Celtic culture. Tacitus tells of the black-robed female druids of Mona, who were drenched in the blood of slain prisoners. The Britons were also accused of human sacrifice during the contemporary revolt of Boudica - female Roman captives were hung, their breasts cut off and sowed onto their mouths, apparently as offerings for the British war-goddess Bouda.

Druids were rumored to deal fatal blows to prisoners with weapons, and then record the man's death throes to use for the prediction of the future. Sacred druidic groves in the forest were alleged to have been splattered with the blood and innards of both human and animal offerings. Julius Caesar recorded the most infamous case of all - the "Wicker Man". Dozens of captives would be crammed into a giant wooden giant, which would then be set on fire. Caesar notes that the victims were usually criminals, but innocent people were used if there weren't enough law-breakers to fill the giant.

At least as early as the 4th Century BC, the Graeco-Roman world considered the slaughter of human victims for purposes of divination or divine appeasement to be an essenital part of their stereotype of the northern Barbarian. By the time Tacitus wrote about the wild women of Mona, and the vengeful horde that marched under the Queen of the Iceni, Roman audiences were expecting to hear scandalous tales of what the Celtic *barbari* were doing with their captives - just as they were expecting to hear of how the Celts had charged into battle, naked and screaming like madmen, and had fallen under the swordstrokes of Rome's all-conquering legionaries like wheat before a farmer's scythe. It was all part of a "noble savage" legend that was relished by the people of the Empire.

But how much evidence for human sacrifice have the Celts themselves left us? The Gundestrup Cauldron and three or four Pictish stones depicting apparent ritual drownings are the only artistic portrayals of such rituals to be found in all of the ancient Celtic world. And even the true meaning behind these depictions is debateable. The "Cauldron of Rebirth" - a magical means by which souls were transported from this world to the Otherworld, and back again - appears in Welsh literature. Perhaps the Cauldron and these stones in fact depict a reincarnation ritual, a sort of pre-Christian baptism?

In ancient and early medieval times, adultery was a capital offense (at least for women) in Germanic society. Women found guilty of adultery were stripped and had their heads shaved before they were paraded around the village and suffered verbal and physical abuse at the hands of their fellow tribesmen. Such luckless offenders were then bound and thrown in a lake to drown. This explains at least some of the modernly-named "bog bodies", people that were deliberately thrown in a bog - often after being bound and tortured - to drown. If similar customs existed in Celtic culture - then perhaps the Celts were not "sacrificing" people as the Romans thought - but were in fact executing murderers and adulterers? Even Caesar noted that the ideal victim for the Gaulish "Wicker Man" ritual was a criminal.

Pre-Christian and early Christian Gaelic literature is one our best, and arguably purest, glimpses into the culture and worldview of Iron Age Celtic tribes. In all of Ireland's rich and ancient mythical tradition - there is only one reference to human sacrifice. The High King of Teamhair, Tigernmas, set up an idol called Cromm Cruach, and ordered that children be killed as offerings to it. It was, ironically, the druids of Ireland that brought an end to this bloody cult, murdering Tigernmas during a frenzied ceremony around the idol.

But it should be remembered that the first men to commit Ireland's oral histories and mythical cycles to writing were Gaelic Christian monks - they were neither pagans, nor prejudiced Catholic priests. They were men who were Christians in terms of what they believed, but who were still very much a part of Celtic culture and had a great reverence for the old ways. Indeed, Ireland's first Christian teachers saw themselves as druids, and even called Christ "The Chief Druid" and "The King of the Summerland". So these first Irish Christians were in fact prejudiced in favor of the druids, and would not have been too keen to remember - let alone commit to writing - any brutal deeds done by their spiritual forefathers.

We have little more than Graeco-Roman propoganda writings - and a few shabby pieces of native evidence that can be interpreted in many different ways - as proof that the ancient Celts did indeed kill their fellow men as offerings for the gods. It is one of the thousands of ancient mysteries that, at this late hour in human history, we will probably never be able to satisfactorily solve.

Journal: St. Patrick, Christianity, Druidism, and Rome: was there some sort of cultural revolution? Hadrian destroyed Judaea, then built a wall spanning the entire width of the island of britian. Was their history destroyed by their conqueror, changed forever in order to bring them to heel?

The era of Druidry that the Irish and Classical authors describe lasted from perhaps 400BCE to 600CE – about a thousand years. But by the sixth century all of Europe was Christian, and overt pagan

practice had probably ceased to exist. Although Christianity was antagonistic to other faiths, it was also built out of many elements of paganism: the eucharist of bread and wine was also the ritual feast of the Eleusinian mysteries, for example, and we can read papal bulls which change the celebration of Christ’s birth from springtime to coincide with celebrations linked to the Winter Solstice. In a similar manner Christian saints, such as St Brighid and St. Dionysus, built upon the histories and reputations of pagan gods and goddesses. And sacred sites were co-opted to the new faith, with churches built upon shrines to gods such as Apollo or within sacred groves. This meant that pagan cults such as Druidism, rather than being wiped out, were actually assimilated into Christianity, creating a complex fusion, which encouraged the Revival Druids of the 17th & 18th centuries to try to discern the Druidry within Christianity.
https://druidry.org/druid-way/what-druidry/a-longer-history

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We have little more than Roman propaganda writings as proof that the ancient Celts did indeed kill their fellow men as offerings for the gods. It is one of the thousands of ancient mysteries that, at this late hour in human history, we will probably never be able to satisfactorily solve.

https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/ancient-celts-human-sacrifice

According to tradition dating back to the early Middle Ages, Patrick served as the first bishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland, and credits him with bringing Christianity to Ireland, converting a pagan society.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick

The Scientific Revolution: 1543–1687

The **Scientific Revolution** was a series of events that marked the emergence of modern science during the early modern period, when developments in mathematics, physics, astronomy, biology (including human anatomy) and chemistry transformed the views of society about nature.[1][2][3][4][5][6] The Scientific Revolution took place in Europe starting towards the second half of the Renaissance period, with the 1543 Nicolaus Copernicus publication *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (*On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*) often cited as its beginning.[7]

The era of the Scientific Renaissance focused to some degree on recovering the knowledge of the ancients and is considered to have culminated in the 1687 Isaac Newton publication *Principia* which formulated the laws of motion and universal gravitation,[8] thereby completing the synthesis of a new cosmology. The subsequent Age of Enlightenment saw the concept of a scientific revolution emerge in the 18th-century work of Jean Sylvain Bailly, who described a two-stage process of sweeping away the old and establishing the new.[9] There continues to be scholarly engagement regarding the boundaries of the Scientific Revolution and its chronology.

Introduction

The rediscovery of Greek and Roman science and technology (which also formed the basis for Islamic science) in Medieval Europe led to the Scientific Renaissance and Scientific Revolution.

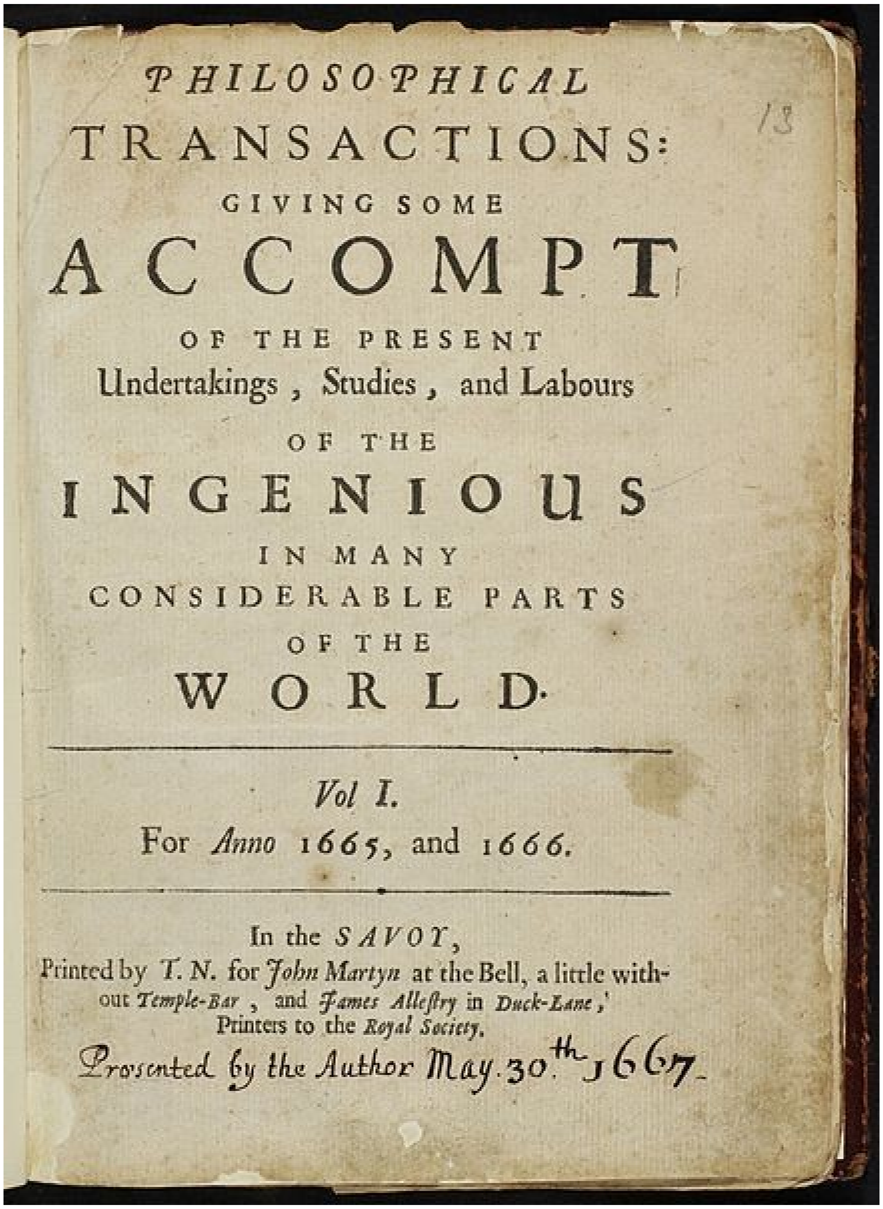
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire

the flat earth theory originates from the ancient greeks. Wikipedia says that it was used until Galilleo invented the telescope..

The geocentric model was the predominant description of the cosmos in many European ancient civilizations, such as those of Aristotle in Classical Greece and Ptolemy in Roman Egypt. Ptolemy’s geocentric model was adopted and refined during the Islamic Golden Age, which Muslims believed correlated with the teachings of Islam.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geocentric_model

History, fall of rome: **Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, oldest science journal in the world**



13

PHILOSOPHICAL
TRANSACTIONS:
GIVING SOME
ACCOMPT
OF THE PRESENT
Undertakings, Studies, and Labours
OF THE
INGENIOUS
IN MANY
CONSIDERABLE PARTS
OF THE
WORLD.

Vol I.
For *Anno* 1665, and 1666.

In the *SAVOY*,
Printed by *T. N.* for *John Martyn* at the Bell, a little without *Temple-Bar*, and *James Alleſtry* in *Duck-Lane*,
Printers to the *Royal Society*.

Presented by the Author May. 30th 1667

Philip the Arab succeeded Gordian III, who had succeeded his uncle and grandfather who had been killed after being elected Co-Emporers in rebellion to Maximinus

Philip the Arab succeeded Gordian III, who had succeeded his uncle and grandfather after they were killed following their election by the senate as Co-Emporers to fight Maximinus, who at the time was hated by the majority. This event sparked the beginning of the crisis of the 3rd century, when the empire started to become more fragmented by opposing claims to the throne.

In 235, following the murder of Emperor Alexander Severus in Moguntiacum (modern Mainz),[6] the capital of the Roman province Germania Superior, Maximinus Thrax was acclaimed emperor.[7] In the following years, there was a growing opposition against Maximinus in the Roman Senate and amongst the majority of the population of Rome. In 238, a rebellion broke out in the Africa Province, where Gordian's grandfather and uncle, Gordian I and II, were proclaimed joint emperors.[8] This revolt was suppressed within a month by Cappellianus, governor of Numidia and a loyal supporter of Maximinus Thrax.[8]

The Senate, showing its hostility towards Maximinus by supporting the Gordiani, elected Pupienus and Balbinus as joint emperors.[9] These senators were not popular men, so the Senate decided to raise Marcus Antonius Gordianus to the rank of *Caesar*.[10] Maximinus, moving quickly to attack the Senate's newly elected emperors, encountered difficulties marching his army through an Alpine winter.[10] Arriving at Aquileia and short on supplies, Maximinus besieged the city.[10] After four weeks, Maximinus' demoralized army mutinied and the Legio II Parthica murdered him.[11]

The situation for Pupienus and Balbinus, despite Maximinus' death, was doomed from the start with popular riots, military discontent and an enormous fire that consumed Rome in June 238. The next month, Pupienus and Balbinus were killed by the Praetorian Guard and Gordian proclaimed sole emperor.[12]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_III

And this confirms that Maximinus is in fact considered the beginning of th e crisis of the 3rd century....

His father was an accountant in the governor's office and sprang from ancestors who were Carpi (a Dacian tribe), a people whom Diocletian would eventually drive from their ancient abode (in Dacia) and transfer to Pannonia.[4] Maximinus was the commander of the Legio IV *Italica* when Severus Alexander was assassinated by his own troops in 235. The Pannonian army then elected Maximinus emperor.[5]

In 238 (which came to be known as the Year of the Six Emperors), a senatorial revolt broke out, leading to the successive proclamation of Gordian I, Gordian II, Pupienus, Balbinus and Gordian III as emperors in opposition to Maximinus. Maximinus advanced on Rome to put down the revolt, but was halted at Aquileia, where he was assassinated by disaffected elements of the Legio II *Parthica*.

Maximinus is described by several ancient sources, though none are contemporary except Herodian's *Roman History*. He was a so-called barracks emperor of the 3rd century;[6] his rule is often considered to mark the beginning of the Crisis of the Third Century. Maximinus was the first emperor who hailed neither from the senatorial class nor from the equestrian class.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximinus_Thrax

Then came Decius after philip the arab took control of the empire for a short period of time following Gordian III's death. Apparently headed the first persecution of christians.

A distinguished politician during the reign of Philip the Arab, Decius was proclaimed emperor by his troops after putting down a rebellion in Moesia. In 249, he defeated and killed Philip near Verona and was recognized as emperor by the Senate afterwards. During his reign, he attempted to strengthen the Roman state and its religion, leading to the Decian persecution, where a number of prominent Christians (including Pope Fabian) were put to death. In the last year of his reign, Decius co-ruled with his son Herennius Etruscus, until they were both killed by the Goths in the Battle of Abritus.

The Decian persecution was the first organized persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire and served as the basis for the Diocletianic Persecution, the last major persecution of Christians in the Empire.[19][20]

The later legend of the Seven Sleepers, about seven Christian youths from Ephesus who fled the Decian persecution by hiding in a cave (walled up by Decius) and sleeping for almost 200 years, emerged in the Middle Ages. The Quranic account, captured in Al-Kahf ("The Cave") surah (chapter).[21][22], has led to the Persian saying of *ahd-e daqyānus* ("age of Decius") or *daqyānus* referring to ancient times or a person with outdated views. When something is old and outdated, people say, "this belongs to the age of Decius."[23]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decius

After Decius was succeeded by Valierian, he tried attacking the Christians using a top down approach, confiscating property, etc., but not attack normal christian followers.

There can be little doubt that Decius, on the contrary, made a deliberate attempt to stamp out Christianity. The ostensible occasion was a general sacrifice and libation to the gods by all the inhabitants of the empire, which might be taken at its face value

but that everyone was ordered not only to sacrifice, but to obtain a certificate from specially constituted boards of inspection in each city, that he had on this occasion made sacrifice and libation, and had always done so in the past. The edict achieved a considerable success. Vast numbers of Christians, as both Cyprian and Dionysius testify, especially members of the upper classes, whose absence would excite notice, crowded to sacrifice. On the other hand large numbers of humbler people held back, hoping to evade the test, and the steadfastness of a small number of confessors and martyrs, who refused to abjure under torture and even underwent the death penalty, roused and maintained the spirit of the rest. Decius was soon involved in the Gothic war in which he met his death, and the persecution lapsed. The final result was rather to strengthen the church than to weaken it. There were strong differences of opinion on the treatment of the lapsed, but eventually generous counsels prevailed, and they were re-admitted.

Valerian's purpose was even more evidently to destroy the church ; but he adopted a different line of attack. Persons of high degree, senators, Roman knights and imperial freedmen, were ordered to abjure under penalty of confiscation and, as a final resort, death. The clergy, if they refused to abjure, were deported, religious meetings were banned, and church buildings, burial grounds and other property confiscated: the ordinary Christian was left undisturbed. Later severer measures were taken against members of the clergy who proved obdurate, and several, including Cyprian, were executed. This attempt to break up the organisation of the church seems to have met with little success. The persecu- tion dragged on for three or four years, but was eventually called off, when Valerian was captured by the Persians, by his son and successor, Gallienus. Gallienus not only released the clergy, but also restored its property to the church, thus initiating a policy of toleration, which was to last for forty years.

While we know much of the Christian reaction to the persecu- tions, we can only infer the motives which led Decius and Valerian to break with the traditional policy of the imperial government. Christianity had been spreading, and in particular, as Valerian's edict shows, had been infecting the higher ranks of society. It could no longer be ignored. The unceasing series of disasters, the civil wars, barbarian invasions, plagues and famines, which afflicted the Roman world at this time, led to a widespread belief that the gods were gravely angered against the empire. The con- clusion was to many obvious, that it was the spread of atheism that provoked the increasing anger of the gods : Cyprian endeavoured to rebut this conclusion, arguing that the world was suffering from senile decay. /There was at the same time a marked growth of religiosity amongst pagans, due no doubt in part to the sombre character of the times/ This particularly affected the upper classes — the masses had probably always preserved religious belief — among whom the easy agnosticism or thoughtless conformity of the first and second centuries began to give way to a more serious religious ^attitudeft Philosophy, ''which had been the guide of more earnest spMfs, eecame impregnated with religious ideas, and struck up an alliance with popular religion: philosophers no longer ignored the popular cults of the masses, but defended them as allegorical versions of philosophical truth/ It is probable that in this changed climate of opinion the governing class of the empire tended in- creasingly to share the popular belief that Christianity was an offence to the divine powers on whom the fate of the empire depended, and that this accounts for Decius' and Valerian’s apparently abrupt reversal of the half-hearted policy of toleration hitherto pursued by the imperial government.

The Notitia Dignitatum (Latin for "The List of Offices") is a document of the late Roman Empire that details the administrative organization of the Western and the Eastern Roman Empire. It is unique as one of very few surviving documents of Roman government, and describes several thousand offices from the imperial court to provincial governments, diplomatic missions, and army units.

Laterculus Veronensis: The document comprises a list of the names of all the provinces of the empire (c. 100 in total), organised according to

the twelve newly created regional groupings called dioceses.

"Constitution of Antoninus", also called "Edict of Caracalla" or "Antonine Constitution") was an edict issued in 212 by Caracalla declaring that all free men in the Roman Empire were to be given full Roman citizenship, with the exception of the dediticii, people who had become subject to Rome through surrender in war, ... https://artsandculture.google.com/story/the-roman-document-that-defined-a-first-in-civil-and-human-rights-unesco-memory-of-the-world/qwVhsPQ48wOc8g?hl=en

this emporer from an ancient imperial family dynasty is said to have ushered in the 'crisis of the third century'.

The **Severan dynasty** was a Roman imperial dynasty that ruled the Roman Empire between 193 and 235, during the Roman imperial period. The dynasty was founded by the emperor Septimius Severus (r. 193–211), who rose to power after the Year of the Five Emperors as the victor of the civil war of 193–197, and his wife, Julia Domna. After the short reigns and assassinations of their two sons, Caracalla (r. 198–217) and Geta (r. 209–211), who succeeded their father in the government of the empire, Julia Domna's relatives themselves assumed power by raising Elagabalus (r. 218–222) and then Severus Alexander (r. 222–235) to the imperial office.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severan_dynasty

Marcus Aurelius Severus Alexander[1] (1 October 208 – 21/22 March 235) was a Roman emperor, who reigned from 222 until 235. He was the last emperor from the Severan dynasty. He succeeded his slain cousin Elagabalus in 222. Alexander himself was eventually assassinated, and his death marked the beginning of the events of the Crisis of the Third Century, which included nearly fifty years of civil war, foreign invasion, and the collapse of the monetary economy.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Severus_Alexander

Before the Severus dynasty, there was the The **Nerva–Antonine dynasty, ruling** from 96 to 192 AD..

- Nerva (96–98),
- Trajan (98–117),
- Hadrian (117–138),
- Antoninus Pius (138–161),
- Marcus Aurelius (161–180),
- Lucius Verus (161–169),
- and Commodus (180–192).

The first five of the six successions within this dynasty were notable in that the reigning Emperor did not have a male heir, and had to adopt the candidate of his choice to be his successor. Under Roman law, an adoption established a bond legally as strong as that of kinship. Because of this, all but the first and last of the Nerva–Antonine emperors are called **Adoptive Emperors**.

The importance of official adoption in Roman society has often been considered[1] a conscious repudiation of the principle of dynastic inheritance and has been deemed one of the factors of the period's prosperity. However, this was not a new practice. It was common for patrician families to adopt, and Roman emperors had adopted heirs in the past: the Emperor Augustus had adopted Tiberius, and the Emperor Claudius had adopted Nero. Julius Caesar, dictator perpetuo and considered to be instrumental in the transition from Republic to Empire, adopted Gaius Octavius, who later became Augustus, Rome's first emperor. Moreover, there were often still family connections: Trajan adopted his first cousin once removed and great-nephew by marriage Hadrian, Hadrian made his half-nephew by marriage Antoninus Pius heir, and the latter adopted both Hadrian's half-great-nephew by marriage Marcus Aurelius (Antonius' nephew by marriage) and the son of Hadrian's original planned successor, Lucius Verus. Marcus Aurelius's naming of his son Commodus as heir was considered to be an unfortunate choice and the beginning of the Empire's decline.[2]

With the murder of Commodus in 192, the Nerva–Antonine dynasty came to an end; it was followed by a period of turbulence known as the Year of the Five Emperors."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerva%E2%80%93Antonine_dynasty#Five_Good_Emperors

According to Cassius Dio, a period of peace and prosperity, known by historians s Px Romana, ended with the the assination of COmmodus.

The **Pax Romana** (Latin for 'Roman peace') is a roughly 200-year-long timespan of Roman history which is identified as a period and as a golden age of increased as well as sustained Roman imperialism, relative peace and order, prosperous stability, hegemonial power, and regional expansion, despite several revolts and wars, and continuing competition with Parthia. It is traditionally dated as commencing from the accession of Augustus, founder of the Roman principate, in 27 BC and concluding in 180 AD with the death of Marcus Aurelius, the last of the "Five Good Emperors".[1] Since it was inaugurated by Augustus at the end of the final war of the Roman Republic, it is sometimes also called the **Pax Augusta**. During this period of about two centuries,[2] the Roman Empire achieved its greatest territorial extent and its population reached a maximum of up to 70 million people.[3] According to Cassius Dio, the dictatorial reign of Commodus, later followed by the Year of the Five Emperors and the Crisis of the Third Century, marked the descent "from a kingdom of gold to one of iron and rust".[4]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pax_Romana

And what gfollwoed was essentially a war of succession, coined "the year of five emporers".

The **Year of the Five Emperors** was AD 193, in which five men claimed the title of Roman emperor: Pertinax, Didius Julianus, Pescennius Niger, Clodius Albinus, and Septimius Severus. This year started a period of civil war when multiple rulers vied for the chance to become emperor.

The political unrest began with the murder of Emperor Commodus on New Year's Eve 192. Once Commodus was assassinated, Pertinax was named emperor, but immediately aroused opposition in the Praetorian Guard when he attempted to initiate reforms. They then plotted his assassination, and Pertinax was killed while trying to reason with the mutineers.[1] He had only been emperor for three months. Didius Julianus, who purchased the title from the Praetorian Guard, succeeded Pertinax, but was ousted by Septimius Severus and executed on June 1. Severus was declared Caesar by the Senate, but Pescennius Niger was hostile when he declared himself emperor.[2] This started the civil war between Niger and Severus; both gathered troops and fought throughout the territory of the empire. Due to this war, Severus allowed Clodius Albinus, whom he suspected of being a threat, to be co-Caesar so that Severus did not have to preoccupy himself with imperial governance. This move allowed him to concentrate on waging the war against Niger.[1] Most historians count Severus and Albinus as two emperors, though they ruled simultaneously. The Severan dynasty was created out of the chaos of AD 193.[2]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_of_the_Five_Emperors

druidic, celtic irish history....seems likely that it was destroyed by the romans

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Druidic_alphabet
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtic_Britons
https://archive.org/details/historyofcelticp0000hube/page/n173/mode/2up?view=theater
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Druid

PART ONE

WHAT THE CELTS WERE

CHAPTER I

THE NAME AND THE RACE

WHAT, then, were the Celts? We must first have some idea of what they were if we are to find out where they were. Every group of men living together forms a physical, social, and moral unit. Its members know one another and are known to others by their physical type, and, still more, by their manner of life, their language, certain sides of their civilization, their name, if they have a common name implying that they belong to the group, or some other symbol. Let us see how these various indications will help us in our study of the Celts.

I

THE NAME OF THE CELTS

The ancient Greek writers who have left information about the Celts used the name Κελτοί, Latin *Celtæ*, as a general racial designation applying to large peoples living a long way off. At the beginning of the third century before Christ, a new name, that of Galatians, Γαλάται, appears for the first time in the historian Hieronymos of Cardia,[1] who wrote of their invasion of Macedonia and Greece and their settlement in Asia Minor. It appeared in the epitaph of young Cydias, who was killed at Delphi in 279.[2] It is probable that the name of *Galli* came into use among the Italians, as a rival to the old name of Celts, about the same time or a little before. The words Galatians and Galli were likewise used as general terms, and were not the names of small groups which became generalized.

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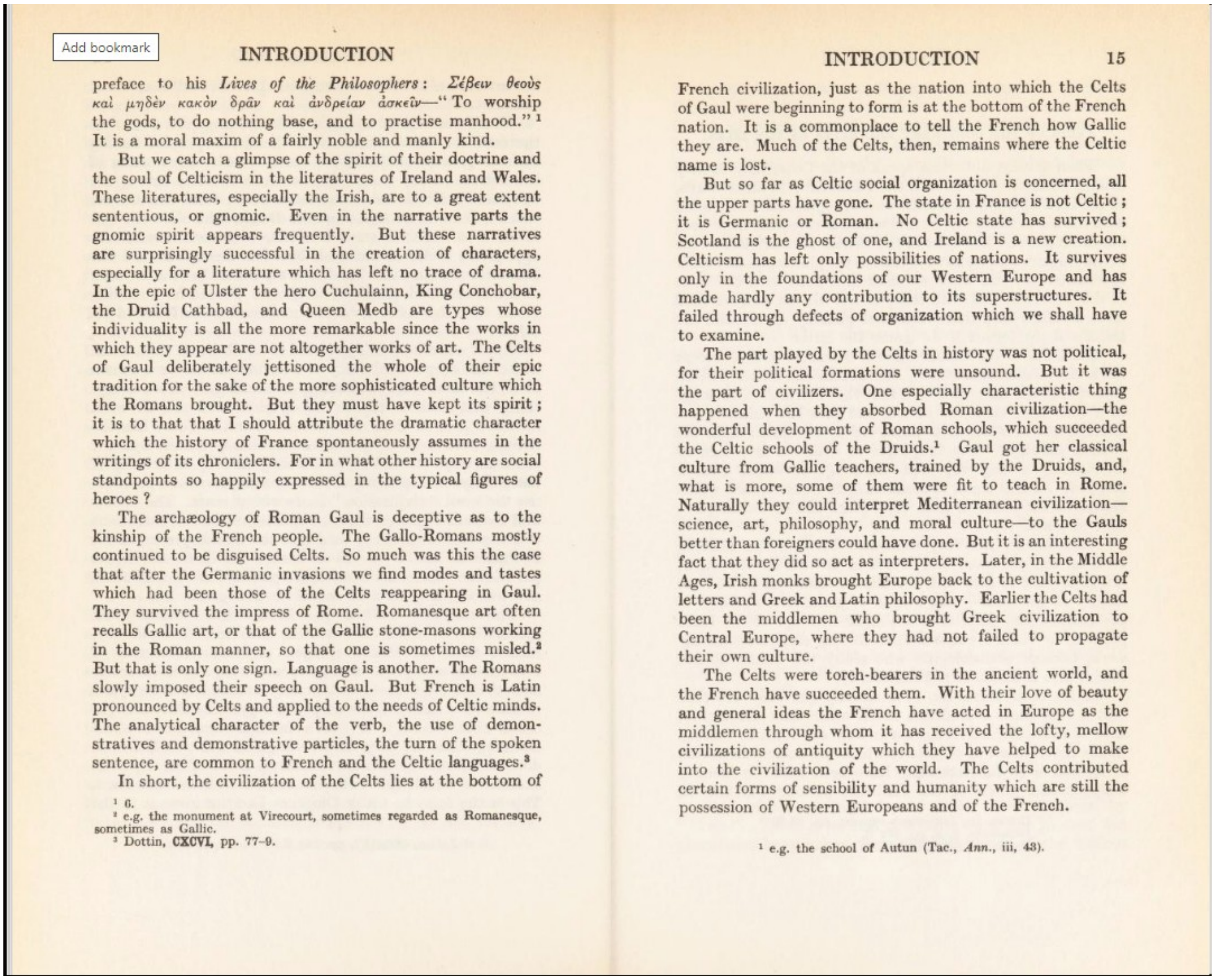
[1] *F.H.G.*, ii, 450–461.

[2] Paus., x, 21, 5.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preface to his *Lives of the Philosophers*: *Σέβειν θεοὺς καὶ μηδὲν κακὸν δρᾶν καὶ ἀνδρείαν ἀσκεῖν*—"To worship the gods, to do nothing base, and to practise manhood." [1] It is a moral maxim of a fairly noble and manly kind.

But we catch a glimpse of the spirit of their doctrine and the soul of Celticism in the literatures of Ireland and Wales. These literatures, especially the Irish, are to a great extent sententious, or gnomic. Even in the narrative parts the gnomic spirit appears frequently. But these narratives are surprisingly successful in the creation of characters, especially for a literature which has left no trace of drama. In the epic of Ulster the hero Cuchulainn, King Conchobar, the Druid Cathbad, and Queen Medb are types whose individuality is all the more remarkable since the works in which they appear are not altogether works of art. The Celts of Gaul deliberately jettisoned the whole of their epic tradition for the sake of the more sophisticated culture which the Romans brought. But they must have kept its spirit; it is to that that I should attribute the dramatic character which the history of France spontaneously assumes in the writings of its chroniclers. For in what other history are social standpoints so happily expressed in the typical figures of heroes?

The archæology of Roman Gaul is deceptive as to the kinship of the French people. The Gallo-Romans mostly continued to be disguised Celts. So much was this the case that after the Germanic invasions we find modes and tastes which had been those of the Celts reappearing in Gaul. They survived the impress of Rome. Romanesque art often recalls Gallic art, or that of the Gallic stone-masons working in the Roman manner, so that one is sometimes misled.[2] But that is only one sign. Language is another. The Romans slowly imposed their speech on Gaul. But French is Latin pronounced by Celts and applied to the needs of Celtic minds. The analytical character of the verb, the use of demonstratives and demonstrative particles, the turn of the spoken sentence, are common to French and the Celtic languages.[3]

In short, the civilization of the Celts lies at the bottom of French civilization, just as the nation into which the Celts of Gaul were beginning to form is at the bottom of the French nation. It is a commonplace to tell the French how Gallic they are. Much of the Celts, then, remains where the Celtic name is lost.

But so far as Celtic social organization is concerned, all the upper parts have gone. The state in France is not Celtic; it is Germanic or Roman. No Celtic state has survived; Scotland is the ghost of one, and Ireland is a new creation. Celticism has left only possibilities of nations. It survives only in the foundations of our Western Europe and has made hardly any contribution to its superstructures. It failed through defects of organization which we shall have to examine.

The part played by the Celts in history was not political, for their political formations were unsound. But it was the part of civilizers. One especially characteristic thing happened when they absorbed Roman civilization—the wonderful development of Roman schools, which succeeded the Celtic schools of the Druids.[1] Gaul got her classical culture from Gallic teachers, trained by the Druids, and, what is more, some of them were fit to teach in Rome. Naturally they could interpret Mediterranean civilization—science, art, philosophy, and moral culture—to the Gauls better than foreigners could have done. But it is an interesting fact that they did so act as interpreters. Later, in the Middle Ages, Irish monks brought Europe back to the cultivation of letters and Greek and Latin philosophy. Earlier the Celts had been the middlemen who brought Greek civilization to Central Europe, where they had not failed to propagate their own culture.

The Celts were torch-bearers in the ancient world, and the French have succeeded them. With their love of beauty and general ideas the French have acted in Europe as the middlemen through whom it has received the lofty, mellow civilizations of antiquity which they have helped to make into the civilization of the world. The Celts contributed certain forms of sensibility and humanity which are still the possession of Western Europeans and of the French.

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[1] G.

[2] e.g. the monument at Virecourt, sometimes regarded as Romanesque, sometimes as Gallic.

[3] Dottin, **CXCVI**, pp. 77–9.

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[1] e.g. the school of Autun (Tac., *Ann.*, iii, 43).

PART TWO

MOVEMENTS OF THE CELTIC PEOPLES

CHAPTER I

The Origins of the Celts

I

THE SEPARATION OF THE GOIDELS AND THE BRYTHONS

WE now have to try to find out whence they came, where they went, how they expanded, and where they stopped—in short, to trace their history—and that will be the second part of our inquiry.

The fact which dominates the whole history of the Celts, and apparently starts it, following as it did closely upon the breaking-up of the Italo-Celtic community (if that abstract concept ever corresponded to the existence of a definite social group), is their separation into two groups of peoples, whose languages became different as has been explained above—that is, the Goidelic, or Irish, group, and the Brythonic group, which includes the Gauls.

The separation of the Celtic dialects is a fact of far greater importance than the supposed distinction between the Celts and the Gauls.[1] It implies a fairly deep division between the peoples which spoke these two groups of dialects, and also a fairly long separation,[2] a fairly long interval between the migrations of the two Celtic bodies, a rhythm in those migrations not unlike that assumed by those historians who speculate on the distinction between Celts and Gauls, but much ampler. In other words, it leads one to believe that the occupation of the British Isles by the Celts and of Ireland by the Goidels took place long before—centuries before—the historical movements of the Brythonic peoples. These latter expanded about the sixth century before Christ. We must go back to the Bronze Age for the earlier invasion.

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[1] Dottin., **CCCXXII**, pp. 12 ff.

[2] Sir John Rhys once tried to explain the phenomenon of labialization by the absorption of the Continental Celts by non-Aryan peoples (**CCXX**). Cf. S. Reinach, *Origine des Aryens*, pp. 108–112. D'Arbois has refuted this theory (**CXL**, 1891, p. 477).

The first Greek who was in a position to give more definite and circumstantial information about the Celts of the Ocean was a traveller of Marseilles named Pytheas.[1] Unfortunately his account of his voyage, *Of the Ocean*, was severely mishandled by erudite persons, like Polybios and Strabo, for whose critical spirit it was too much. He was a strange individual, no doubt, but he knew as much of mathematics and astronomy as anyone of his time, and he had the spirit of the explorer. He embarked twice with a few companions in Phœnician vessels, and sailed from Spain to Britain, to distant Thule, and eastwards to Denmark, perhaps further. He saw the sea icebound, and days which lasted twenty-four hours. He came across the Osismii at the end of Finistère. He knew the Celtic name of the Isle of Ushant, "Uxisama,"[2] that of Kent, "Cantion,"[3] and also the name by which Britain was to be henceforth always called, "the Prettanic Isles," which superseded its Ligurian or Iberian name of Albion.[4] Pytheas lived in the fourth century. Some decades after his time the Sicilian historian Timæos stated that the rivers which flow into the Atlantic went through the Celtic country.[5]

So the Greeks knew that the Celts had arrived on the coasts of the western seas before 600 B.C. and on the Atlantic seaboard of Spain before 500, and that those of them whom we now call the Brythons had reached Britain and Brittany and occupied the whole of the Gallic coast of the Ocean before 300. By that time they had at last come down on to the Mediterranean, but only within the last few decades. On the whole, it was on the Atlantic side that the Celts first came into direct contact with the Mediterranean mariner. Behind Pytheas lay a long past of seafaring—Ægean, Mycenæan, and Tartessian—in the course of which Northern Europe had received much of Mediterranean civilization. The navigators of the West knew the Celts, the names of their countries and of their peoples; things on the Celtic coast were familiar to them and, so far as the Greeks were concerned,

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[1] D'Arbois, **CCXLVIII**, xii, pp. 63 ff.; Müllenhoff, **CCCLXII**, i, pp. 327 ff.; Jullian, **CCCXLVII**, i, pp. 415 ff.; A. Blazquez, in **XXXVI**, Jan.–Mar., 1913.

[2] Loth in **CXL**, x, p. 352.

[3] Strabo, i, 4, 3; Rhys, **CCXXX**, p. 22; Irish *céte*, market.

[4] E. Philipon, **CCCLXI**, pp. 294 ff.

[5] Fr. 36, in Plutarch, *De Plac. Phil.*, iii, 17, 2.

could be brought into the domain of Greek legend,[1] whereas, hidden behind misty mountains, the Celts of the Continent were still something mysterious and remote. No doubt the mariners of that time could keep their discoveries secret. There were, too, catastrophes in the Mediterranean world in which local traditions were lost. Nevertheless, a writer who about 150 B.C. could say that the discovery of the countries on the Great Ocean was quite recent[2] was displaying lamentable ignorance. But the great majority of the Greeks were no wiser. Meanwhile, the whole interior of the Celtic region and the movements of the Celts remained quite unknown to the mass of Greeks and Romans until Cæsar conquered Gaul.[3]

In the Mediterranean region, on the other hand, the Celts advanced rapidly from the fourth century onwards. One fine day the Greeks, or rather the Macedonians, found themselves face to face with their military organization to the north of the Balkans. This was in the time of Alexander, in 335 B.C. Alexander, in the course of an expedition against the Getæ, was receiving the representatives of the Danubian peoples. "Some, too, came," says Arrian,[4] "from the Celts established on the Ionic Gulf." Alexander received them amicably. This was the occasion on which he asked them, at a feast, what they feared most in the world. "That the sky should fall on our heads," is their alleged reply. The scene was described, so Strabo assures us,[5] by Ptolemy, son of Lagos, who added that the Celts of the Adriatic coast (τοὺς περὶ τὴν Ἀδρίαν) had entered into bonds of friendship and hospitality with him.

If these Celts who came to Alexander really lived on the Adriatic, they came from the Italian coast of that sea.[6] The story of the events which had brought them thither had already reached Greece. In his *Life of Camillus* Plutarch quotes a curious passage from Heracleides Ponticos,

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[1] e.g., the legend of Geryon. Cf. Reinach, **CCCLXXII**, pp. 121, 177; **CCCLXXIV**, i, p. 244.

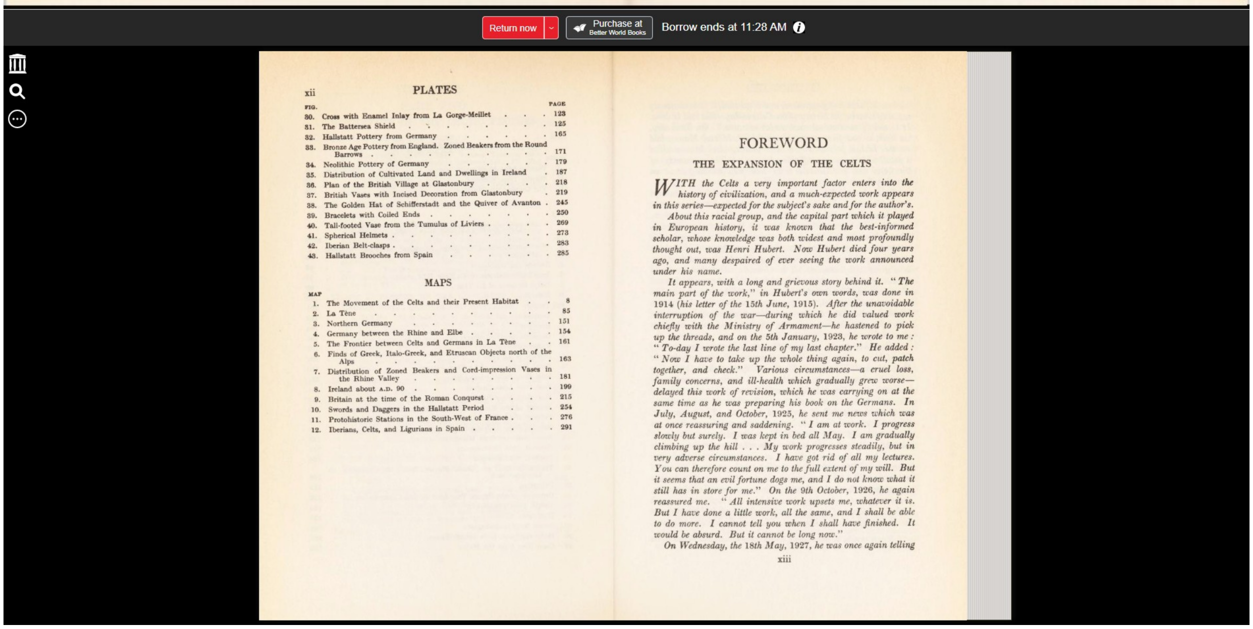
[2] Polybios, iii, 37–8. For Greek ignorance of geography, see Bertrand and Reinach, **DXLII**, p. 4. Cf. Xenophon, *Cyr.*, 2.

[3] Cicero, Ep. clxi.

[4] *Anab.*, i, 4, 6.

[5] vii, 3, 8.

[6] The *Periplus* of Scylax (18–19) speaks of Celts on the Adriatic as early as 350.



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FOREWORD

THE EXPANSION OF THE CELTS

WITH the Celts a very important factor enters into the history of civilization, and a much-expected work appears in this series—expected for the subject's sake and for the author's.

About this racial group, and the capital part which it played in European history, it was known that the best-informed scholar, whose knowledge was both widest and most profoundly thought out, was Henri Hubert. Now Hubert died four years ago, and many despaired of ever seeing the work announced under his name.

It appears, with a long and grievous story behind it. "The main part of the work," in Hubert's own words, was done in 1914 (*his letter of the* 15*th June,* 1915). *After the unavoidable interruption of the war—during which he did valued work chiefly with the Ministry of Armament—he hastened to pick up the threads, and on the* 5*th January,* 1923, *he wrote to me: "To-day I wrote the last line of my last chapter." He added: "Now I have to take up the whole thing again, to cut, patch together, and check." Various circumstances—a cruel loss, family concerns, and ill-health which gradually grew worse—delayed this work of revision, which he was carrying on at the same time as he was preparing his book on the Germans. In July, August, and October,* 1925, *he sent me news which was at once reassuring and saddening. "I am at work. I progress slowly but surely. I was kept in bed all May. I am gradually climbing up the hill . . . My work progresses steadily, but in very adverse circumstances. I have got rid of all my lectures. You can therefore count on me to the full extent of my will. But it seems that an evil fortune dogs me, and I do not know what it still has in store for me." On the* 9*th October,* 1926, *he again reassured me. "All intensive work upsets me, whatever it is. But I have done a little work, all the same, and I shall be able to do more. I cannot tell you when I shall have finished. It would be absurd. But it cannot be long now."*

On Wednesday, the 18*th May,* 1927, *he was once again telling*

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INTRODUCTION

I

THE BARBARIANS

THE European borders of the Græco-Roman world were inhabited by barbarians, some of whom have earned a place in history. There were the Scythians in the east, the Iberians and Ligurians in the west, and the Thracians, Illyrians, Germans, and Celts in the centre. Classical authors took the trouble to write down their names, and some inquired with curiosity into their life and manners. Mediterranean merchants visited them, and may have penetrated among the very remotest, in search of amber, tin, furs, and slaves. Barbarians appeared in Greek and Italian cities as slaves or travellers. There were certainly some among them who were prophets of civilization, and some were cited as models of wisdom.

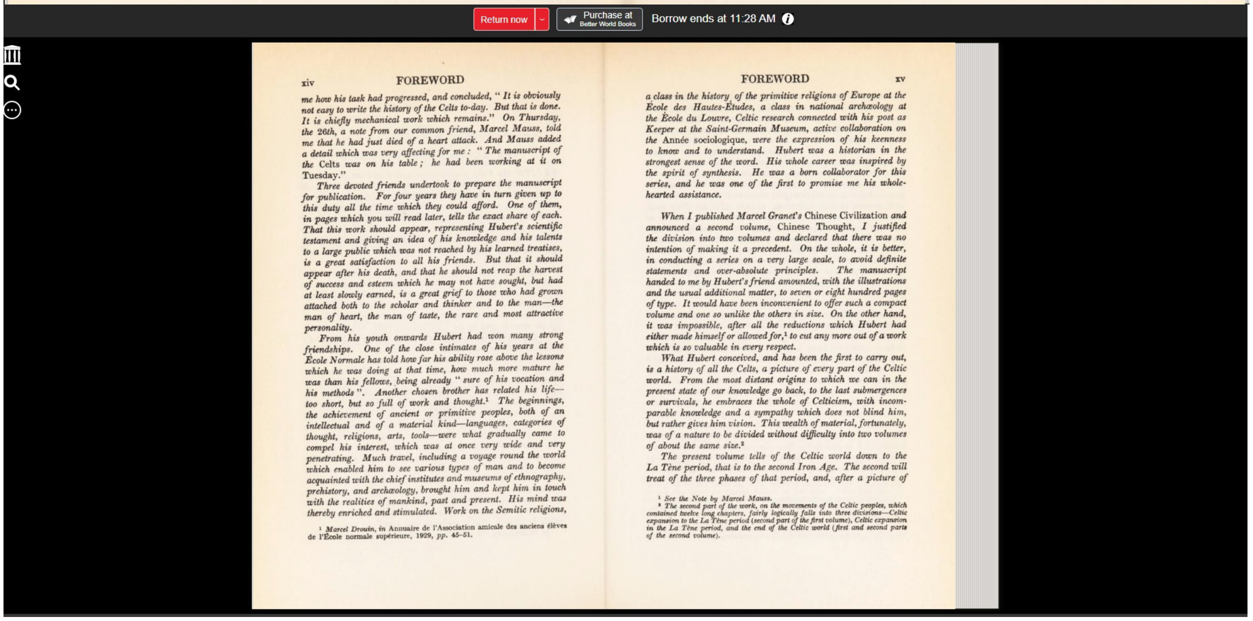
As Greece and Italy expanded, the nearest of these barbarians were absorbed by them. Others, later, appearing on the horizon like a hurricane, waged furious war on Greece and Rome. In any case, they entered into various kinds of relations with classical civilization and with the Roman Empire, which became its base, and thereby were to some extent incorporated in that civilization and with it helped to make the civilization of the future.

We shall attempt to draw a historical outline for the best-known of these peoples, the Celts and the Germans. Some of the others will come into the story incidentally. Those not mentioned in this history of the Celts, nor in that of the Germans, nor in previous volumes of this series dealing with Greece and Rome, belong to the domain of prehistoric archæology.

II

THE CELTS AND THE GREEKS

This is what the Greek writers tell us of their advance. We are given two dates which enable us to judge from the



me how his task had progressed, and concluded, " It is obviously not easy to write the history of the Celts to-day. But that is done. It is chiefly mechanical work which remains." On Thursday, the 26th, a note from our common friend, Marcel Mauss, told me that he had just died of a heart attack. And Mauss added a detail which was very affecting for me : " The manuscript of the Celts *was on his table ; he had been working at it on* Tuesday."

Three devoted friends undertook to prepare the manuscript for publication. For four years they have in turn given up to this duty all the time which they could afford. One of them, in pages which you will read later, tells the exact share of each. That this work should appear, representing Hubert's scientific testament and giving an idea of his knowledge and his talents to a large public which was not reached by his learned treatises, is a great satisfaction to all his friends. But that it should appear after his death, and that he should not reap the harvest of success and esteem which he may not have sought, but had at least slowly earned, is a great grief to those who had grown attached both to the scholar and thinker and to the man—the man of heart, the man of taste, the rare and most attractive personality.

From his youth onwards Hubert had won many strong friendships. One of the close intimates of his years at the École Normale has told how far his ability rose above the lessons which he was doing at that time, how much more mature he was than his fellows, being already " sure of his vocation and his methods ". Another chosen brother has related his life—too short, but so full of work and thought.[1] *The beginnings, the achievement of ancient or primitive peoples, both of an intellectual and of a material kind—languages, categories of thought, religions, arts, tools—were what gradually came to compel his interest, which was at once very wide and very penetrating. Much travel, including a voyage round the world which enabled him to see various types of man and to become acquainted with the chief institutes and museums of ethnography, prehistory, and archæology, brought him and kept him in touch with the realities of mankind, past and present. His mind was thereby enriched and stimulated. Work on the Semitic religions,*

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[1] *Marcel Drouin, in* Annuaire de l'Association amicale des anciens élèves de l'École normale supérieure, 1929, *pp.* 45–51.

a class in the history of the primitive religions of Europe at the École des Hautes-Études, a class in national archæology at the École du Louvre, Celtic research connected with his post as Keeper at the Saint-Germain Museum, active collaboration on the Année sociologique, *were the expression of his keenness to know and to understand. Hubert was a historian in the strongest sense of the word. His whole career was inspired by the spirit of synthesis. He was a born collaborator for this series, and he was one of the first to promise me his whole-hearted assistance.*

When I published Marcel Granet's Chinese Civilization *and announced a second volume,* Chinese Thought, *I justified the division into two volumes and declared that there was no intention of making it a precedent. On the whole, it is better, in conducting a series on a very large scale, to avoid definite statements and over-absolute principles. The manuscript handed to me by Hubert's friend amounted, with the illustrations and the usual additional matter, to seven or eight hundred pages of type. It would have been inconvenient to offer such a compact volume and one so unlike the others in size. On the other hand, it was impossible, after all the reductions which Hubert had either made himself or allowed for,*[1] *to cut any more out of a work which is so valuable in every respect.*

What Hubert conceived, and has been the first to carry out, is a history of all the Celts, a picture of every part of the Celtic world. From the most distant origins to which we can in the present state of our knowledge go back, to the last submergences or survivals, he embraces the whole of Celticism, with incomparable knowledge and a sympathy which does not blind him, but rather gives him vision. This wealth of material, fortunately, was of a nature to be divided without difficulty into two volumes of about the same size.[2]

The present volume tells of the Celtic world down to the La Tène period, that is to the second Iron Age. The second will treat of the three phases of that period, and, after a picture of the western end of its domain because it was most firmly established there, or because it was driven there ? Is it not in these parts that we should look for the main mass of the Celts, their origin, and their purest type ? Is it not an abuse and a faulty interpretation of a collection of historical texts

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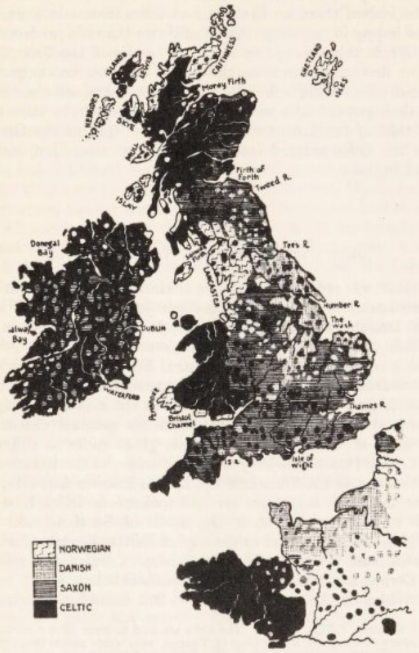
[1] *See the Note by Marcel Mauss.*

[2] *The second part of the work, on the movements of the Celtic peoples, which contained twelve long chapters, fairly logically falls into three divisions—Celtic expansion to the La Tène period (second part of the first volume), Celtic expansion in the La Tène period, and the end of the Celtic world (first and second parts of the second volume).*



Map 1. The Movement of the Celts and their Present Habitat. (W. Z. Ripley, *The Races of Europe*, p. 313.)

to look elsewhere ? Here, at the beginning of a story bristling with contradictions, is a first conflict.

The impression given by the map of to-day could be confirmed by traditions and facts. Livy regarded Gaul as the centre of the Celts and the starting-point of their migrations. Cæsar asserts that the institution of the Druids originated in Britain. When the Roman Empire declined bands of Irishmen came as adventurers to Gaul and as settlers to Britain ; the kingdom of Scotland was their most lasting foundation. The Celts of Britain were not behindhand ; they colonized Armorica, which they made into what we call Brittany.

But these are untrue traditions or mere individual facts. In the main the Celts, after advancing to the west of Europe, retreated in the same direction. If we look carefully at the map we shall see that the districts where they are found are refuges. The Celts came to a stop there at the sea, clinging to the rocks. Beyond the sea was their next world. They stayed on the shore, waiting for the ferry, like the dead in Procopios. One of the nicest stories in the collection of epic and mythical tales which forms the Welsh Mabinogion [1] relates the adventures of a Roman emperor, Macsen Wledig, who, having fallen asleep while hunting and dreamed of a wonderful princess, set out to seek her, and found her in Britain. She was called Elen Lluyddawg, “ Leader of Hosts.” The emperor married her, and with her he raised Britain to its greatest power and glory. But Rome had forgotten him, and he had to reconquer it. Britain sent forth hosts which never came back, and the army of Elen Lluyddawg dwells in Llydaw, or Litavia, the country of the dead. Apart from the few facts of purely local significance mentioned above, none but phantom armies or armies of romance—like that of Arthur, who likewise conquered Gaul and Italy and Rome—ever went out from the British Isles to occupy the lands to which the Celtic name is attached. What now remains of the Celts, in the west of their ancient dominion, was driven there and confined there by other peoples arriving or growing up behind them. This general movement of

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[1] Loth, **CCLXX**, i, pp. 210 ff., “ Le Songe de Maxen Wledig.” Macsen is simply the usurper Maximus, who commanded in Britain under Gratian, was proclaimed Augustus in A.D. 383, and was defeated and slain by Theodosius in August, 388.

Greek point of view: one by the Hesiodic poems, and the other by the historian Ephoros who lived in the second half of the fourth century before Christ. The former suppose that there is in the north-west of the "world" a great Ligurian region; the latter imagines a great Celtic region.

At the time when the Hesiodic poems were written the Ligurians were one of the three great peoples which dwelt at the ends of the world known to the Greeks:—

Αἰθίοπάς τε Λίγυς τε ἰδὲ Σκύθας ἱππημολγούς.

This line in the *Catalogues* (fr. 132)[1] must date from the beginning of the sixth century. A hundred years later the first Greek historian, Hecatæos of Miletos, in his *Europe* talks of a Celtic part of this Liguria; the lexicographer Stephanos of Byzantion quotes the *Europe* when speaking of Marseilles, which, like Hecatæos, he describes as "a city in the Ligystic country, near the Celtic country". Hecatæos also mentioned a Celtic city named Nyrax, which cannot be identified.[2] Marseilles had been founded by Phocæan settlers about 600, a century before.

What exactly was the extent of this Ligystic country? There is an old *periplus*, or account of a voyage, perhaps written by a Marseilles man and probably at the end of the sixth century, which, after being refashioned several times, has come down to us in a Latin verse translation from the pen of one Rufus Festus Avienus,[3] a person of consular rank who fancied himself as a man of letters. According to this account, the Ligurians had once extended as far as the North Sea, but had been driven back to the Alps by the Celts.[4] But the peoples mentioned in the *Ora Maritima* of Avienus as dwelling near the Lake of Geneva bear names which have disappeared from geographical literature,[5] and when, later than the original *periplus*, Aristotle speaks in his *Meteorologica*[6] of the Perte du Rhône at Bellegarde, he still places it in Liguria, *περὶ τὴν Λιγυστικήν*. Was this information out of date?

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[1] In Strabo, vii, 3, 7. "Ethiopians and Ligyans and mare-milking Scythians." Cf. d'Arbois de Jubainville, **CCXLVIII**, xii, *passim*.

[2] Stephanos, s.v.; for Narbonne, see Dottin, **CCCXXII**, p. 298. E. Philipon, in **DXVI**, p. 121, rejects the other passages from Hecatæos, in allegiance to his theory regarding the relative positions of the Ligurians and the Iberians, whom he places in the Marseilles district.

[3] 130–145. [4] 637–640. [5] 674–6. [6] i, 13.

There was a time when the southern limits of the Celts lay there. Apollonios of Rhodes, who used the earlier geographers conscientiously, describes, in his Book IV, the Argonauts going up the Rhone, which they reached by way of the Po, and being tossed by storms on the Swiss lakes, under the Hercynian Mountains, which extend into the midst of the country of the Celts.[1] In the time of Herodotos, whose information was far more up-to-date, the Celts were separated from the Mediterranean not only by the Ligurians but by the Sigynnes. These latter occupied the country inland from the Veneti on the Adriatic side.[2] But their name was also to be found near Marseilles. "The Ligyes," says Herodotos, "dwelling in the heights above Marseilles, call small traders 'Sigynnes'." There was not one people, but a whole succession of peoples, between the Celts and the inhabitants of the Mediterranean coast, and these peoples practised a prosperous trade, as excavations bear witness. As late as about 350 that valuable geographical document, the *Periplus* attributed to Scylax of Caryanda, makes no mention of Celts on the coasts of the Western Mediterranean, and yet they were already very near.

Long before, they had come into contact on the Atlantic coast with mariners of Tartessus, who had eventually spoken of them to the people of Marseilles. The old *periplus* which Avienus translated mentioned them as being on the shores of the North Sea, from which they had driven the Ligurians.[3] It designated Brittany, and also Spain, by the name of Œstrymnis,[4] in which we may perhaps see the name of the Osismii or the Ostiæi, who still occupied Finistère in Cæsar's day. At the beginning of the fifth century Herodotos mentions them as being south of the Pyrenees, and probably on the Ocean. "The Danube," he says, "starts from the country of the Celts and the city of Pyrene, and flows all through Europe, which it divides in two. Now the Celts are outside the Pillars of Heracles, and march with the Cynesii, who are the westernmost people of Europe"[5]; and, indeed, Cape St. Vincent was in their territory.

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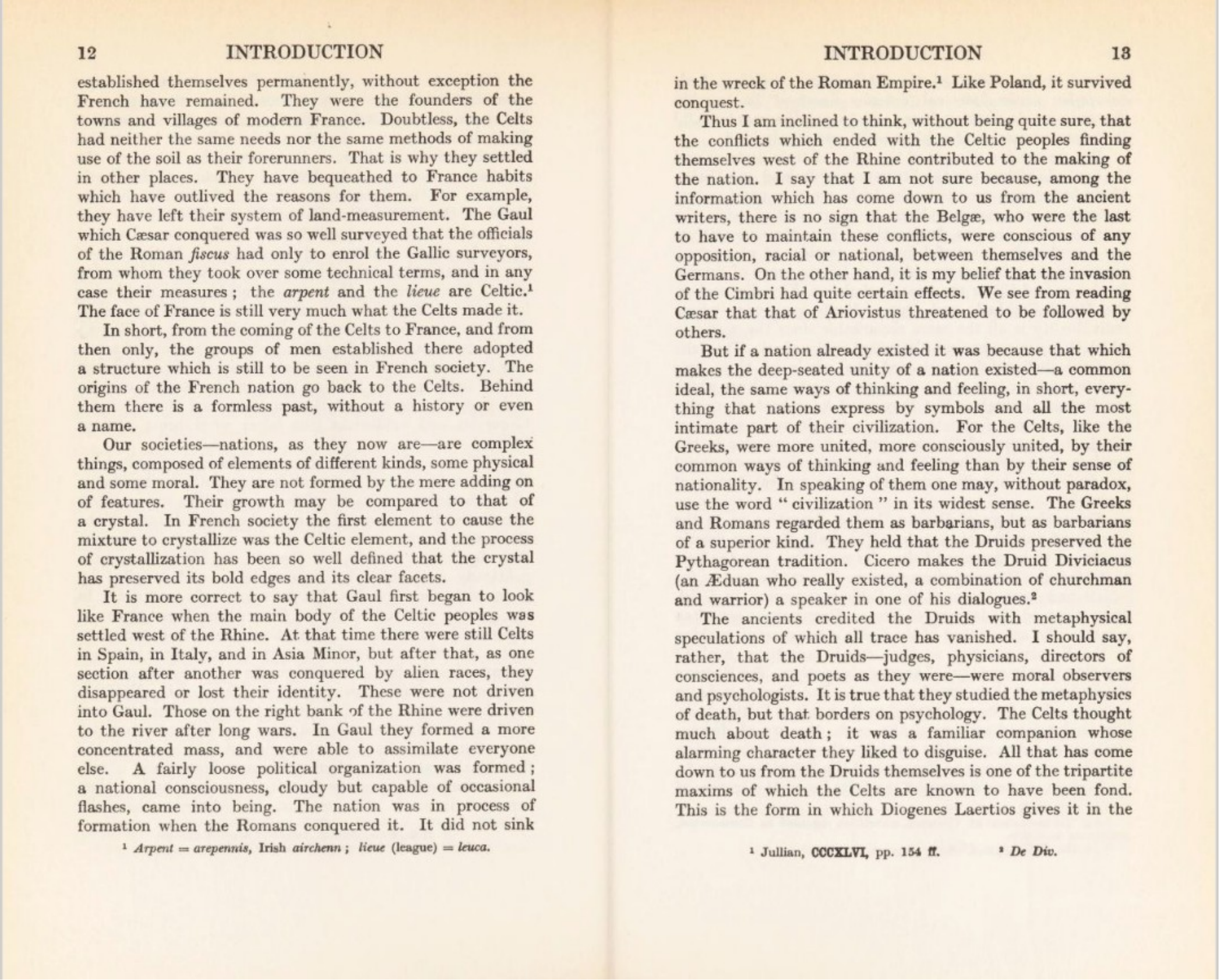
[1] *Argon.*, 627–647. The (probably late) author of the *Orphic Argonautica* likewise takes the Argonauts through the country of the Celts, and even to Ireland (l. 161). [2] v, 9. [3] Avien., 130–145. [4] Avien., 91 ff., 152–5.

[5] ii, 33; iv, 49. Aristotle, in *Meteorologica*, i, 13, 19, repeats Herodotos's mistake about the sources of the Danube.



established themselves permanently, without exception the French have remained. They were the founders of the towns and villages of modern France. Doubtless, the Celts had neither the same needs nor the same methods of making use of the soil as their forerunners. That is why they settled in other places. They have bequeathed to France habits which have outlived the reasons for them. For example, they have left their system of land-measurement. The Gaul which Cæsar conquered was so well surveyed that the officials of the Roman *fiscus* had only to enrol the Gallic surveyors, from whom they took over some technical terms, and in any case their measures; the *arpent* and the *lieue* are Celtic.[1] The face of France is still very much what the Celts made it.

In short, from the coming of the Celts to France, and from then only, the groups of men established there adopted a structure which is still to be seen in French society. The origins of the French nation go back to the Celts. Behind them there is a formless past, without a history or even a name.

Our societies—nations, as they now are—are complex things, composed of elements of different kinds, some physical and some moral. They are not formed by the mere adding on of features. Their growth may be compared to that of a crystal. In French society the first element to cause the mixture to crystallize was the Celtic element, and the process of crystallization has been so well defined that the crystal has preserved its bold edges and its clear facets.

It is more correct to say that Gaul first began to look like France when the main body of the Celtic peoples was settled west of the Rhine. At that time there were still Celts in Spain, in Italy, and in Asia Minor, but after that, as one section after another was conquered by alien races, they disappeared or lost their identity. These were not driven into Gaul. Those on the right bank of the Rhine were driven to the river after long wars. In Gaul they formed a more concentrated mass, and were able to assimilate everyone else. A fairly loose political organization was formed; a national consciousness, cloudy but capable of occasional flashes, came into being. The nation was in process of formation when the Romans conquered it. It did not sink

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[1] *Arpent* = *arepennis*, Irish *airchenn*; *lieue* (league) = *leuca*.

in the wreck of the Roman Empire.[1] Like Poland, it survived conquest.

Thus I am inclined to think, without being quite sure, that the conflicts which ended with the Celtic peoples finding themselves west of the Rhine contributed to the making of the nation. I say that I am not sure because, among the information which has come down to us from the ancient writers, there is no sign that the Belgæ, who were the last to have to maintain these conflicts, were conscious of any opposition, racial or national, between themselves and the Germans. On the other hand, it is my belief that the invasion of the Cimbri had quite certain effects. We see from reading Cæsar that that of Ariovistus threatened to be followed by others.

But if a nation already existed it was because that which makes the deep-seated unity of a nation existed—a common ideal, the same ways of thinking and feeling, in short, everything that nations express by symbols and all the most intimate part of their civilization. For the Celts, like the Greeks, were more united, more consciously united, by their common ways of thinking and feeling than by their sense of nationality. In speaking of them one may, without paradox, use the word " civilization " in its widest sense. The Greeks and Romans regarded them as barbarians, but as barbarians of a superior kind. They held that the Druids preserved the Pythagorean tradition. Cicero makes the Druid Diviciacus (an Æduan who really existed, a combination of churchman and warrior) a speaker in one of his dialogues.[2]

The ancients credited the Druids with metaphysical speculations of which all trace has vanished. I should say, rather, that the Druids—judges, physicians, directors of consciences, and poets as they were—were moral observers and psychologists. It is true that they studied the metaphysics of death, but that borders on psychology. The Celts thought much about death; it was a familiar companion whose alarming character they liked to disguise. All that has come down to us from the Druids themselves is one of the tripartite maxims of which the Celts are known to have been fond. This is the form in which Diogenes Laertios gives it in the

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[1] Jullian, CCCXLVI, pp. 154 ff.

[2] *De Div.*

the republic era of rome, contrary to the subsequent 200 years of peace known as Pax Romana, is defined as being in a state of quasi-perpetual war throughout its existence. Its first enemies were its Latin and Etruscan neighbours as well as the Gauls, who even sacked the city in 387 BC.

These multiple tensions led to a series of civil wars; the first between the two generals Julius Caesar and Pompey. Despite his victory and appointment as dictator for life, Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC. Caesar's heir Octavian and lieutenant Mark Antony defeated Caesar's assassins Brutus and Cassius in 42 BC, but they eventually split up thereafter. The final defeat of Mark Antony alongside his ally and lover Cleopatra at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC, and the Senate's grant of extraordinary powers to Octavian as *Augustus* in 27 BC – which effectively made him the first Roman emperor – marked the end of the Republic.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Republic

Cassivellaunus was a historical British military leader who led the defence against Julius Caesar's second expedition to Britain in 54 BC https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassivellaunus

Ancient Celtic religion

Ancient Celtic religion, commonly known as **Celtic paganism**,[1][2][3] was the religion of the ancient Celtic peoples of Europe. Because the ancient Celts did not have writing, evidence about their religion is gleaned from archaeology, Greco-Roman accounts (some of it hostile and probably not well-informed), and literature from the early Christian period.[4] Celtic paganism was one of a larger group of Iron Age polytheistic religions of Europe. It varied by region and over time, but underlying this were "broad structural similarities"[5] and "a basic religious homogeneity" among the Celtic peoples.[6]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtic_mythology

The names of over two hundred Celtic deities have survived (see list of Celtic deities), although it is likely that many of these were alternative names, regional names or titles for the same deity.[7] Some deities were venerated only in one region, but others were more widely known.[7] Deities found in many regions include Lugus, the tribal god Toutatis, the thunder god Taranis, the horned god Cernunnos, the horse and fertility goddess Epona, the divine son Maponos, as well as Belenos, Ogmios, and Sucellos.[7][4] Celtic healing deities were often associated with sacred springs.[8] Caesar says the Gauls believed they all descended from a god of the dead and underworld.[7] Triplicity is a common theme, with a number of deities seen as threefold, for example the Three Mothers. Some figures from medieval Irish mythology have been interpreted as iterations of earlier deities. According to Miranda Aldhouse-Green, the Celts were also animists, believing that every part of the natural world had a spirit.[4]

The priests of Celtic religion were "magico-religious specialists" called druids, but little is definitively known about them.[9] Greco-Roman writers said the Celts held ceremonies in sacred groves and other natural shrines, called nemetons, while some Celtic peoples also built temples or ritual enclosures.[7] Celtic peoples often made votive offerings: treasured items deposited in water and wetlands, or in ritual shafts and wells.[7] There is evidence that ancient Celtic peoples sacrificed animals, almost always livestock or working animals.[10] There is also some evidence that ancient Celts sacrificed humans, and some Greco-Roman sources claim the Gauls sacrificed criminals by burning them in a wicker man.[11]

It is not clear what religious festivals the ancient Celts held, but the Insular Celtic peoples celebrated four seasonal festivals, known to the medieval Gaels as Beltaine (1 May), Lughnasadh (1 August), Samhain (1 November) and Imbolc (1 February).[7]

After the Roman Empire's conquest of Gaul (58–51 BC) and southern Britain (43 AD), Celtic religion there underwent some Romanisation, resulting in a syncretic Gallo-Roman religion with deities such as Lenus Mars, Apollo Grannus, and Telesphorus.

The Gauls gradually converted to Christianity from the third century onward. After the end of Roman rule in Britain (c.410 AD) Celtic paganism began to be replaced by Anglo-Saxon paganism over much of what became England. The Celtic populations of

Britain and Ireland gradually converted to Christianity from the fifth century onward. However, Celtic paganism left a legacy in many of the Celtic nations, influenced mythology and in the 20th century served as the basis for a new religious movement, Celtic Neopaganism.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matter_of_Britain
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Celtic_religion
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Arthur

Celtic deities, gallic war

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtic_deities

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallic_Wars

Russia, sanctions, government: North Africa Is Buying Up Russian Diesel After EU Ban

- Morocco saw imports of 2 million barrels of Russian diesel in January, compared to just 600,000 barrels for the whole year 2021.

North Africa has become a key export outlet of Russia's diesel and other petroleum products after the EU embargo on imports of Russian fuels took effect in early February.

African countries on the Mediterranean, as well as Turkey, had started taking in more Russian fuels even before the Western ban. Now signs are emerging that some of those products could be headed for re-export to Europe, analysts say. But they also note that even if this were the case, it's difficult to ascertain the true origin of a cargo blended with other products.

And the EU may not be too strict in looking to remove every possible Russian barrel of oil product from its market, considering the major dislocation in global oil trade and the goal of the Western nations to punish Putin but keep his oil flowing around the world.

The EU banned—effective February 5—seaborne imports of Russian refined oil products and around 1 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian diesel, naphtha, and other fuels need to find a home elsewhere if Moscow wants to continue getting money for those products. The flow of Russian fuels to third countries is also regulated by price caps, similar to the cap on Russian crude, if the trade is carried out through Western insurers. The cap on Russian diesel is $100 per barrel, while the cap on lower-cost petroleum products is set at $45 a barrel.

Europe is on track to import this month the highest volumes of diesel from the Middle East and Asia in seven years as the EU turns to alternative supply after the ban on imports of Russian diesel and other fuels took effect.

At the same time, Russian oil product flows to North Africa are surging. Morocco, for example, saw imports of 2 million barrels of Russian diesel in January, compared to just 600,000 barrels for the whole year 2021, according to Kpler data cited by The Wall Street Journal. Tunisia has also seen a surge in imports of Russian petroleum products – to 2.8 million barrels in January and another estimated 3.1 million barrels in February, after negligible volumes imported prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

According to analysts, those countries will not be consuming all the Russian oil products. North Africa isn't boosting its refining processing, either. **This leaves one plausible explanation for the jump in imports of Russian fuels—re-export to other countries,** including Europe, after blending with products of non-Russian origin.

"Trust me, we are not witnessing some renaissance in Maghrebi refining," Viktor Katona, a senior oil analyst with Kpler, told the Journal. A part of the Russian oil products will end up in Europe, according to Katona.

There has been a recent surge in Russian clean petroleum products (CPP) on water, according to Vortexa.

Currently 87 vessels carrying Russian diesel are on the water, Ioannis Papadimitriou, Senior Freight Analyst at Vortexa, wrote on Friday. Of those, 63 vessels carrying 18 million barrels are currently signaling non-European/non-Mediterranean destinations, or Mediterranean waypoints or ship to ship (STS) transfer zones.

"The remainder are mainly signalling the Mediterranean, a trend that was starting to appear prior to the ban, with the ultimate destinations being North Africa and to a greater extent Turkey – an opportunistic post-war buyer of Russian oil and gas," Vortexa's Papadimitriou said.

"Vessels do not reflect idle or a 'wait-and-see' behavior at great scale, and hence do not display an enormous challenge in finding a buyer in non-traditional markets."

Analysts and market observers will now have to see how long it would take for STS cargoes to find and reach their final destinations, and if potential major logistics delays could threaten the pace of Russian oil product exports, according to Papadimitriou.

“Hence, in answering the question whether Russia is finding a way to maintain CPP exports in this new reality, the answer lies closer to a yes than a no.”

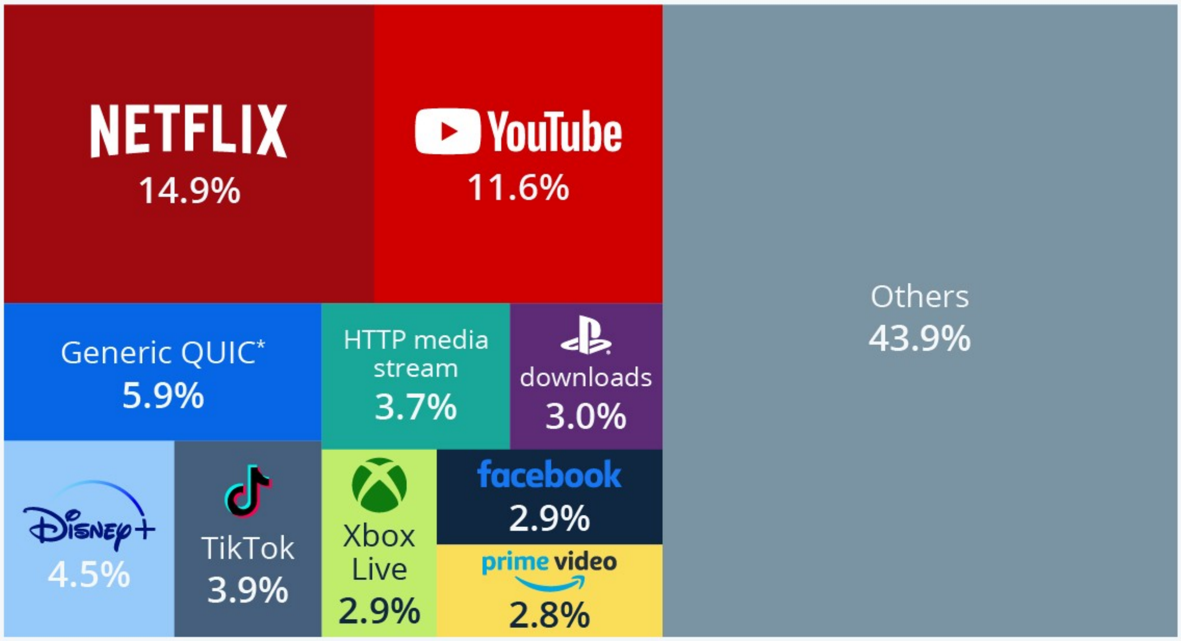
Stats: Netflix Is Responsible For 15% Of Global Internet Traffic

A new report by Sandvine has revealed the web applications responsible for the world's most downstream internet traffic.

As Statista's Martin Armstrong points out, underlining the popularity of streaming services, Netflix accounts for the most megabytes with 14.9 percent.

Netflix Is Responsible for 15% of Global Internet Traffic

Distribution of worldwide downstream internet traffic in 2022, by application



* Network protocol designed to speed up online web applications

Source: Sandvine | The Global Internet Phenomena Report

You will find more infographics at Statista

YouTube isn't too far behind with 11.4 percent.

Further back but still with a significant share, Amazon Prime Video is responsible for 3.7 percent. Adding to video streaming's contribution, Disney+ has a share of 4.5 percent.

Social media and gaming are the other standout categories, with TikTok, Facebook, Playstation and Xbox creating large amounts of global downstream traffic in 2022.

Foxconn Plans $700 Million iPhone Factory In India As China Exodus Accelerates

"The ***investment is one of Foxconn's biggest single outlays to date in India*** *and underscores how China's at risk of losing its status as the world's largest producer of consumer electronics."*

Coinbase Buys One River Digital To Focus On Institutional Investors

War: Bakhmut "Practically Surrounded" As Wagner Chief Urges Zelensky Surrender His Forces 'To Save Lives'

Journal: find out if this is true. Wikipedia says red headed women commit 48% of female crimes.

Another belief is that redheads are highly sexed; for example, Jonathan Swift satirizes redhead stereotypes in part four of *Gulliver's Travels*, "A Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms," when he writes that: "It is observed that the red-haired of both sexes are more libidinous and mischievous than the rest, whom yet they much exceed in strength and activity." Swift goes on to write that "neither was the hair of this brute [a Yahoo] of a red colour (which might have been some excuse for an appetite a little irregular) but black as a sloe".[80] Such beliefs were given a veneer of scientific credibility in the 19th century by Cesare Lombroso and Guglielmo Ferrero. They concluded that red hair was associated with crimes of lust, and claimed that 48% of "criminal women" were redheads.[81]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_hair

Pollak suggests that many of the crimes that females commit are underreported, and that when females offend, they often are detected less than when males commit similar crimes. Additionally, he notes that when apprehended, females are treated more leniently in the criminal justice system.

His most controversial and famous book was *The Criminality of Women* (1950), in which he suggested that women commit just as much crime as men, but that their crime is more easily hidden. Pollak further argued that the criminal justice system was biased by preconceptions about women and did not convict or sentence women as harshly as men. His empirical work has provided a starting point for criminology on women. His work has also been used in political debates, as some antifeminist or masculist groups have appropriated his work

Suspected Poison Gas Attacks On Iranian Girls' Schools Have Made Hundreds Sick

Girls in up to 15 cities have been affected, Iranian authorities have said, in what are **suspected to be mass poisonings**. There's currently speculation that an unknown entity, possibly hardline Islamists, may be throwing some type of poisonous gas mixture into schools and school yards, causing dozens of girls at a time to fall ill. The bizarre incidents began being reported back in November.

Illustrative file image via Time

Al Jazeera reports based on the latest statements from Iranian lawmakers that "Similar poisonings have since happened in several other schools in Qom, Tehran, the city of Borujerd in the western province of Lorestan and the northwestern city of Ardebi." And further, "Scores of schoolgirls have been affected in each incident, and **some have had to be hospitalized**."

However, there have been no confirmed deaths in the incidents where the impacted students reported smelling unusual odors such as "rotten tangerines" or strong chemical smells, or even scents akin to perfumes. There have been rumors of a death resulting from the alleged poison attacks, but this was denied by local authorities.

School girls have reported feeling **headaches and nausea**, and there have been some reports of individuals experiencing temporary **paralysis of their limbs**.

Pentagon Claims Iran Is '12 Days Away' From Nuke Material For A Bomb

California's Years-Long Drought Eases As Mother Nature Fills Reservoirs

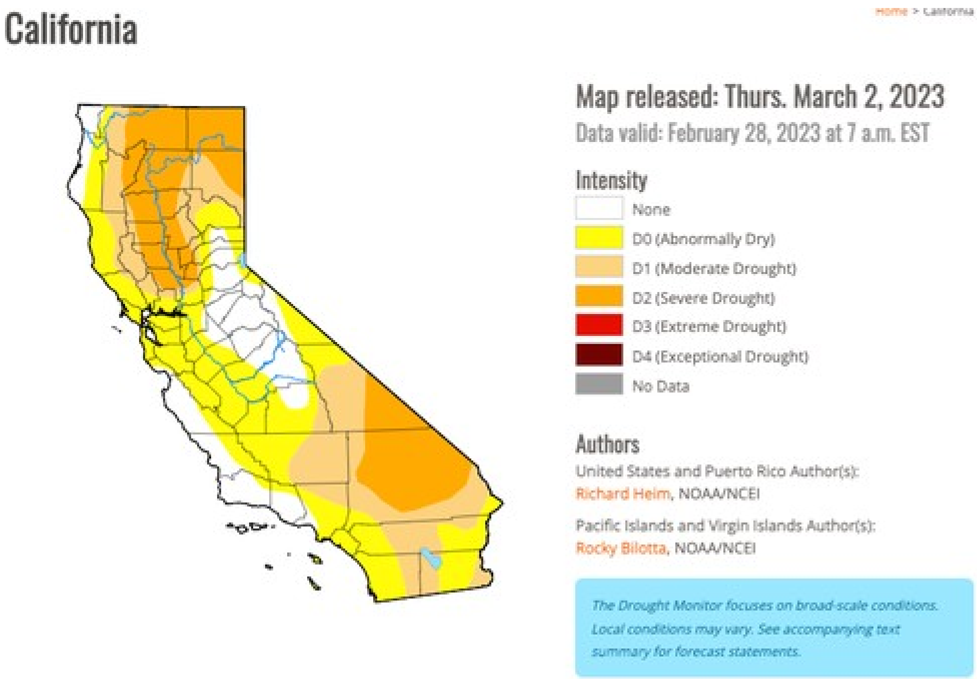
California's Years-Long Drought Eases As Mother Nature Fills Reservoirs

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAR 02, 2023 - 11:40 PM

A map released on Thursday by US Drought Monitor shows that the convey belt of severe rain and winter storms for the last two months has significantly eased California's extreme drought.

The Sierra Nevada region in north-central California, the coastline stretching from Monterey Bay to northwest Los Angeles County, and parts of northwest California, including Humboldt and Del Norte counties, are no longer classified as being in a state of drought.

The middle of the state is now labeled as "abnormally dry," while northeast California and the high desert of southeastern California remain in "severe drought" and "moderate drought" classifications -- but easing from extreme levels several months ago.



Home > California

California

Map released: Thurs. March 2, 2023

Data valid: February 28, 2023 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- ⬜ None
- 🟨 D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- 🟧 D1 (Moderate Drought)
- 🟧 D2 (Severe Drought)
- 🟥 D3 (Extreme Drought)
- 🟫 D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- ⬛ No Data

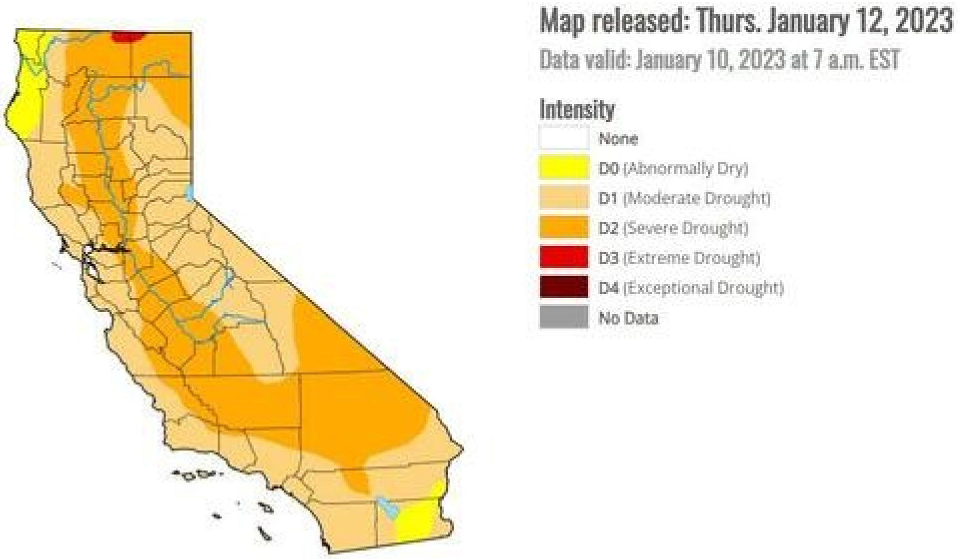
Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
Richard Heim, NOAA/NCEI

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Rocky Bilotta, NOAA/NCEI

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

On Jan. 12, the drought map showed that conditions in various regions had started to improve after a series of storms in the first two weeks of the month.



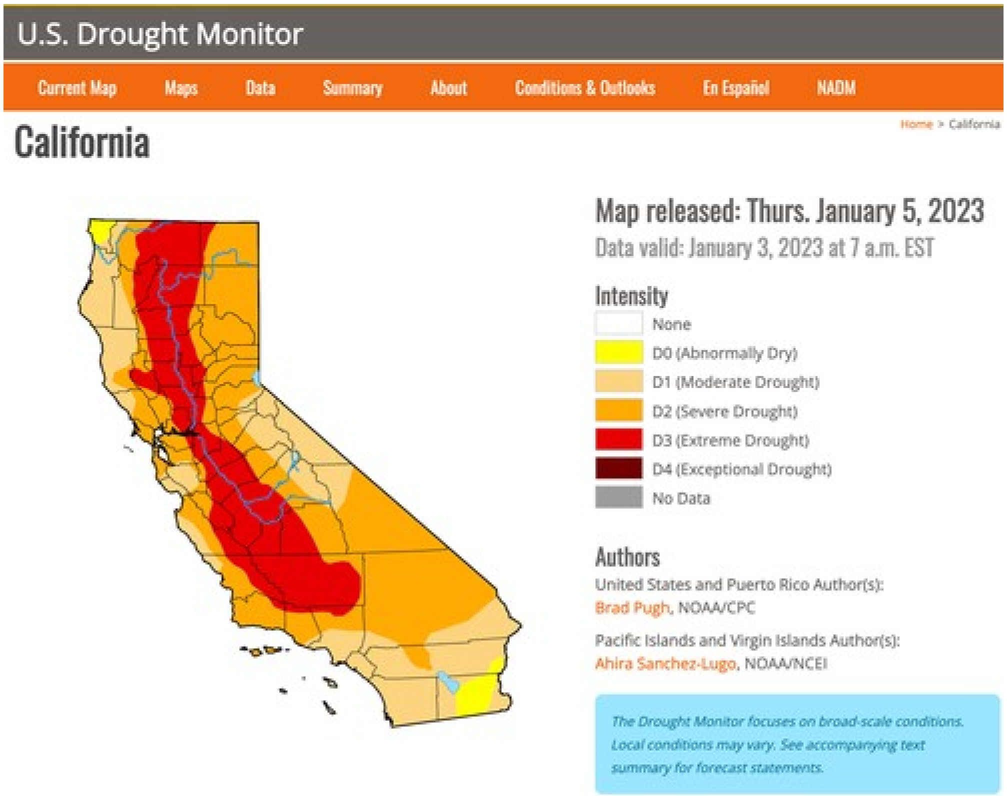
Map released: Thurs. January 12, 2023

Data valid: January 10, 2023 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- ⬜ None
- 🟨 D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- 🟧 D1 (Moderate Drought)
- 🟧 D2 (Severe Drought)
- 🟥 D3 (Extreme Drought)
- 🟫 D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- ⬛ No Data

Here's what the drought map looked like on Jan. 5.


U.S. Drought Monitor
Current Map
Maps
Data
Summary
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Conditions & Outlooks
En Español
NADM
Home > California

California

Map released: Thurs. January 5, 2023

Data valid: January 3, 2023 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- ⬜ None
- 🟨 D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- 🟧 D1 (Moderate Drought)
- 🟧 D2 (Severe Drought)
- 🟥 D3 (Extreme Drought)
- 🟫 D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- ⬛ No Data

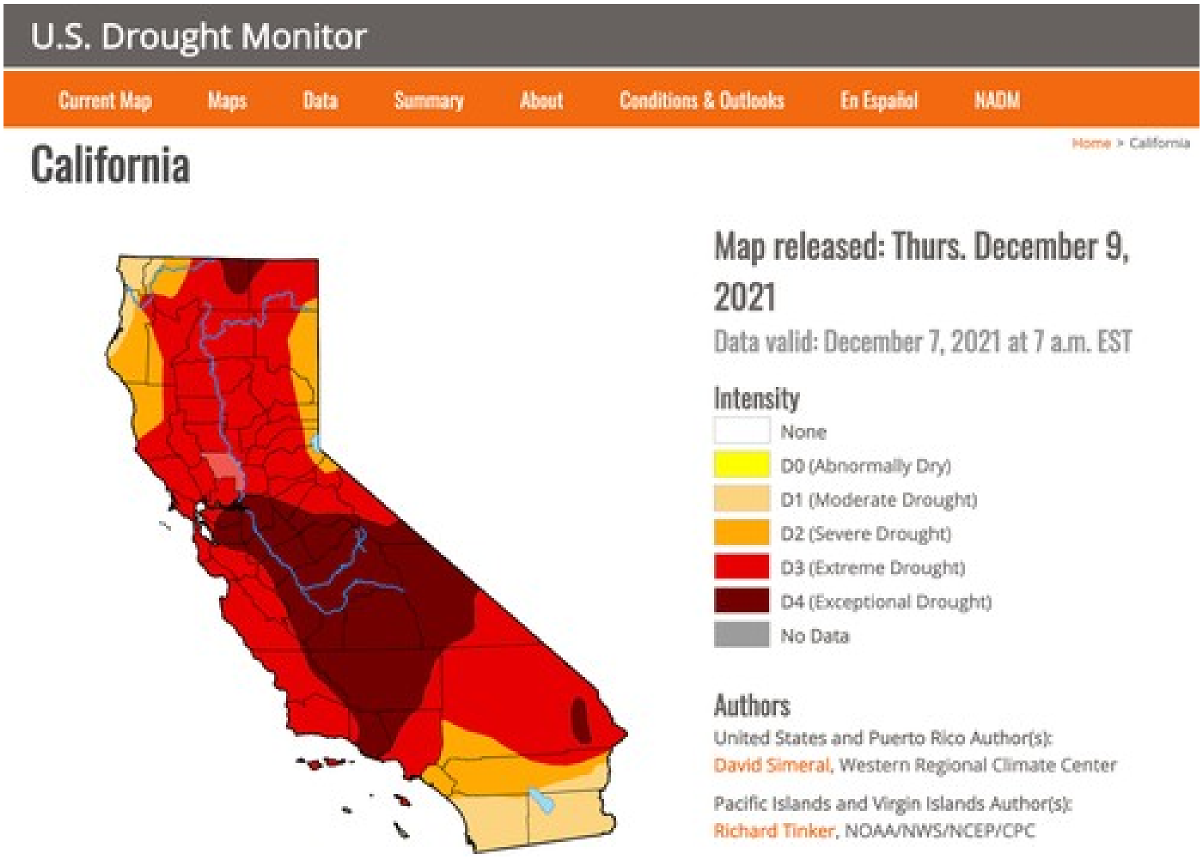
Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
Brad Pugh, NOAA/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Ahira Sanchez-Lugo, NOAA/NCEI

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

And on Dec. 9.


U.S. Drought Monitor
Current Map
Maps
Data
Summary
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En Español
NADM
Home > California

California

Map released: Thurs. December 9, 2021

Data valid: December 7, 2021 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- ⬜ None
- 🟨 D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- 🟧 D1 (Moderate Drought)
- 🟧 D2 (Severe Drought)
- 🟥 D3 (Extreme Drought)
- 🟫 D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- ⬛ No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
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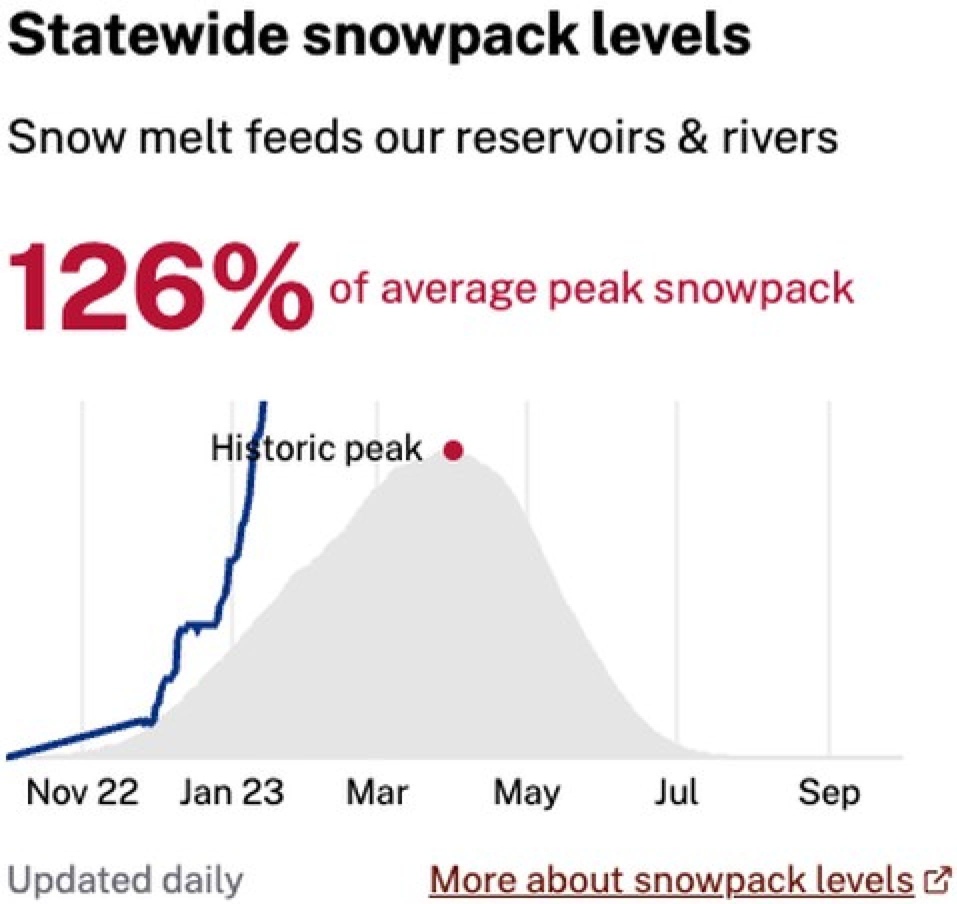
Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Richard Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Since the recent snowstorms, snowpack levels across the state have reportedly reached a 40-year high.



Statewide snowpack levels

Snow melt feeds our reservoirs & rivers

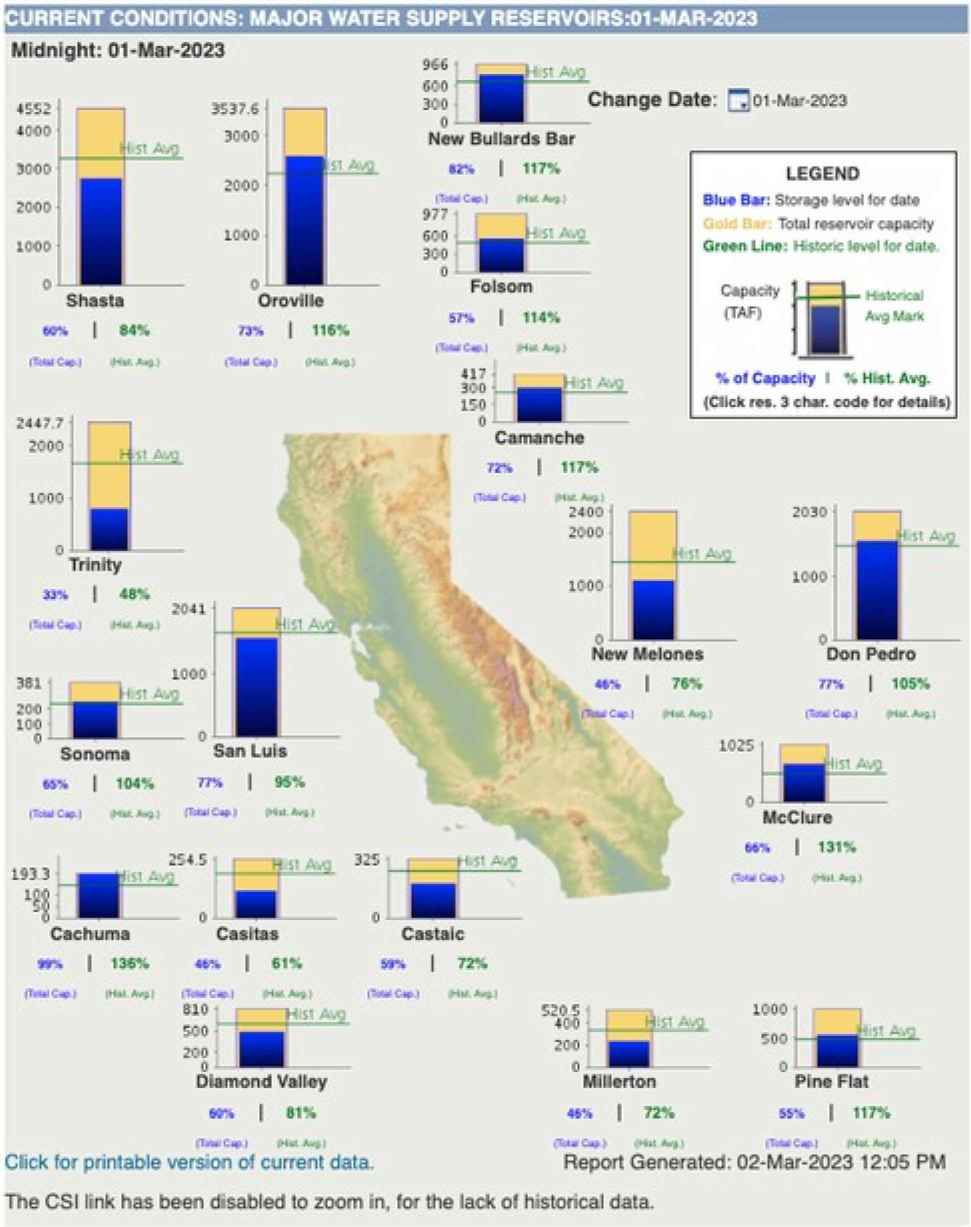
126% of average peak snowpack

Updated daily

More about snowpack levels

There's so much snow in Southern California that Gov. Gavin Newsom has declared a state of emergency.

All the storms have been a boon for California's reservoirs. The latest figures show 94% of major reservoir levels are at normal for this time of year. This is great news following last summer when reservoir levels were dangerously low.



Click for printable version of current data.

Report Generated: 02-Mar-2023 12:05 PM

The CSI link has been disabled to zoom in, for the lack of historical data.

Here are stunning before and after photos of Lake Oroville, one of California's largest reservoirs.

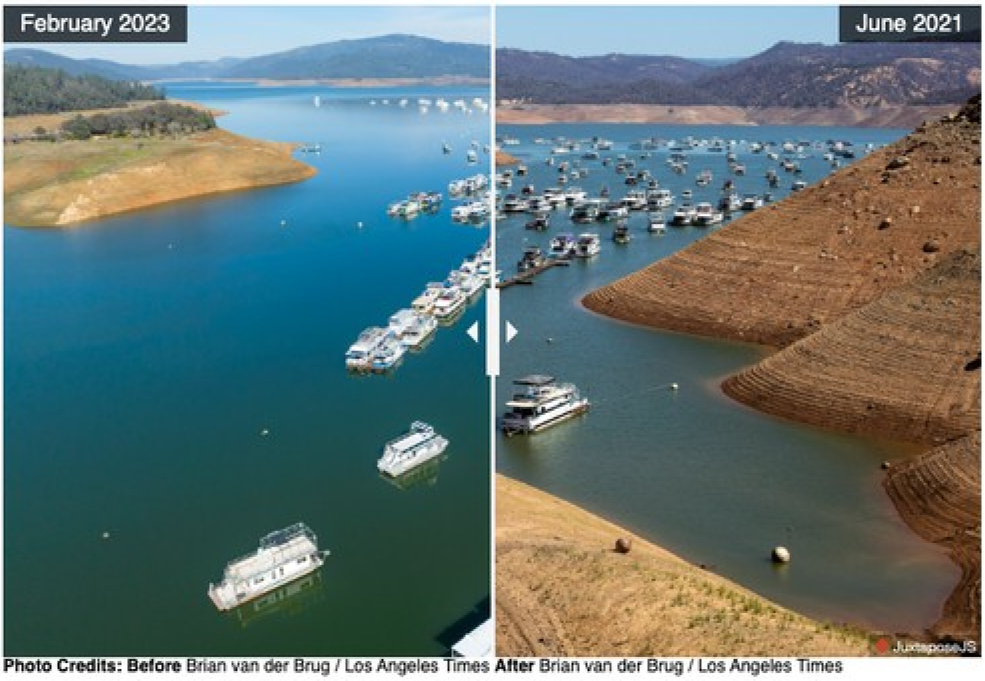


Photo Credits: Before Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times **After** Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times

And just like that, Mother Nature heals itself without any assistance from Democrats who tax the heck out of people in the name of 'saving the planet.'

State-Dept-Funded Censorship-Group Punished Conservative Websites For Circulating Lab-Leak Theory

The US State Department-funded Global Disinformation Index punished conservative websites by throttling their advertising revenue if they gave credence to the COVID-19 lab leak theory, despite it subsequently proving likely true.

The Global Disinformation Index is a British-based non-profit group that previously **received $665,000 from the Global Engagement Center and National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a State Department-backed group, while it was overseeing censorship of “conspiracy theories” about COVID-19.**

One of these conspiracy theories was the notion that COVID-19 originated from a lab leak in Wuhan, which GDI claimed had “been fact-checked and proven untrue.”

GDI abused its influence to pressure Big Tech firms like Google to cut advertising from conservative websites that pushed the lab leak theory, placing them on a secret blacklist called a “dynamic exclusion list” in an effort to put them out of business.

The group targeted firms that were “providing ad revenue streams to known disinformation sites peddling coronavirus conspiracies.”

Microsoft later had to suspend its partnership with the group after the GDI had been using the company’s Xandr advertising and analytics subsidiary to freeze out conservative sites.

From 2021 onwards, the lab leak theory was no longer being treated as a “conspiracy theory,” and both the Department of Energy and the FBI recently came out and asserted it was likely true.

“GDI is part of [a] disturbing constellation of pop-up censorship organizations that all descended on stifling COVID origins discourse online simultaneously,” Mike Benz, a former State Department official told the Washington Examiner.

This once again underscores how hysteria over ‘fake news’ and ‘disinformation’ has been weaponized to justify the censorship of awkward stories and even facilitate actual cover-ups.

As we highlighted yesterday, the Chinese Communist Party threatened Elon Musk to stop sharing stories about the Wuhan lab leak, suggesting Tesla’s business interests in China would be at risk if he kept amplifying the issue.

BREIT said it fulfilled redemption requests of $1.4 billion in February, which represents only 35% of the approximately $3.9 billion in total withdrawal requests for the month

As we previously reported, Blackstone has been exercising its right to block investors' withdrawals since November last year after requests hit a preset 5% net asset value of BREIT, which is marketed to mostly high net worth individuals.

Credit Suisse Crashes To All Time Low After Boosting Deposit Rates To Reverse Bank Run

The Inverse Jim Cramer ETF Has Officially Arrived

Mississippi Bans 'Gender-Affirming Care' For Minors

Argentina's Power Restored After Blackout Plunged Half Of Country Into Darkness

The national grid in Argentina has regained power after a fire caused damage to a high-voltage power line that sparked blackouts for half the country, according to BBC.

More than 20 million individuals experienced a power outage on Wednesday afternoon when transmission lines were damaged by a fire in fields west of the capital, Buenos Aires. This incident also resulted in the state-run nuclear facility Atucha I and Embalse being shut down.

Schools Are Pushing Gender Pronouns And Hiding It from Parents

A new report reveals **students in the nation’s largest school districts are encouraged to change their names and pronouns without parental knowledge, even though those same schools require parental approval for over-the-counter medicine.**

The report, released by The Defense of Freedom Institute for Policy Studies (DFI), found that “eight of the nation’s 20 largest school districts allow students to use names and pronouns at school aligned with their gender identity without parental knowledge and consent,” said DFI.

“Yet these same districts, including New York City Department of Education, Los Angeles Unified School District, and Chicago Public Schools, **require parental permission to dispense over-the-counter medication to students at school,**” added DFI.

The report comes one day after news broke that Saint Paul Public Schools are “explicitly instructing teachers to use students’ preferred names and pronouns with or without parental consent,” according to WZTV Nashville.

The study said that while the schools rightfully followed parental wishes regarding medications, the same logic wasn’t applied to the use of pronouns, overthrowing “the social and cultural consensus that parents decided what was best for their children.”

“School districts across the country are failing to respect the rights of parents to make decisions for their minor children,” said Bob Eitel, co-founder and president of DFI.

Dozens of parents spoke to the New York Times last month, saying that keeping secrets from parents is “a stab in the back from the school system.”

The Times details the work of a transgender clinical psychologist, Dr. Erica Anderson, who is advocating for parental rights.

“It’s well established that one of the most important factors in helping gender-questioning children is family support,” Anderson told Fox News Digital.

Surge In Mortgage Rates Above 7% Sends Homebuyer Applications To 28 Year Low

Readlater, journal: The Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and the National People’s Congress (NPC) - the so-called Two Sessions - will kick off this weekend. (didn’t include pictures)

What To Know Ahead Of China's Two Sessions

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, MAR 02, 2023 - 10:20 PM

The Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and the National People’s Congress (NPC) - the so-called ***Two Sessions*** - will kick off this weekend (starting on Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 5, respectively). During the one-week long “Two Sessions” event, the Government Work Report delivered by outgoing Premier Li Keqiang and the 2023 fiscal budget proposed by the Ministry of Finance will be discussed and approved by the NPC. Because this year's Two Sessions coincide with the once-in-a-decade personnel reshuffling at the State Council as well as all the ministries under the State Council, they carry special importance.

The TL/DR summary of what to expect, comes from Bloomberg's in-house China expert Tom Orlik who writes that the Congress/Conference will see a further direct concentration of economic and financial power under the CCP:

While the assumption among many China watchers is that the changes represent a further tilt away from markets that is ultimately bad for growth, recent moves to end Covid Zero restrictions, boost support for the property sector and seek better ties with the US suggest that investors shouldn't rush to conclusions. The potential positive way of looking at the looming personnel and organizational changes is when Xi has a team around him who he's familiar with and who he trusts. Perhaps there's just some more space to get some good things done, to make some pragmatic decisions.

For those less pressed for time, here is a more detailed summary on what to expect at the Two Sessions, as excerpted from a recent note by Goldman analyst Hui Shan

Three things to watch: growth target, fiscal budget, and personnel changes

On the first day of the NPC (Sunday, March 5), the sitting premier Li Keqiang will deliver his last Government Work Report (GWR) which will contain the government's various economic targets, most important of which is the GDP growth target. Goldman's baseline expectation is a relatively conservative "**around 5%**" GDP growth target, although the bank forecasts actual GDP growth to be 5.5% in 2023. Last year's miss on growth target (3.0% actual growth vs. "around 5.5%" target) may cause policymakers to set a low bar to ensure success this year as evidenced by provincial governments' conservative targets for 2023. **Investors currently expect a growth target in the 5-5.5% range, and a significantly higher target (e.g., 6%) announced over the weekend could be market-moving**.

The GWR will mention some fiscal plans such as official on-budget deficit (GS expects **3.2%** vs. 2.8% last year) and local government special bond (LGSB) quota (GS expects **RMB 4tn** vs. RMB 3.65tn last year). However, the more comprehensive fiscal budget proposal is likely released later during the Two Sessions. The projected tax revenue growth may inform us about the government's expectation on nominal GDP growth, the planned transfer from central to local governments may hint at policymakers' concern on local governments' fiscal conditions and their determination in controlling local government implicit debt, and the government-managed fund revenue (mostly land sales revenue) may give us clues on policymakers' view on the property sector momentum.

During the Two Sessions, changes to Party and state organizations and reshuffling of State Council and ministerial personnel, which were planned at the

Second Plenum during February 26-28, will be revealed to the public and approved by the NPC. It has been reported in the media that the financial regulatory authority may be moved to a resurrected Central Financial Work Commission (which was first established in 1998 in the aftermath of the Asia Financial Crisis and abolished in 2003) led by Ding Xuexiang, a Politburo Standing Committee member. The current Financial Stability and Development Committee under the State Council and led by Liu He may cease to exist. And He Lifeng, a Politburo member, may replace Guo Shuqing, a Central Committee member, to become the party secretary of the PBOC. If true, **these changes indicate an elevated importance of, and more party control over, the financial regulatory system.**

Beyond these three key parameters, statements on sector-specific policies can be important to investors as well. For example, characterization of the property market, consumption boosting measures, and internet regulations are worth monitoring. Such discussions may be provided in the GWR, press conferences with ministers in economic and financial areas, and/or in official news reports by Xinhua, People's Daily and CCTV. Additionally, statements in the GWR regarding Taiwan may also gather market attention

Where we are in the post-Covid recovery

To gauge policy stance to be unveiled at or after the Two Sessions, one must first assess where China is in its post-Covid economic recovery. Based on GS tracking of high-frequency data, **mobility** measures such as the 100-city traffic congestion index have mostly normalized (Exhibit 2). Channel checks and anecdotal evidence suggest that **high-end consumer markets** have been recovering quickly. In the property market, the 30-city daily property sales data showed notable improvements in recent days (Exhibit 3). Similarly, the NBS 70-city property prices and the Beke's 50-city existing home prices showed increases in the latest readings. However, it should be noted that high-frequency data in the property sector tend to overweight large top-tier cities where fundamentals are more supportive of a faster recovery. Smaller lower-tier cities, by contrast, continue to struggle due to weak demographic and economic fundamentals as well as dampened price expectations. For many consumption categories, 2022 demand was dramatically below trend and there is still a long way to go for China's post-Covid recovery, especially for services sectors, mass markets, migrant and young workers.

Four policy expectations

As mobility, consumption, and property have begun to show clear signs of recovering, the growth acceleration that the market expect this year is broadly on track. As a result, cyclical policy in aggregate should be less stimulative this year than last year. In fact, the PBOC has allowed interbank market rates (e.g., DR007) to increase to the level of policy rates (e.g., 7-day OMO), a sign of policy normalization after very loose liquidity conditions during and after the Shanghai lockdown last year (Exhibit 4).1 Despite higher headline official on-budget deficit and LGSB quota that will likely be released on the first day of the NPC, Goldman expects the augmented fiscal deficit, a more comprehensive gauge of fiscal stance, to narrow by 1.5% of GDP from 2022 to 2023.

But this is not to say that policy will tighten in the same abrupt and significant manner as it did in 2020H2. Precisely because the withdrawal of policy support and the imposition and tightening measures were too much too fast back then, **policymakers will be more patient this time around**, especially when the potential downside risk from weaker external demand remains considerable and confidence remains fragile. Even though the February PMIs were much stronger than expected and property prices in top-tier cities appear to be edging higher again, a meaningful withdrawal of policy support is unlikely until at least Q3 this year.

Policymakers have been reiterating the message of enhancing domestic demand and boosting private consumption since last December’s Central Economic Work Conference (CEWC). However, **the likelihood of significant nationwide cash handouts remains very low.** Between budget constraints and cultural preferences, the government will continue the past approach of using infrastructure investment to stimulate the economy when needed. Consumption-boosting measures will likely stay within the realm of tax subsidies for autos and home appliances, accelerated rental housing construction, and small-scale local consumption coupons.

Although the precise policy stance announced at or after the Two Sessions is difficult to predict, especially with the once-in-a-decade reshuffling at the State Council and in various ministries, there should effectively be a “policy put” for at least 5% growth this year. With GDP growth only reaching 3% last year and with 2023 marking the first year of the new premier’s 10-year term, **the government’s tolerance for below 5% GDP growth this year will be low.**

Two key risks, one external and one domestic

The most significant downside risk to China’s 2023 economic growth is **exports**. Chinese exports fell sharply in late 2022 (-9.9% yoy in December), in line with the experience of other export-oriented economies such as South Korea and Taiwan and suggesting external demand has indeed been softening. Recent media reports also highlighted empty containers at ports and dwindling overseas orders. Goldman's baseline expectation is flat real goods exports this year as its global team projects no recession in the US or Europe over the next 12 months. However, if exports turn out to be a lot weaker than expected, policymakers may need to boost monetary/fiscal easing and infrastructure building again. Given the more limited fiscal space after last year’s efforts to stabilize the economy, additional infrastructure investment would likely be financed through policy banks and commercial banks instead of government debt.

Onshore conversations suggest **business and consumer confidence** remains the main risk to growth domestically. Without confidence, the post-Covid recovery may not be sustainable as private firms are reluctant to invest and households are reluctant to spend. The recent message from the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection against “financial elites” and “hedonism and extravagance” has raised concerns that anti-corruption campaign could intensify this year. Hence, communications from the top economic and financial policymakers in the new government after the Two Sessions will be particularly important to watch.

There are certainly other risks in the economy. **US-China relations** have weighed on investor sentiment after the balloon incident, US Secretary of the State Antony Blinken postponing his trip to China, and media reports of China considering supplying arms to Russia. We may see more negative headlines in the coming months. However, this is a structural issue and the impact on economic growth this year still looks limited thus far. **Financial risks** from small and rural banks and local government financing vehicles (LGFV) could re-emerge later this year if NPLs are recognized and interest rates rise after policy normalization. But such risks can be managed and the Zunyi LGFV bond restructuring in January was an example. Risks of policy overtightening also appear low due to the experience of 2020/2021, and as discussed earlier, policymakers will be more patient this year.

Overall, China’s post-Covid recovery has just started with some encouraging signs, setting the stage for Goldman's forecast of 5.5% full-year GDP growth (and 6.5% yoy in Q4) which is above consensus (Bloomberg consensus 5.2%). The government is likely to remain patient in withdrawing support, and to stand by to ease in the event that recovery disappoints or exports fall short. After the strong February PMI print, the market will be focusing on hard data such as January/February trade (to be released on March 7) and retail sales (to be released on March 15). If these hard data surprise meaningfully to the upside, the risk-on market movements featuring stronger RMB and higher equity/rates/commodities will continue.

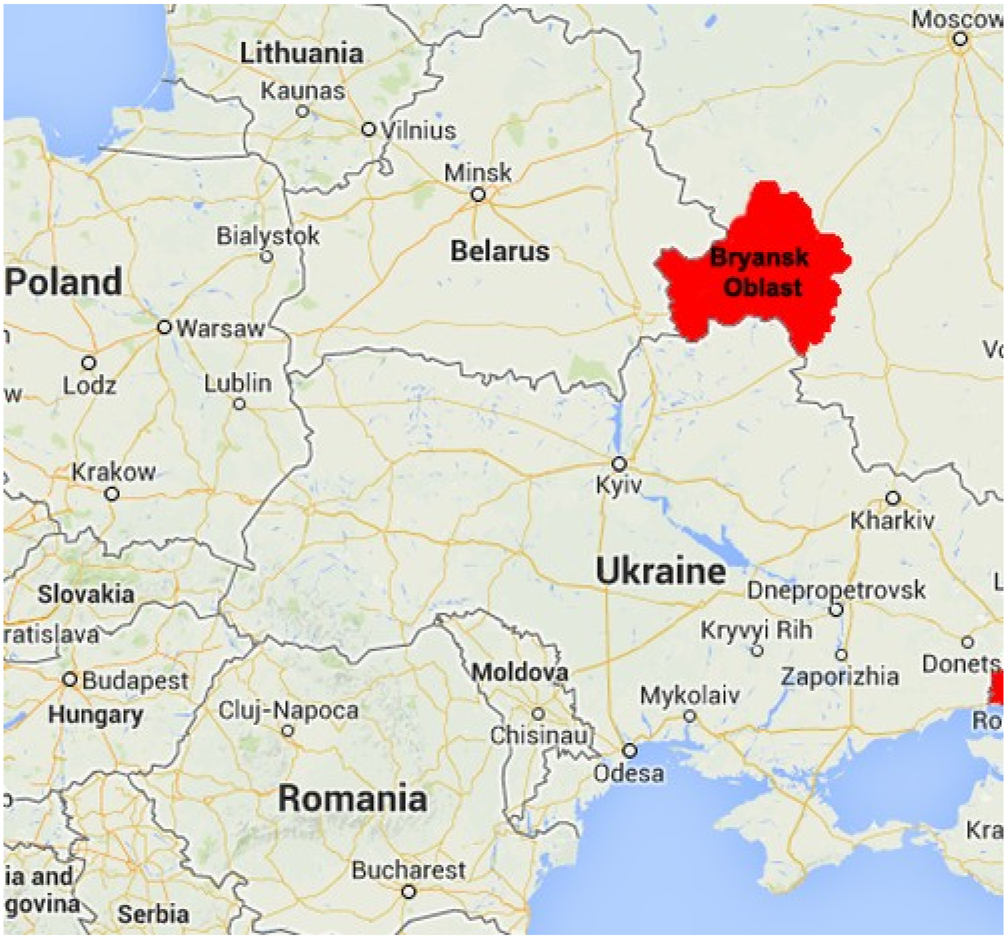
Senate Votes Unanimously To Declassify COVID-19 Wuhan Lab Leak Intelligence

Cross-Border 'Terror Attack' On Russia Involved Dozens Of Armed Saboteurs Attacking Villages

The Kremlin has condemned what it called a new terrorist attack on its soil Thursday carried out by Ukrainian saboteurs who allegedly breached a border region.

Russian presidency spokesman Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said **militants entered the Bryansk Oblast in Western Russia and attacked villages there**, resulting in the **death of one civilian** and another wounded. "This is an attack by terrorists," Peskov said.

Conflicting initial reports indicated Russia’s Federal Security Service engaged in a gun battle with the infiltrators, with the Kremlin saying "Measures are currently underway to eliminate these terrorists."


Lithuania
Kaunas
Vilnius
Moscow
Minsk
Belarus
Bialystok
Poland
Warsaw
Lodz
Lublin
Bryansk Oblast
Krakow
Kyiv
Kharkiv
Ukraine
Slovakia
Dnepropetrovsk
Kryvyi Rih
Zaporizhia
Moldova
Budapest
Hungary
Cluj-Napoca
Chisinau
Mykolaiv
Odesa
Romania
Bucharest
Serbia

The Associated Press describes based on national media that "Tass, citing Russian law enforcement, reported earlier that the **saboteurs were holding up to six people hostage**."

"The local governor said the group had fired on a vehicle there, killing one man and wounding a 10-year-old," AP continues. The report details further:

Thursday's apparent incursion was also embarrassing for Russian President Vladimir Putin, coming days after he ordered the Federal Security Service to tighten controls on Russia's border with Ukraine.

*Tass reported, citing an unnamed security official, that two villages in the Bryansk region — Sushany and Lyubechane — were **under attack by "several dozen armed fighters."***

*Alexander Bogomaz, the governor of the Bryansk region, which borders Ukraine, said the group fired on a vehicle in Lyubechane, **killing one man and wounding a child**. He also said that a Ukrainian drone struck a house in the Sushany, setting it ablaze.*

Multiple war monitoring accounts have picked up on the below video which is widely being flagged as showing one of the alleged attackers:

Peskov said in response to a question over what action Moscow could take in the international arena, "On the international arena, [we] have drawn and continue drawing the attention of the world public to those terror attacks that these people [Ukrainian terrorists] carry out."

Putin also directly addressed the cross-border terror attack in a video address after convening his national security council to be briefed on the matter...

"They opened fire on civilians,... they saw that there were children in the car," Putin said.

The incident comes after Monday into Tuesday **a series of drone attacks on Russian facilities**, believed launched by the Ukrainians, triggered air alert sirens in various locations across the country. One or more even reached to within 100km of Moscow.

Concerning the drone attacks, Russia's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs has charged that the Ukrainians had covert help from the United States in carrying out the sophisticated drone operations, one of which damaged an oil facility some 500km inside Russian territory. "Attack of drones on aviation facilities in Saratov and Ryazan **could not have been carried out without the active assistance of the United States**," Ryabkov said in a press statement.

Journal, censorship, government: Apple Demands ChatGPT-Based Email App Moderate Content Or Raise Age Restriction

"Your app includes AI-generated content but does not appear to include content filtering at this time,"

Neither does google!

If it's not political, or financial, they do not care.

Look no further than the porn industry.

Today, as of the time writing, anybody, and of any age, can literally look up porn with just a simple click of the mouse.

Yes, that's right: google (and every large tech corporation for that matter) censors journalists for trying to share publicly available facts that technically anybody can gain access to, but not porn. Even satomasicism is available; like BDSM, and stuff..

Quite the double standard, don't you think?

Vaccine, censorship, journal: Pfizer Confirms It Ended COVID-19 Vaccine Pregnancy Trial Early

Pfizer has confirmed it stopped its clinical trial analyzing COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy in pregnant women early.

The company said that enrollment in the study stopped in the fourth quarter of 2021 after health experts, including the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, began recommending the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for pregnant women.

“**With the declining enrollment, the study had insufficient sample size to assess the primary immunogenicity objective and continuation of this placebo controlled study could no longer be justified due to global recommendations**,” Pfizer told journalist Maryanne Demasi.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and European Medicines Agency both agreed to the proposal to halt the study, according to Pfizer. The regulatory agencies did not respond to requests for comment.

An internal email, disclosed in a court case, previously indicated Pfizer had stopped enrollment early.

“The study enrolment was stopped with incomplete numbers because recruitment was slow and it became unreasonable/inappropriate to randomise pregnant women to placebo given the amount of observational evidence that the vaccine is safe and effective, coupled with increasing number of technical committees supporting immunization of pregnant women,” Jelena Vojicic, vaccines medical lead at Pfizer Canada, wrote in the 2022 email.

The randomized, placebo-controlled study in question was launched in early 2021 after pregnant women were excluded from the phase three trial that led to the authorization of the vaccine in the United States and a number of other countries.

Pfizer and BioNTech said they expected to enroll some 4,000 pregnant women but actually enrolled just 349, according to the trial record. Some of the participants were to receive a vaccine while others would receive a placebo, according to the original protocol. Women were expected to be studied for seven to 10 months.

The trial was listed as completed on Aug. 23, 2022, but no results have been released yet.

Pfizer told Demasi that it still does not have “a complete data set” from the study and did not say when it expected to receive it. Pfizer said it and BioNTech plan to complete an analysis of the trial “and seek publication or presentation as is our standard practice.”

Journal, war, censorship, stats: **Woody Harrelson Doubles Down, Slams COVID Mandates: US Is "Not A Free Country" (more playing into the narrative)**

*“I don’t feel that we should have **forced** testing, **forced** masking and **forced** vaccination”*

Following a 30 second bit on SNL where he branded big pharma as a ‘cartel’ forcing it’s drugs on people with government consent, actor Woody Harrelson has further spoken out against COVID mandates.

In an interview with the New York Times, Harrelson warned that America is no longer a free country, branding COVID protocols as “rather absurd.”

When asked what was “absurd about the COVID protocols,” Harrelson replied, “The fact that they’re still going on!”

“I don’t think that anybody should have the right to demand that you’re forced to do the testing, forced to wear the mask and forced to get vaccinated three years on,” the Zombieland star asserted.

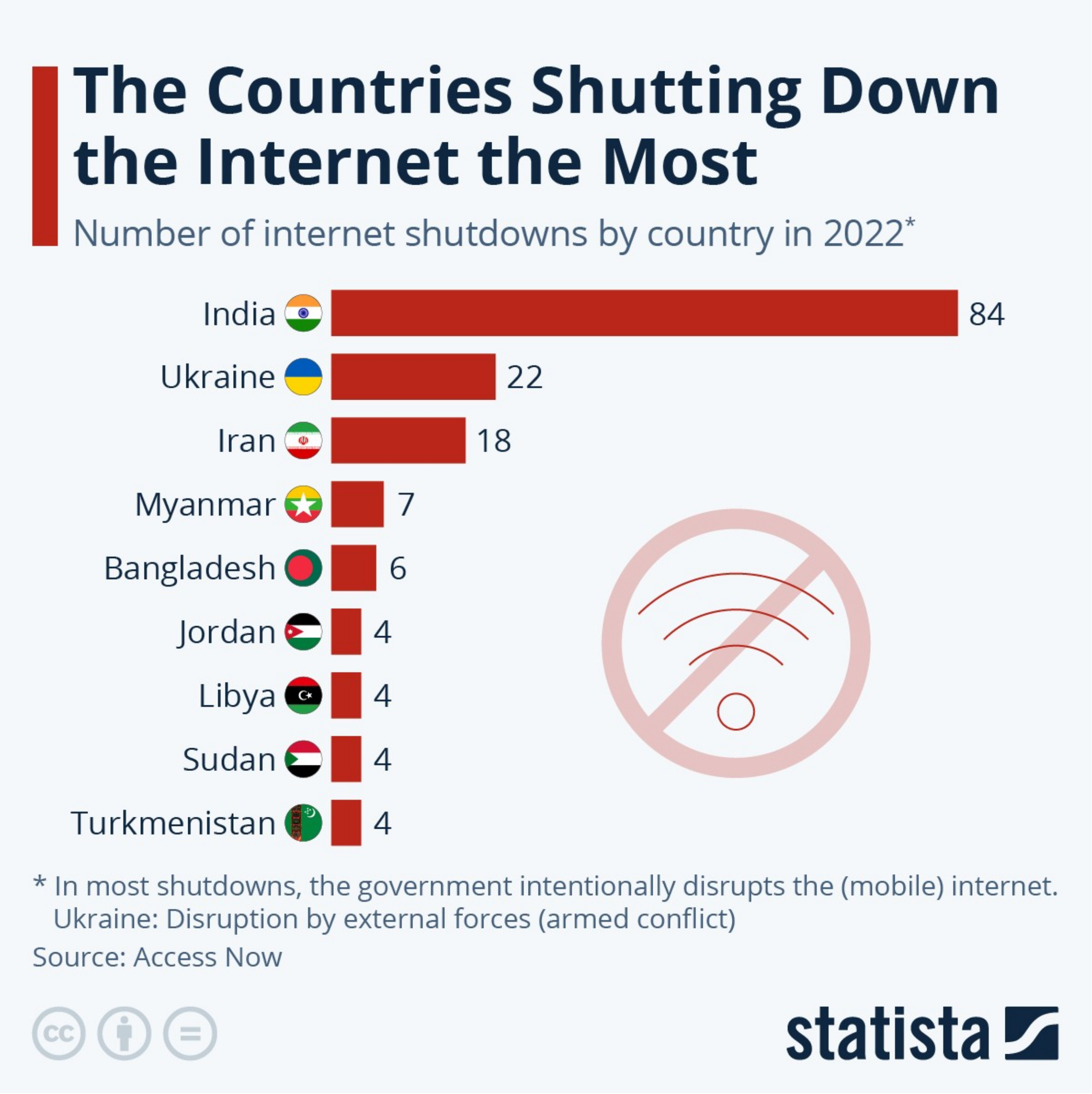
Zelensky Floats 'Strategic Pullback' From Bakhmut After Pouring In Huge Amount Of Reserve Forces

"So far they’ve held the city, but if need be, ***they will strategically pull back*** *because we’re not going to* ***sacrifice all of our people just for nothing****."*

These Are The Countries Shutting Down The Internet The Most

Egypt's 2011 revolution and the failed Turkish military coup of 2016 are prime examples of internet shutdowns employed in this way. In India - the country that cuts internet access the most - shutdowns cluster in Kashmir, but also Rajasthan, where they have been used during protests (and preemptively when protests were expected), but also during exams in recent months. Both regions have seen violence tied to tension between Hindus and Muslims, in Kashmir also in connection with the Muslim-led independence movement.

Across the world, internet shutdowns and deliberate slowdowns have become more common once again. According to Access Now data, **India has the most shutdowns of any country by a huge distance - 84 in 2022 alone.**



Inflation, stats, energy: "You Are Killing Us!": Southern California Gas Seeks 13 Percent Monthly Bill Increase

“**I am vehemently against the proposed increase and feel that it borders on being criminal**,” a Cathedral City man wrote. “I would encourage the [California Public Utilities Commission] to look at other ways [of managing expenses] to prevent such an increase.”

A Riverside resident on a fixed income told the commission her bill had already increased to $650.

“**You are killing us! We need the heat in order to live,**” the woman wrote. “This is just price gouging your customers and forcing people to live miserable lives. Stop the insanity.”

According to SoCalGas, about 58 percent of the increase will be spent to modernize and upgrade infrastructure, including paying for safety-related costs. Another 34 percent will pay for growth and development of clean fuels to help meet the state’s environmental goals, and improvements to customer service. The remainder will cover increased personnel costs to fund the company’s compensation programs.

War, sanctions: Brazil Flouts Biden Pressure, Welcomes Iranian Warships To Rio Port

*"In the past, those ships facilitated **illegal trade and terrorist activities, and have also been sanctioned by the United States**. Brazil is a sovereign nation, but **we firmly believe those ships should not dock anywhere**," she said.*

Additionally, Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson in a statement had earlier said "The United States will continue to aggressively target all elements of Iran’s UAV program."

Photos confirmed the presence of the two Iranian ships at Rio's port...

China, sanctions, war, vaccine, journal: CCP Mouthpiece Threatens Elon Musk Over COVID Lab-Leak Comments

Though that comment from Musk came as the latest of a series of jabs at Fauci, it stepped on a few nerves across the Pacific.

“Anti-China political forces in America have yet again hyped up the rumor that COVID-19 leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology,” reads a Feb. 28 article published in the Global Times, the CCP’s mouthpiece publication, titled ***“‘Elon Musk, are you smashing China’s pot?”*** which translates into the western euphemism "don't bite the hand that feeds you."

“Even the famous Tesla boss Elon Musk has joined in,” the article reads.

*“Some may think [Musk] made those remarks only to attack Fauci, but the posts **he reposted almost all linked the origins of COVID-19 to China. And the argument is repeatedly used by the hostile-to-China U.S. right-wing and anti-China media to frame China.”***

The Global Times piece then said the collaboration between the Wuhan laboratory worked and EcoHealth Alliance had “no relation” to researching the coronavirus or gain-of-function research (research that makes the virus more potent or more transmissible, or both), calling anyone who suggests otherwise “internet conspiracy theorists” and “anti-China forces.”

‘Smashing China’s Wok’

The comments from the state-owned media are a signal that the Chinese regime is discontent with the billionaire’s remarks.

The authoritarian regime keeps a close tab on Western businesses that operate in China and often has drastic reactions when it deems any entities to have stepped out of line. These reactions have included exerting pressure on companies to stick to the regime’s narrative or boycotting the companies altogether.

Stats, censorship, government: Girls Basketball Team Withdraws From State Tournament In Protest Against Transgender Player Who Dominates Games

“We believe playing against an opponent with a biological male jeopardizes the fairness of the game and the safety of our players,” said MVCS head of school Vicky Fogg.

“Allowing biological males to participate in women’s sports sets a bad precedent for the future of women’s sports in general.”

Stats, markets, journal: European companies have announced buybacks of nearly $70 billion so far this year, according to Bloomberg Intelligence

Buybacks, typically a less popular vehicle for shareholder returns than dividends in Europe, are gaining pace. The region’s buyback yield last year rose to the highest since 2011, according to BofA. But some strategists warn the trend may not truly take hold unless accompanied by strong fundamentals, a scenario that looks shaky as bets for further policy tightening grow, making a recession more likely.

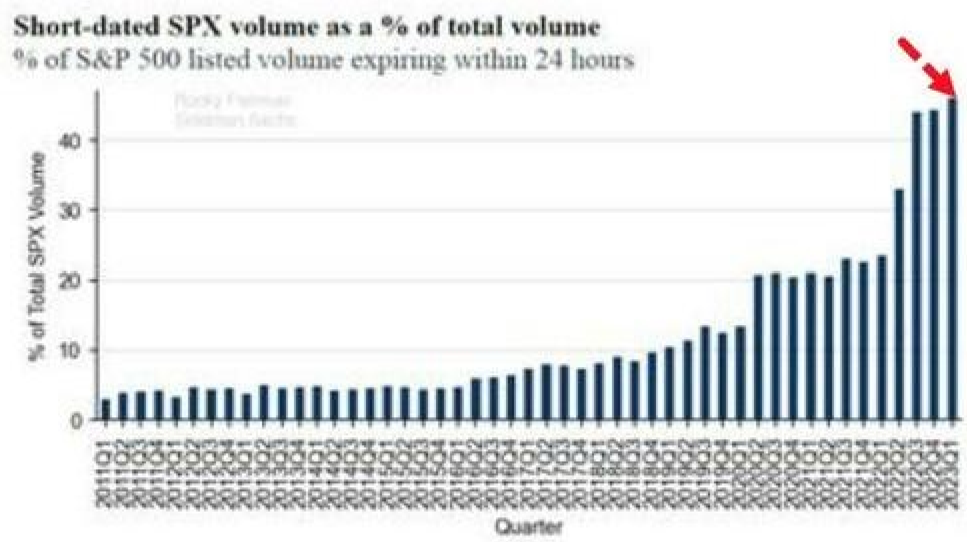
more on that short dated options spike pattern. they provide a chart that goes back as far as

2011, and for the quarterly, so it really does a good job of showing how significant the change has been since the pandemic level spending splunge began back in 2020.

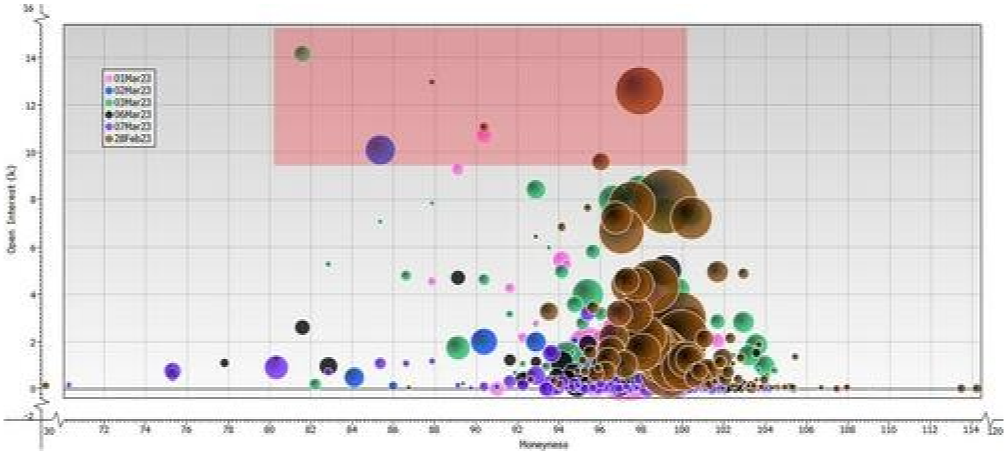
The chart literally doubles...or triples. It's literally like, off the charts.

For short dated options volumes to spike this much in such a short period time says a lot about the current state of our markets.

February's micro theme was the ongoing intraday dominance of 0DTE trading with SPX 0DTE options making up over 50% of volume...



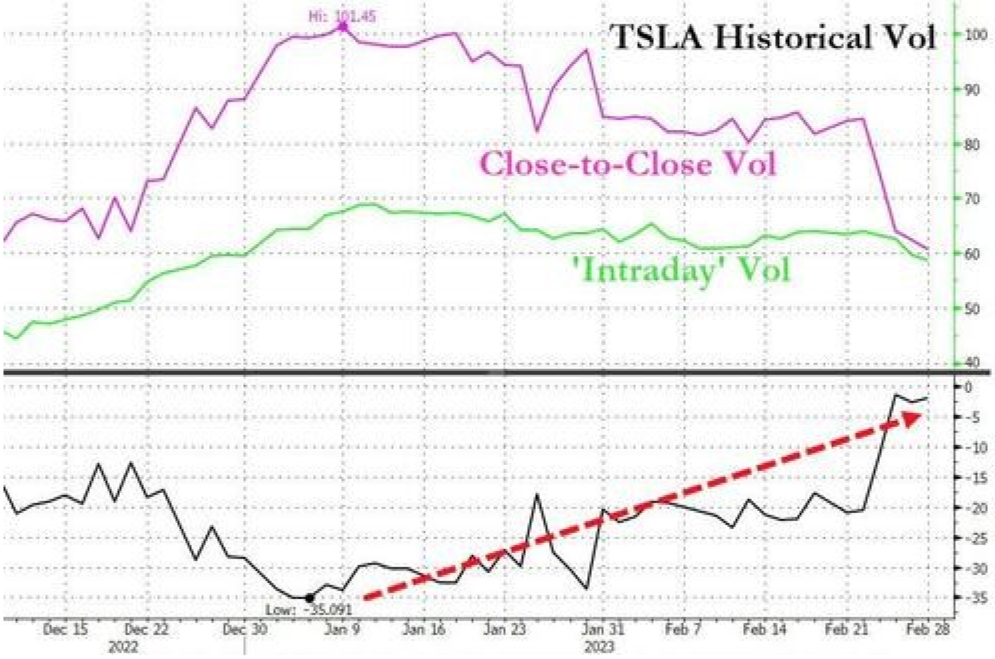
For example, there are 7 major options lines with Open Interest over 10k that expire in the next few days...



Source: Bloomberg

As Goldman's traders noted, these are significant positions for a relatively quiet week with Q1 earnings mostly wrapped and no major economic data points. This is becoming the new normal.

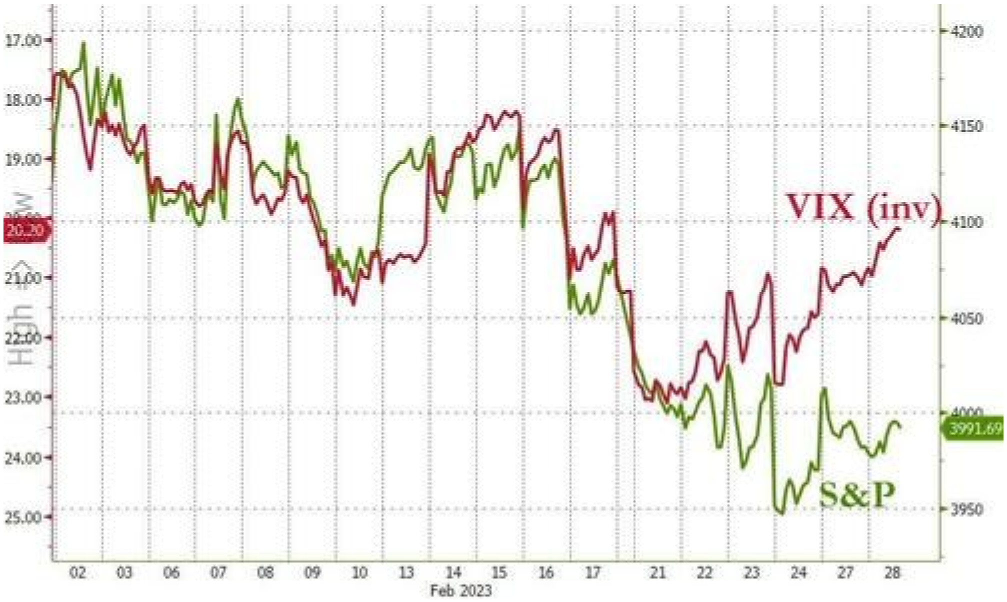
And the impact of 0DTE is clearly seen here in the poster-child stock...



Source: Bloomberg

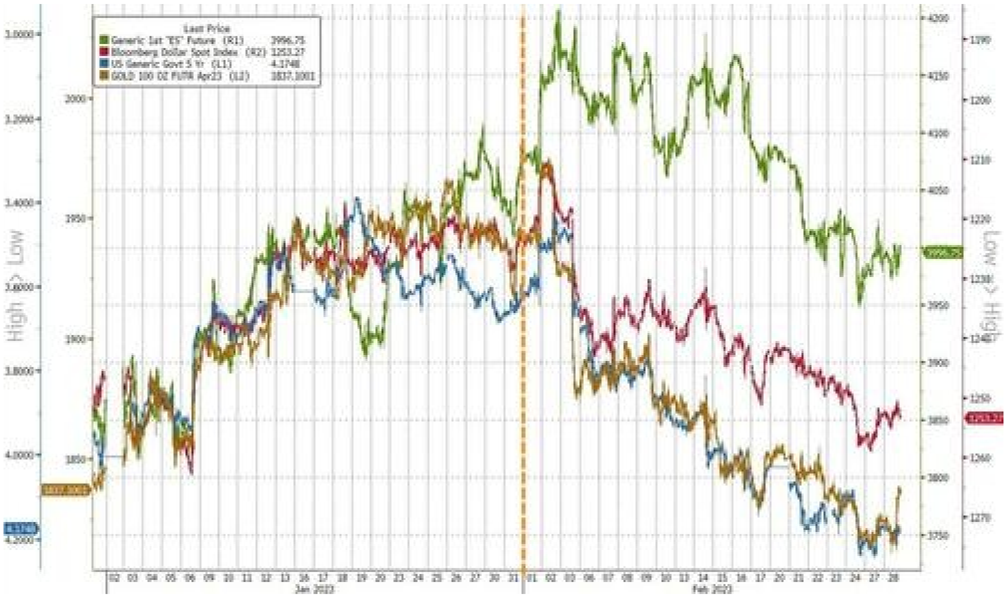
As Charlie McElligott explains, 0DTE options flows leading to an **"intraday Vol only" dynamic** (via market-maker Gamma hedging requirements creating "accelerant flows"... which then later see a ubiquitous "mean-reversion" from monetization of both bot 0DTE Calls and Puts), which **leaves "close-to-close" volatility bleeding**

lower as any 'intraday' event is washed away. The latter of which helps explain why Vix and the market have decoupled in recent days...



Source: Bloomberg

Overall, February was the unwind of January's cross-asset-class trends... with Equities being the last to wake up to reality...



WHO Was 'Complicit' In China’s Cover-Up Of COVID-19 Origins: Sen. Daines

US Sends Spy Plane Over Taiwan Strait As Denunciations Become Daily

Lately the US-China superpower rivalry has morphed into a perpetuating standoff, taking the form of **daily tit-for-tat denunciation**s and an increasing number of military encounters in both the Taiwan Strait and other areas in the South China Sea.

For example, it was only on Friday that an American P-8 spy plane was intercepted by a Chinese J-11 jet fighter, reportedly armed with four air-to-air missiles. According to *The Wall Street Journal* the Chinese aircraft had "passed above and settled a few hundred feet from the wing of the U.S. Navy plane." CNN captured the moment, as seen in the above clip.

"The FAA charged federal agencies $5,000 per hour to use its aircraft...", Watchdog To Probe Buttigieg's Use Of Government Aircraft

Stats, government, censorship: 7.2 Percent Of US Adults Identify As LGBT

A total of 7.2 percent of U.S. adults identified as LGBT in 2022, a new record high.

As Statista's Katharina Buchholz notes, Gen Z, newly added in the Gallup survey's 2020 edition, is the gayest generation in terms of self-identification.

Almost 20 percent of those born between 1997 and 2004 identified as LGBT, compared with around 11 percent of Millennials.

Most Ukrainian Soldiers On Bakhmut Front-Line Killed 'Within 4 Hours'

Authored by Kyle Anzalone via The Libertarian Institute,

A retired American Marine fighting in Ukraine told ABC News the **frontlines are a "meat grinder" where soldiers survive an average of "four hours."**

Troy Offenbecker is fighting alongside Ukrainian forces in the Donbas region. Moscow and Kiev have been battling around Bakhmut for several months as Russia's forces have slowly made gains around the city.

In January, Germany estimated Kiev was losing a "three-digit number" of soldiers daily fighting for Bakhmut. At that time, **the White House believed**

President Volodymyr Zelensky was committing too many lives and resources to defend the city.

Offenbecker’s commentary suggests that the situation may be getting worse for Ukrainian soldiers. “It’s been pretty bad on the ground. A lot of casualties.” He assessed, **“the life expectancy is around four hours on the frontline.”**

He said the Russian attack on the city is not letting up and had turned into a “meat grinder.” “[The artillery] is **nonstop**.” Offenbecker explained the Russian forces are fighting around the clock. “[The Russians] have maybe run into a shortage of shells lately, but the past couple of weeks, **it’s been nonstop. All day and night**,” he told *ABC*.

Meanwhile, Kiev’s Western backers have expressed to Zelensky in recent weeks that NATO countries are struggling to find artillery shells to send to Ukraine. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said the US will train Ukrainian forces on fighting methods that use fewer munitions.

The Kremlin ordered a mobilization of 300,000 troops last year. Western leaders have anticipated Moscow will order an offensive this winter. Ukrainian officials say that the Russian offensive is now underway, and Offenbecker agrees. **“With the amount of shelling, the amount of armor that they’ve brought in, I think it’s started,”** he explained to *ABC*.

Due to Moscow’s and Kiev’s tight control over their countries’ presses, it is unclear how substantial the death toll is for each country. Since the start of the war, Zelensky has nationalized Ukraine’s media, outlawed his political opposition and jailed citizens who opposed his administration.

Commenting on the state of journalism in Ukraine, press-union leader Serhiy Guz explained, “We never know what’s the basis of these accusations, what’s the pro-Russian link…It starts to look like a political accusation rather than a genuine crime.”

“A lot of journalists self-censor now,” he added.

peace demonstrations beginning to heat up in Europe as the reality of war truly sets in with the masses

10,000 people gathered in Paris to protest against France’s membership in both NATO as well as the EU. Attendees also demanded an end to the French government’s military aid to Kiev. The demonstration, dubbed the “National March for Peace” was organized by the right-wing Les Patriotes party. According to the group’s leader Florian Philippot – who joined the Paris rally himself – similar but smaller protests were held at 30 other locations throughout the country on Sunday.

On Saturday, thousands of people participated in peace demonstrations in the Italian cities of Genoa and Milan. In Genoa, the rally focused on ending weapons shipments to Ukraine and was organized by union members and left-wing activists, whose slogan was **"Lower weapons, raise wages."** 4,000 people from across Italy joined the Genoa protest, along with people from France and Switzerland as well, according to local media reports.

The Collective Autonomous Port Workers (CALP) helped organize the rally with the Italian communist party. They demanded the port of Genoa's facilities no longer be used to facilitate arms shipments to Ukraine.

CALP's Riccardo Rudino pointed out that **"the conflict in Ukraine did not begin last year"** but rather **"in 2014, with the massacre of the Russian-speaking population of the Donbass."**

Following the U.S. backed 2014 coup in Kiev – which overthrew the government of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych – Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula, while over 14,000 people were killed, including thousands of civilians, in Kiev's war on the breakaway republics of Donetsk and Luhansk.

In London, a large group carried out a similar demonstration calling for peace in Ukraine and an end to the British government's weapons transfers to Kiev. The event was held by Stop the War Coalition at Portland Place in Central London and was attended by former Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Many thousands of people participated in a massive protest in central Berlin, where attendees railed against German military aid to Kiev. The protesters, who were massed at the Brandenburg Gate, demanded additionally that their government engage Russia in peace talks and bring the war in Ukraine to an end.

The organizers say as many as 50,000 people joined the "Uprising for Peace" demonstrations. However, the police offered a lower-end estimate of 13,000 people in attendance. The event was organized by Sahra Wagenknecht, a member of the Links Party (the Left Party) in Germany, as well as a feminist author and campaigner Alice Schwarzer.

Wagenknecht declared neo-Nazis were not welcome at the protest, but anyone else who desired peace “with an honest heart” was welcome to attend. During her speech at the event, Wagenknecht declared the creation of a “new, strong peace movement in Germany.”

potential cui bono: The Presence Of NGO Ships Off Italian Coast Is Fueling Migration Crisis, Intel Report Warns

Authored by Thomas Brooke via Remix News,

The guarantee of being picked up by NGO boats is being promoted by people smugglers on social media and is allowing criminal gangs to use less seaworthy vessels and charge more money, Italian intelligence services claim

Pro-refugee rescue boats operating off the Italian coast are only exacerbating Europe’s migration crisis and are being used by people smugglers to guarantee success, a report by the Italian intelligence services has claimed.

In its annual report to the Italian parliament on Tuesday, Italy’s intelligence services warned the Ionian Sea may well become the new route of choice for people smugglers, indicating an increase in the number of boats leaving Turkey’s east coast destined for Italy.

“There is an increase in migratory flows from the eastern Mediterranean, leaving mainly from Turkey towards the coasts of Calabria, Puglia and Sicily by mainly Kurdish and Pakistani migrants, marking a rise in trafficking as well as the use, which has become practice, of the web and social networks by the same groups to advertise their trips and related services,” the report said.

Italian intelligence told lawmakers how the presence of NGO ships operating off Italy’s coast is “often publicized on social networks by facilitators of irregular migration as a guarantee of a safer journey to Europe.”

They accused NGOs of providing “a logistical advantage for the criminal organizations that manage migrant trafficking, allowing them to adapt their modus operandi according to the possibility of reducing the quality of the vessels used, correspondingly increasing the illicit profits, but exposing the people on board to a more concrete risk of shipwreck.”

At least 64 people have been confirmed dead following the shipwreck of an overcrowded wooden boat being used to smuggle migrants into Europe. The boat was found off Italy’s Calabrian coast on Sunday. It had set sail from the Turkish city of Izmir and was heading for Crotone on Italy’s east coast.

The perilous journey saw the boat navigate its way through the Aegean Sea and around Greece before attempting to cross the Ionian Sea to reach Italy.

The 80 survivors told Italian authorities the boat had been carrying approximately 170 people, suggesting the death toll could increase further. Others claim the number on board could have been closer to 250.

Many of the passengers originated from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, and Iraq, according to aid groups attending the scene.

Italian authorities have revealed the people smugglers responsible for organizing a trip from Turkey to Italy resulting in the deaths of dozens of migrants on Sunday charged each migrant €8,000 for what they described as the “voyage of death.”

NGO groups were quick to criticize the Italian government for the deaths, referencing recent government decrees that aimed to frustrate humanitarian vessels led by pro-refugee charities attempting to pick up migrants and escort them to Italy.

The Italian government hit back at accusations, highlighting the fact that NGO vessels were rarely operating in the area where the incident had occurred, as they usually concentrated their search and rescue efforts in the Mediterranean to Italy’s southwest rather than the Ionian Sea, which is far less used by people smugglers.

On Tuesday, Italy’s Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi refuted claims made by aid groups that the Italian authorities were slow to react to reports of distress in the area.

He explained how Italy had sent out two patrol vessels after authorities had been alerted to the boat off the coast of Crotone late on Saturday evening, but these had been required to suspend their efforts due to adverse weather conditions.

“There was no delay,” Piantedosi said.

“Everything possible was done in absolutely prohibitive sea conditions.”

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has requested action by the European Union to respond to the migration crisis her country is experiencing, telling European leaders in a letter sent on Monday that more must be done to stop migrants from embarking on perilous sea crossings.

“The point is, the more people who set off, the more people risk dying,” she told RAI state television on Monday.

Mass Drone Attack Unleashes Chaos, Air Raid Sirens Inside Russia

Russia has come under **attack by multiple drones on Tuesday**, with one of those drones reportedly causing a fire at an oil depot in the southern part of the country, and another hitting outside Moscow.

The attack on the oil facility happened in Tuapse, which lies about 150 miles southeast of the Crimean peninsula, with *Reuters* citing local media to report, "Emergency services **put out a fire at an oil depot in southern Russia overnight after a drone was spotted flying overhead**, the RIA news agency said on Tuesday." Crucially, Tuapse is **about 500 kilometers from the nearest Ukrainian-held territory**, which exhibits significant reach assuming the UAV was launched by the Ukrainians.

Ukrainian mystery weapon strikes again... likely drone laden with explosives reached all the way to the oil terminal in the town of Tuapse.

The fires which started at the facility at about 2:30am were extinguished after they spread to an area of some 200 square meters. "The oil tanks were not affected. There was no spill of oil products. No injuries," a local official, Sergei Boyko, described.

Another drone crashed in the Moscow region on the same day, with Governor Andrei Vorobyov saying it was likely an operation to target civilian infrastructure.

"This happened near the village of Gubastovo, the **target was probably a civilian infrastructure facility**, it was not damaged. There are no casualties or destruction on the ground," Vorobyov said on his Telegram channel, as translated by the *Moscow Times*.

"The FSB and other competent authorities are dealing with the situation, nothing threatens the safety of residents," he added. The *Moscow Times* notes that unverified reports said the drone was a Ukrainian UJ-22 Airborne manufactured by Ukrjet.

The Russian defense ministry in a statement made mention of another drone attack in southern Russia, close in time to the attack on the oil facility which it says was intercepted:

*The attacks — in the Krasnodar and Adygea regions — **had been "suppressed" and failed to inflict any damage**, it said.*

But it followed reports by Russian state news agencies of a fire at an oil depot in Krasnodar, around 240km south-east of the Crimean peninsula, after a drone was spotted flying overhead.

The Russian defense ministry stated that **"The Kyiv regime attempted to use unmanned aerial vehicles to attack civilian infrastructure in the Krasnodar region and the Adygea Republic."** It claimed further, "The UAVs were neutralized by electronic warfare units."

There may have additionally been a drone incident in the border area of the Belgorod region. *The Daily Beast* described it as a night of chaos for Russians:

*The strikes were part of what local media described as a "**mass drone attack"** that appears to have intensified in the last 24 hours.*

*On Monday morning, residents of an apartment building in the Belgorod region, near the border with Ukraine, were **forced to evacuate in the middle of the night after one of four drones crashed into the building**, according to Baza. Another drone landed on the roof of a supermarket and exploded, scorching the premises.*

Amid all the local reports coming out of Russia, there were **in total possibly half-a-dozen to a dozen or more inbound drones** which had been sent against various Russian cities overnight into Tuesday.

This comes after a past year which witnessed a number of sporadic drone and alleged sabotage attacks on sensitive Russian facilities, including military bases, as Ukraine and its backers grow more emboldened.

One December investigative report written by a US special forces veteran said the CIA was behind many of the covert sabotage operations happening with increasing frequency on Russian soil. President Putin has recently said he sees the conflict in Ukraine and West-backed proxy war there as a fight for the survival of the Russian people, alluding to it as an 'existential threat' in fresh comments.

Bayraktar TB2 drone during an exercise in 2021, Getty Images

The timing of these fresh, brazen attacks on Russian appears significant, given that just within the last few days there's been some actual international momentum toward getting serious about an eventual brokered peace - this after China unveiled its 12-point plan for negotiated ceasefire on Friday. Will efforts at peace be sabotaged before a process can ever hope to get off the ground? If Russian soil keeps getting attacked, it's very unlikely the two sides will even come close to seriously contemplating negotiations.

Russia Repels 10 Drones Over Crimea As Kiev Denies It's Behind Spate Of Attacks

The Kremlin said Wednesday that it prevented another 'massive' drone attack on its territory - this time in Russian-held Crimea, stating that **a total of 10 drones were shot down or disabled** through electronic warfare measures.

"An attempt by the Kyiv regime to carry out **a massive drone attack** on the facilities of the Crimean peninsula has been prevented," the Russian defense ministry (MoD) said in a statement, as cited in TASS.

"**Six Ukrainian attack drones were shot down by air defense systems**. Another four Ukrainian drones were disabled by electronic warfare. There were no casualties and destruction on the ground," the MoD said.

Illustrative file image

It comes a day after a spate of drone attacks on and near multiple Russian cities were reported. Some of them were reported downed, but others appeared to have hit their targets - including against an oil facility in Tuapse, which lies about 150 miles southeast of the Crimean peninsula, about 500 kilometers from the nearest Ukrainian-held territory.

During those prior attacks, inbound enemy UAVs had been observed outside of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and over the Belgorod region. On Tuesday there were **in total possibly half-a-dozen to a dozen or more inbound drones** which had been sent against various Russian cities.

Given the air raid alerts and sirens that went out warning heavily populated areas over a span of Monday into Tuesday, *The Daily Beast* had described it as a day of chaos for Russians:

*The strikes were part of what local media described as a "****mass drone attack"*** *that appears to have intensified in the last 24 hours.*

On Monday morning, residents of an apartment building in the Belgorod region, near the border with Ukraine, were ***forced to evacuate in the middle of the night after one of four drones crashed into the building****, according to Baza. Another drone landed on the roof of a supermarket and exploded, scorching the premises.*

The fresh drone attack on the Crimean peninsula comes amid fresh denials by the Ukrainian government that it's targeting Russian soil using drones.

According to regional reports, the alleged attacks have led to new tit-for-tat accusations:

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Wednesday said Moscow ***does not trust Ukrainian authorities when they say the country's military is not carrying out drone attacks on Russia****.*

"We don't trust them," Peskov told a press briefing in Moscow, commenting on remarks by Ukraine's presidential adviser Mikhaylo Podolyak who denied Kyiv carries out strikes on the territory of the Russian Federation.

Russia's Defense Ministry on Tuesday accused Ukraine of launching drone strikes targeting infrastructure in several Russian regions.

But this comes after a past year which witnessed a number of sporadic drone and alleged sabotage attacks on sensitive Russian facilities, including military bases, as Ukraine and its backers grow more emboldened.

One December investigative report written by a US special forces veteran said the CIA was behind many of the covert sabotage operations happening with increasing frequency on Russian soil. President Putin has recently said he sees the conflict in Ukraine and West-backed proxy war there as a fight for the survival of the Russian people, alluding to it as an 'existential threat' in fresh comments. Likely these attacks on Russian soil will only serve to convince much of the Russian public of the accuracy of his words.

highest train crash in greece since at least the mid 1960's; Minister Resigns, Station Manager Arrested

"**When something this tragic occurs, we can't go on as if nothing had happened**," Karamanlis said in a statement.

"It's a fact that we inherited the Greek railway in a state that is not fitting for the 21st century.

"In those three and a half years we made every effort to improve this reality. Unfortunately, those efforts were not adequate to avert such a tragedy," he added.

According to local authorities, a **station manager has been taken into custody** in relation to the crash, and a preliminary inquiry is currently ongoing. However, the individual's identity has not been revealed.

WSJ quoted local officials who said, **"the death is the highest for a train crash in Greece since at least the mid-1960s."**

As of Wednesday afternoon, at least **38 people have been confirmed dead, and more than 80 injured**.

*   *   *

In a devastating accident on Tuesday night, two trains collided head-on in northern Greece, resulting in the deaths of at least 36 people and leaving dozens more injured, AP News reported. The accident occurred near the town of Tempe in northern Greece.

According to reports, a passenger train carrying 350 passengers and a freight train collided on the same track. Rescue workers and emergency services arrived on the scene and found a mangled mess of carriages and freight cars.

Rescuers have been combing through the twisted, smoking wreckage on Wednesday morning. Fire officials provided an update hours ago that 36 people had died in the crash, while another 66 were injured.

California Gov. Newsom Ends Use Of COVID Emergency Powers

*The milestone **ended 1,090 days of operating under special powers** that allowed Newsom to make **unilateral decisions** about the state's response to the pandemic...*

Largest US Grid Supplier Warns Of An Energy Shortage Due To Undeliverable Mandates

The analysis shows that 40 GW of existing generation are at risk of retirement by 2030. This figure is composed of: 6 GW of 2022 deactivations, 6 GW of announced retirements, 25 GW of potential policy-driven retirements and 3 GW of potential economic retirements. Combined, this represents 21% of PJM's current installed capacity.

In addition to the retirements, PJM's long-term load forecast shows demand growth of 1.4% per year for the PJM footprint over the next 10 years. Due to the expansion of highly concentrated clusters of data centers, combined with overall *electrification, certain individual zones exhibit more significant demand growth – as high as 7% annually*.

For the first time in recent history, PJM could face decreasing reserve margins should these trends continue. The amount of generation retirements appears to be more certain than the timely arrival of replacement generation resources and demand response, given that the quantity of retirements is codified in various policy objectives, while the impacts to the pace of new entry of the Inflation Reduction Act, post-pandemic supply chain issues, and other externalities are still not fully understood.

Recent movement in the natural gas spot markets across the U.S. and Europe add another degree of uncertainty to future operations. In 2022, European natural gas supply faced many challenges resulting from the war in Ukraine and subsequent sanctions against Russia. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports into the EU and the U.K. in the first half of 2022 increased 66% over the 2021 annual average, primarily from U.S. exporters with operational flexibility. *This international natural gas demand is a new competitor for domestic spot-market consumers, resulting in significantly higher fuel costs for PJM's natural gas fleet*.

Along with the energy transition, PJM is witnessing a large growth in data center activity. *Importantly, the PJM footprint is home to Data Center Alley in Loudoun County, Virginia, the largest concentration of data centers in the world*. PJM uses the Load Analysis Subcommittee (LAS) to perform technical analysis to coordinate information related to the forecast of electrical peak demand. In 2022, the LAS began a review of data center load growth and identified growth rates over 300% in some instances.

Stats, vaccine, censorship, government: FBI Director: COVID-19 "Most Likely" Escaped From Wuhan Lab

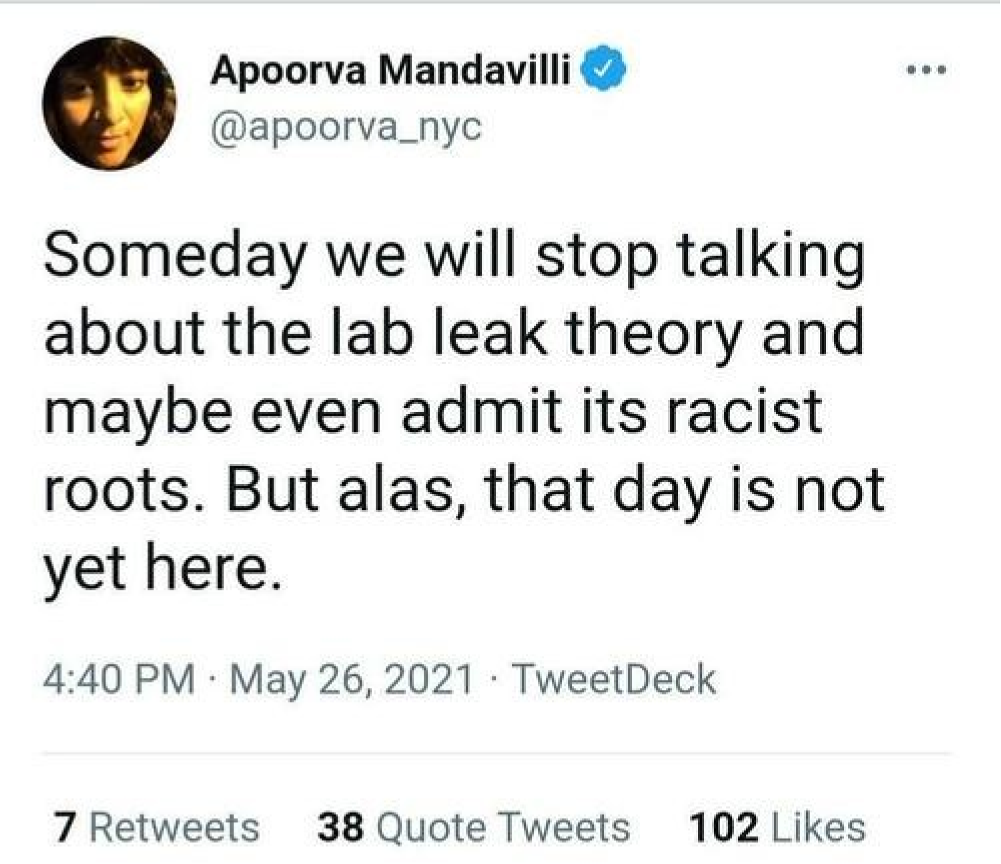
A cornerstone of the once-unassailable Covid-19 narrative took another mighty blow on Tuesday afternoon, as **FBI Director Christopher Wray said the bureau concluded the pandemic was most likely the result of a leak from a Chinese lab.**

Wray's remarks represent **the FBI's first public confirmation of its assessment.** Exasperatingly for *ZeroHedge* and countless others who've been banned from social media and accused of racism for exploring that hypothesis, Wray casually framed it in a way that made it sound like old news.

"The FBI has for quite some time now assessed that the origins of the pandemic are most likely a potential lab incident in Wuhan," he told *Fox News* in a Tuesday interview. He said he couldn't share details of the assessment since they're still classified.

The Wuhan Institute of Virology (Roman Pilipey/EPA via *The Guardian*)

Wray's remarks come a few days after the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the Department of Energy had in May 2020 reached its own conclusion -- albeit with "low confidence" at that early date -- that a lab leak was the most likely origin. The Department of Energy is in a position to opine given its role in supervising US national laboratories.



Apoorva Mandavilli
@apoorva_nyc

Someday we will stop talking about the lab leak theory and maybe even admit its racist roots. But alas, that day is not yet here.

4:40 PM · May 26, 2021 · TweetDeck

7 Retweets **38** Quote Tweets **102** Likes

While the *Journal* reported that four intelligence agencies still embrace the natural-transmission theory, **Wray touted the bureau's credentials** in reaching its conclusion:

"The FBI has folks agents, professionals, analysts, virologists, microbiologists, etc, who focus specifically on the dangers of biological threats, which include things like novel viruses like COVID and the concerns that in the wrong hands...some bad guys, a hostile nation state, a terrorist a criminal, the threats that those those could pose.

So here **you're talking about a potential leak from a Chinese government-controlled lab that killed millions of Americans**, and that's precisely what that capability was designed for."

Watch for Attorney General Merrick Garland to be questioned about Wray's comments on Wednesday when he appears before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

When asked about the Energy department conclusion, China pointed to a 2021 World Health Organization investigation that said a lab leak was "extremely unlikely." Foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said **"certain parties should stop rehashing the 'lab leak' narrative, stop smearing China** and stop politicizing origins-tracing."

Dear Despots & Tyrants, Generative AI Could Be The Authoritarian Breakthrough In Brainwashing You've Been Waiting For

Dear Despots & Tyrants, Generative AI Could Be The Authoritarian Breakthrough In Brainwashing You've Been Waiting For

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, FEB 28, 2023 - 04:26 PM

Via Climateer Investing blog,

Have you ever found yourself sitting at home in the Palace thinking: ***"If only there was an easier way to get people to do my bidding?"***

In 2019, China’s Xi Jinping demanded just that when he ordered his party-state to leverage AI to “comprehensively increase” the ability of the Chinese Communist Party to mold Chinese public opinion. Russia’s Vladimir Putin has similarly doubled down on AI-enabled propaganda in the wake of his Ukraine invasion, including a fake video of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky calling for Ukrainians to surrender. These efforts are buttressed by a dizzying array of Chinese and Russian agencies tasked with thought control, cultivating a competitive ecosystem of digital propaganda tools underwritten by multibillion-dollar budgets each year.

China and Russia are, in other words, fertile ground for generative AI to usher in a historic breakthrough in brainwashing — a recipe for more international catastrophes, greater human rights abuses, and further entrenched despotism.

As China refines and exports its techno-authoritarianism, would-be tyrants the world over are likely to cash in on the propaganda revolution.

[ZH: The message is clear - we Americans have nothing to fear from generative AI misuse... apart from by Russia and China... and if you believe that, we have a bridge we'd like to sell you.]

Airpods Maker Races To Divest From China As Clients Push For India Expansion

Kremlin: West Pumping Weapons Into Ukraine Could Bring 'Apocalypse'

Brazilian President And WEF Member Lula Da Silva Pressures Population Into Total COVID Vaccination

After three years of covid disinformation from governments and globalist institutions, western countries are finally starting to realize that the pandemic event was not much of a pandemic and that the majority of restrictions and mandates involved in the response had nothing to do with public health or safety. The establishment failed to implement vaccine mandates and passports in the west, but that does not mean they have given up on the agenda in other parts of the world. The nation of Brazil has become a prime target for further medical authoritarianism despite the fading mandate efforts in the US and Europe.

While data disproving the majority of covid claims is becoming widespread in North America, there is a fight brewing in South America to dismiss or censor scientific evidence and enforce vaccine requirements anyway. To recap, the "conspiracy theorists" were right about everything.

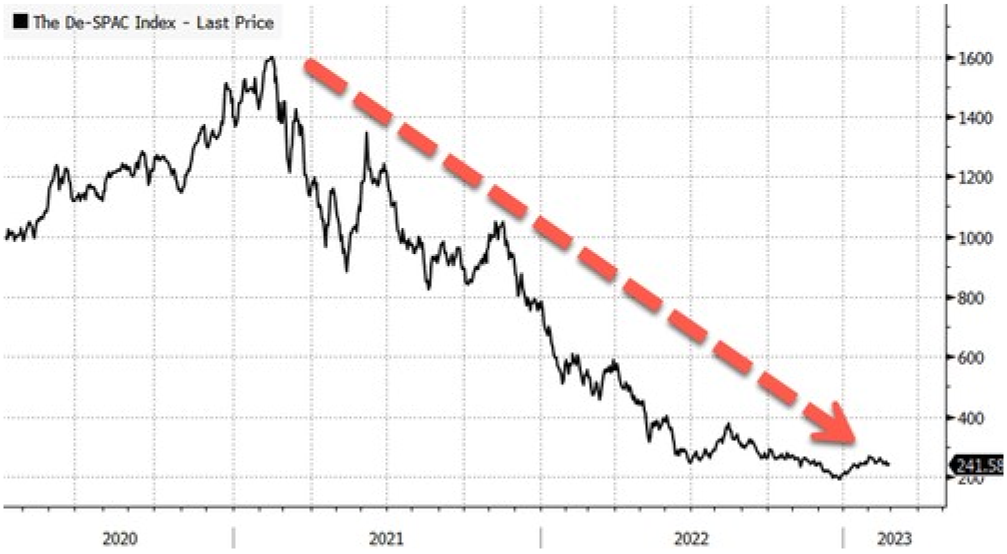
The lockdown mandates were useless. The mask mandates were useless. The death rate of covid has been exposed as fraudulent, with up to 70% of covid fatalities misdiagnosed by hospitals. The rumors of covid induced heart failure have been debunked. The claims of a "pandemic of the unvaccinated" have been debunked as the majority of covid deaths today are among the vaccinated. Natural immunity has been shown to be far superior to the vaccines. The US government is now essentially admitting that covid most likely came from the Level 4 virology lab in Wuhan, China - The same lab where Anthony Fauci and the NIH funded gain of function research on coronaviruses.

Don't show any of this evidence to Lula Da Silva, the highly controversial convicted criminal president of Brazil - He says it's all "denialism" designed to convince the Brazilian populace to remain unprotected from covid. Silva has made forced vaccination a centerpiece of his presidency, and his latest efforts smell of globalist policy influence.

Zelensky Hints At Withdrawing From Russian-Encircled Bakhmut: 'Out Of Options'

Journal: SPAC Mania Ends In Bankruptcies And Fire Sales, Robert Sassoon, MsC from London School of Economics and markets professional with 30 years experience. Sasson—that names sounds familiar..London School of Economics, too...

Hmm..



Shareholders line of credit now offered by online bank: Amazon Employees Can Now Borrow Against Their Stock To Buy Homes

Amazon employees will soon be able to pledge company shares when purchasing a home, under a new deal with digital lender Better.com, according to WSJ.

Better announced a new program for Amazon employees called "Equity Locker," allowing them to use stock as collateral for a down payment without selling. Previously, Amazon employees had to sell their equity to purchase a home.

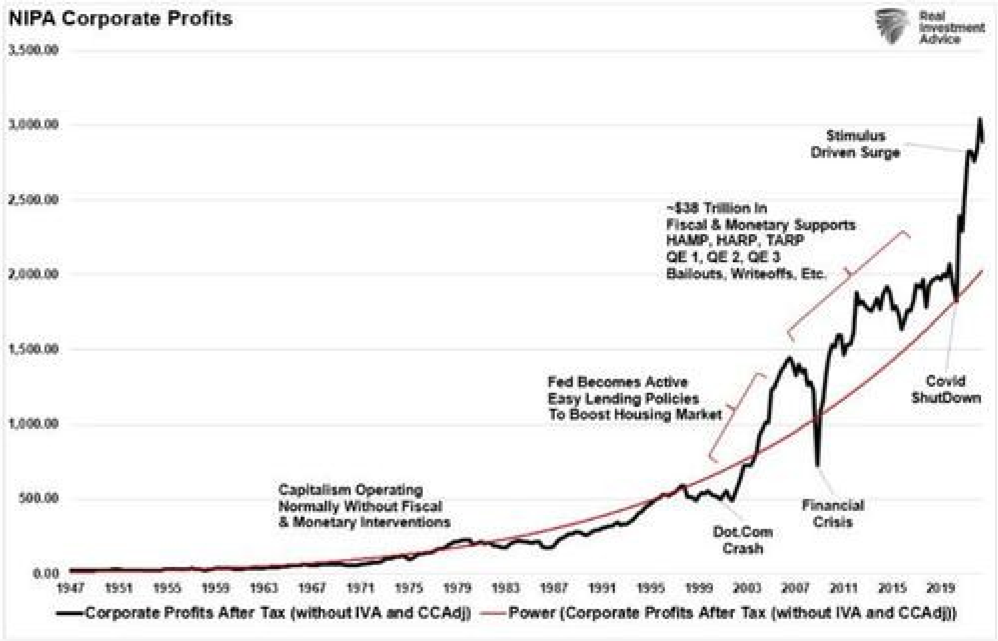
"At Better, our mission is to make homeownership cheaper, faster and easier for all Americans.

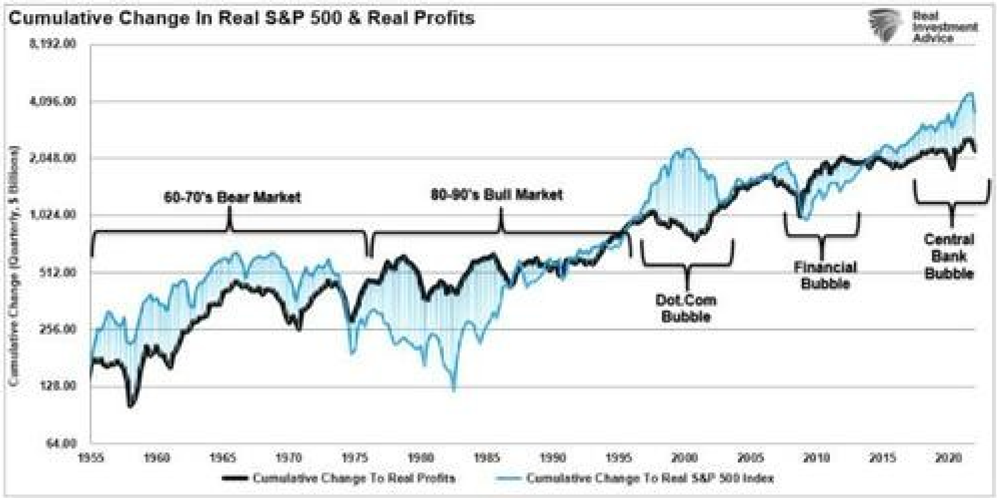
"Today, we are very excited to announce that we have created Equity Unlocker to help Amazon employees unlock their equity, their homes and their futures," Better CEO and founder Vishal Garg said in a statement.

Equity Locker is open to current and former Amazon employees in Florida, New York, and Washington state.

Stats, markets, government: why are corporate profits still surging..

“Profit margins are probably the most mean-reverting series in finance. And if profit margins do not mean-revert, then something has gone badly wrong with capitalism.” *– Jeremy Grantham*





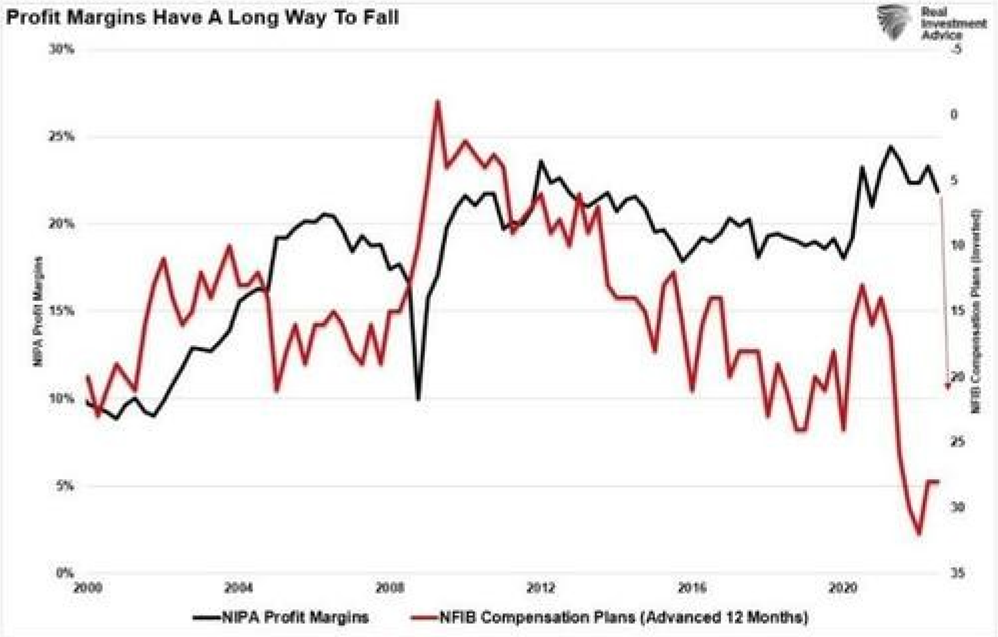
What Are You Going To Do For Me Now

Let’s revisit how we got that massive surge in corporate profits.

1. *Shut down the economy leading to a massive surge in unemployment.*
2. *Start sending $5 Trillion in monetary stimulus directly to households.*
3. *Have the Federal Reserve cut interest rates to zero.*
4. *Begin the most aggressive Quantitative Easing program in history*
5. *Put moratoriums on various debt obligations giving households more discretionary savings to spend.*

Not surprisingly, with labor costs sharply reduced and households flush with cash to spend and nothing else to do, combined with an inventory shortfall to meet demand, the result was a sharp increase in profitability. The data from the NFIB small business survey confirms that as labor costs continue to rise, corporate profits will fall.

*“**This points to economy-wide profit margins continuing to fall** – potentially quite sharply – through the year.” –* *Simon White from Bloomberg*



So, suppose the combination of a shuttered economy, no supply, and massive rounds of fiscal stimulus got us here. **What is going to be the catalyst to support record profits in the future?**

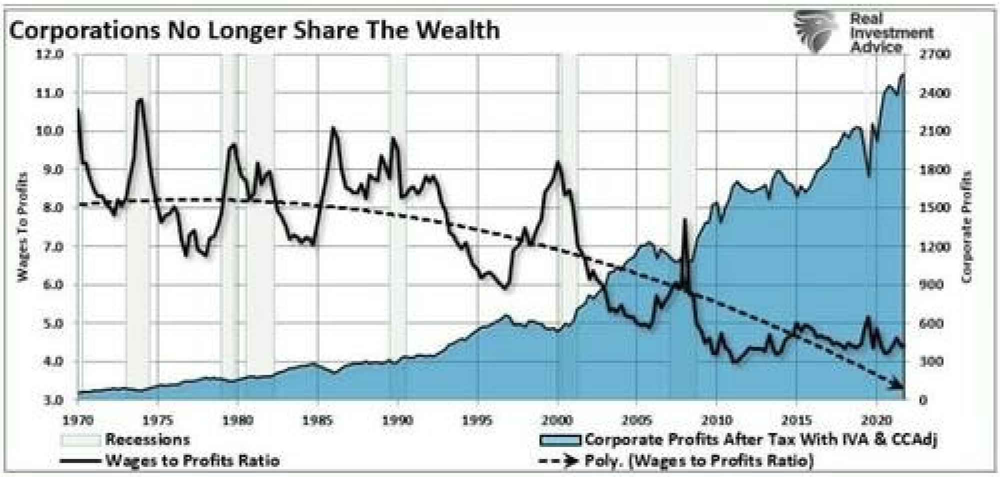
Over the next few years, the environment looks markedly different than in the past.

1. *The economy is returning to a slow growth environment with a risk of recession.*

2. *Inflation is falling, meaning less pricing power for corporations.*
3. *No artificial stimulus to support demand.*
4. *Over the last two years, the pull forward of consumption will now drag on future demand.*
5. *Interest rates are substantially higher impacting consumption.*
6. *Consumers have sharply reduced savings and higher debt.*
7. *Previous inventory droughts are now surpluses.*

Capitalism Remains Detached

It is certainly understandable why people think capitalism has become broken. They feel unfairly treated as the labor providers to the capital providers. The chart below of profits to wages makes the argument.



However, the very definition of capitalism is that chart:

"Capitalism is an economic system ***in which private individuals or businesses own capital goods. At the same time, business owners (capitalists) employ workers (labor) who only receive wages; labor does not own the means of production but only uses them on behalf of the owners of capital."*** *– Investopedia*

In other words, if you are feeling slighted by the current economy, then you have three choices:

1. *Be a laborer, or*
2. *Become a provider of the means of production, or*
3. *Invest in public companies through the stock market*

Censorship, stats, government: Watch: UK Queen Slams Censorship Of Literature As "Imposing Limits On Imagination"

Watch: UK Queen Slams Censorship Of Literature As "Imposing Limits On Imagination"

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, FEB 28, 2023 - 06:00 AM

Authored by Steve Watson via Summit News,

Camilla, the Queen consort of the United Kingdom, and wife of King Charles, has surprised some by urging authors and writers to resist censorship, amid an enhanced effort to edit and rewrite classic works of literature to remove anything deemed ‘offensive’.

Speaking at Clarence House in London last week, Camilla said “thank you, on behalf of book lovers and book clubs everywhere, for sharing your talents with us and for everything you do to promote literacy and a love of literature.”

Camilla has launched a new charity, The Queen’s Reading Room, aimed at promoting “the appreciation of literature among adults and children”.

Addressing authors directly, she added “Please keep doing so and please remain true to your calling, unimpeded by those who may wish to curb the freedom of your expression or impose limits on your imagination. Enough said!”

Camilla continued, “let there be no squeaking like mice about your achievements, but only roaring like a pride of lions.”

Watch:

As we have highlighted, this all stems from an ongoing move to have ‘sensitivity readers’ highlight and purge anything that is deemed ‘offensive’ from classic literature.

Both Roald Dahl and Ian Flemming’s estates appear to have okayed this.

Digital Versions of Roald Dahl’s Books Already Updated to Include “Sensitivity” Changes

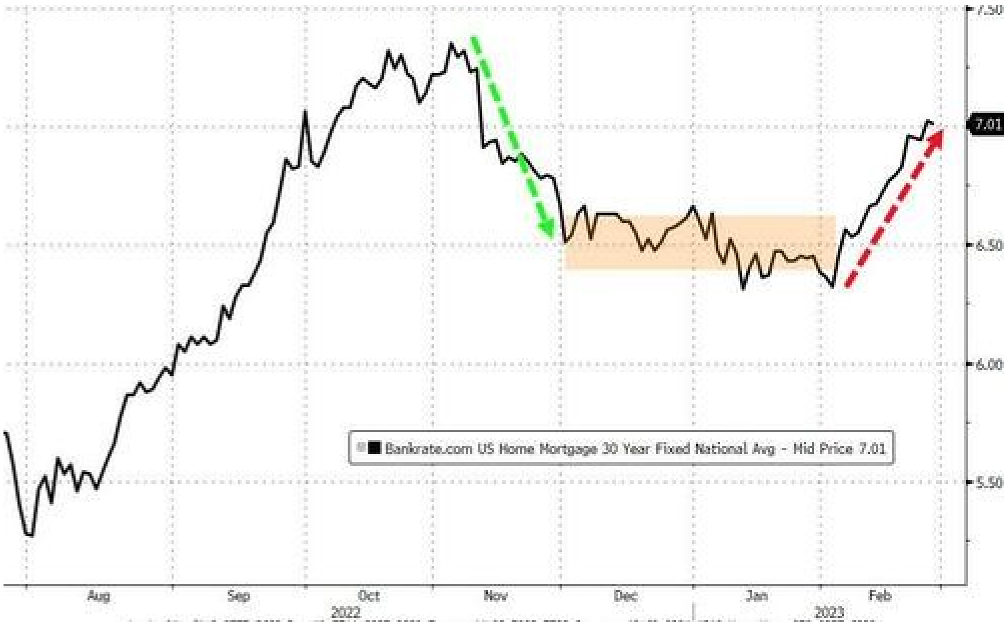
CIA Played Key Role In Nelson Mandela's Arrest & Imprisonment, New Evidence Shows

Time magazine in a new bombshell report asks the question, "Did the CIA Betray Nelson Mandela?" and comes to the conclusion that there was pivotal involvement of America's most powerful spy agency.

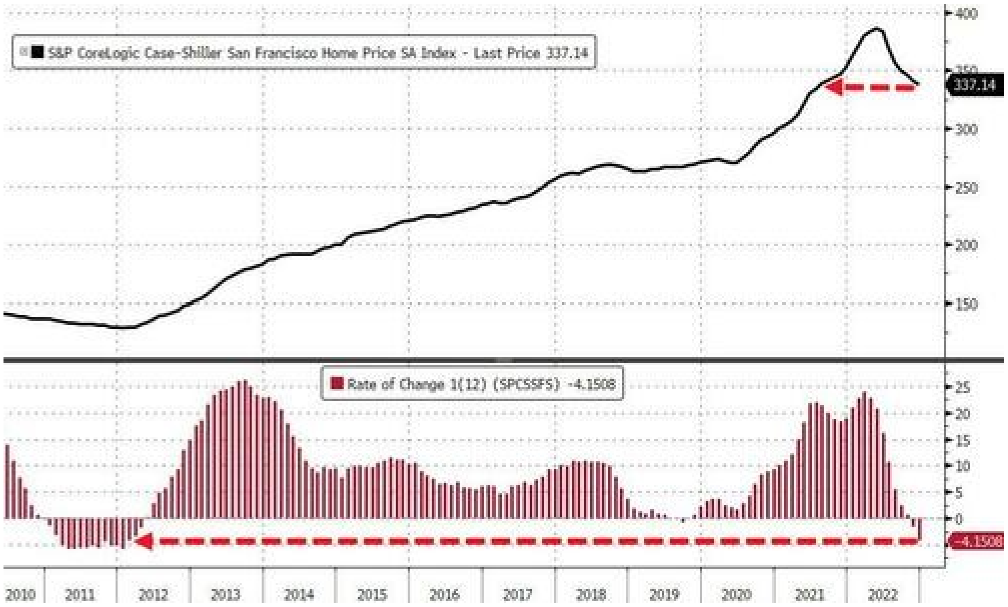
The details are coming to light based on the work of Richard Stengel, collaborator on Mandela's autobiography, "Long Walk to Freedom". Stengel revisited an unpublished 1993 audio interview he had captured with Mandela, wherein the famous anti-apartheid activist and eventual South African president told him he had learned that **an American consul with CIA connections had briefed South African authorities on Mandela's travel habits**.

Chevron Hikes Annual Stock Buyback Target To $17.5 Billion

US Home Prices Tumbled For 6th Straight Month In December

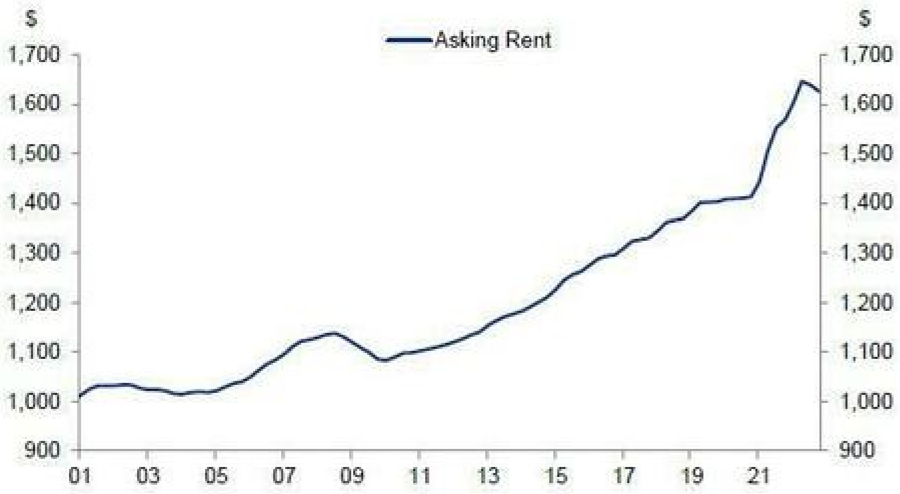


San Francisco prices are plummeting the fastest with prices down -4.2% YoY, the biggest annual drop since March 2012 to the lowest since July 2021...



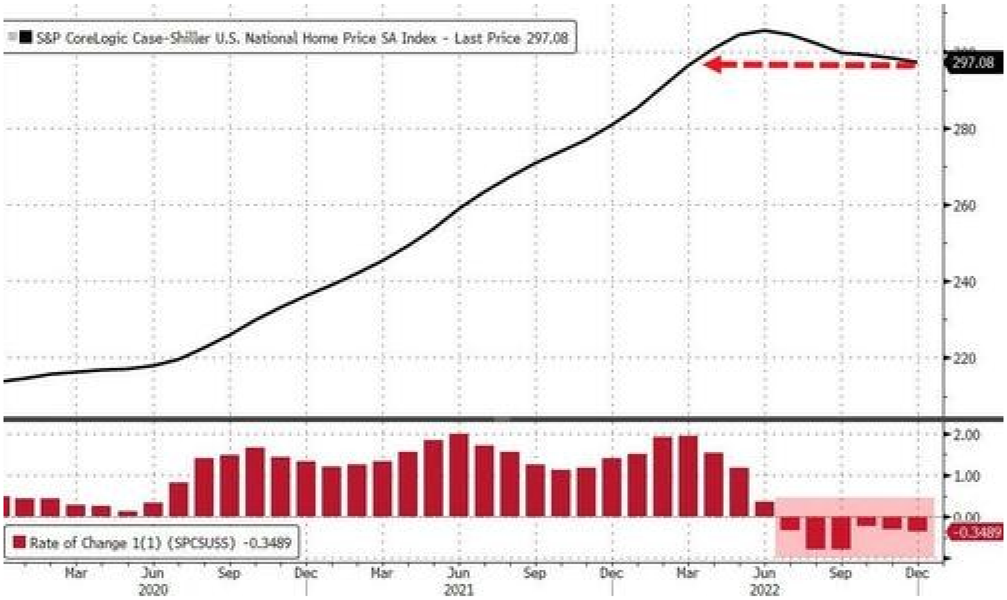
Asking rents are now tracking home prices lower...

Exhibit 74: US apartment asking rents have begun to decline modestly
Apartment asking rent index



Source: CoStar, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

The headline national home price index is at it lowest since March 2022...



Despite US officials and media now praising his civil rights legacy as a unifier, the reality is successive US administrations considered him a "terrorist" and actively opposed him and his racial equality movement.

A 2013 NBC report pointed to the historical irony and hypocrisy of US officials as follows: "Until five years ago, however, the U.S. officially considered Mandela a terrorist. During the Cold War, both the State and Defense departments dubbed Mandela's political party, the African National Congress, **a terrorist group, and Mandela's name remained on the U.S. terrorism watch list till 2008**." And more from the report:

> *But in 1986, Reagan condemned Mandela's group, the ANC, which was leading the black struggle against the apartheid regime, saying it engaged in "calculated terror ... the mining of roads, the bombings of public places, designed to bring about further repression."*

South Africa's first black head of state starting in 1994, and died in 2013 at the age of 95.

Government, sanctions: feb28 Tesla's Germany Plant Is Producing 4,000 Cars Per Week, Three Weeks Ahead Of Schedule

"Tesla will make a compelling $25,000 electric vehicle that is also fully autonomous," Elon Musk said at the time.

After an ugly start to the 2023 campaign, Tesla shares have now more than doubled off their lows this year. The company has seen price cuts spur demand in large markets like China, as well. We wrote in the beginning of February that the company's China segment shipped 66,051 vehicles in January.

That figure was up 18% from December, while China's new energy passenger vehicles, in total, were down 45% month over month from December to January. The company is now reportedly planning to increase output at its Shanghai plant - bringing its run rate back toward where it was in September 2022 - in order to continue meeting the demand from price cuts on its best selling models.

We'll continue to keep an eye on Germany as it spools up as well.

Hungary Demands UN Investigation Into "Scandalous" Attack On Nord Stream Pipelines

"This is basically the first time when such a major European critical infrastructure was attacked. By whoever – but it was attacked," Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto told RIA Novosti.

Szijjarto added that the sabotage was a "scandalous" act of terrorism and the truth as to finding out who was responsible should be of the utmost international importance.

Budapest wants know "who committed it and why," asking for a "comprehensive, deep, structured and detailed" probe conducted under the auspices of the UN.

"I think the UN should give a framework for such kind of an investigation," said Szijjarto, adding that the international body should act as a "platform for countries to talk to each other, who even consider each other as enemies."

As we previously highlighted, former NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden responded to the White House's denial that US intelligence agencies were responsible for blowing up the Nord Stream pipelines by pointing out that they also once denied involvement in the Bay of Pigs invasion and other false flags.

read later: Academics Call For WWII-Style Rationing Of Food And Fuel To Stop Climate Change

Academics Call For WWII-Style Rationing Of Food And Fuel To Stop Climate Change

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, FEB 28, 2023 - 03:45 AM

As we have outlined outlined in detail many times in the past, there is little to no concrete evidence supporting the theory that man-made carbon emissions have any relevance whatsoever to weather and climate change. There is no evidence of a "climate crisis" and no evidence that human industry and agriculture makes a negative impact on the Earth's temperatures. There is no evidence that carbon emissions have a causation effect on global warming and no evidence to support "tipping point" theories that assert that a mere 1.5°C increase in temps will lead to environmental catastrophe.

Climate activists relying on a tiny time frame of around 100 years of our planet's weather history as evidence to support their claims while ignoring the millions of years of temperature changes that occurred without human input is alarming and anti-science. In fact, the Earth has been much warmer (and cooler) multiple times in its history that it is today suggests that people have very little influence on the climate in general.

Beyond the lack of scientific evidence in terms of carbon emissions and global warming, there is also the issue of political and social control rooted in climate laws. Right now in Europe the farming industry is facing bureaucratic Armageddon as governmental red tape and climate based taxation are set to make the growing of food impossible for a majority of farmers. UN and EU climate controls are being implemented now and will effectively destroy large portions of the EU economy, and the establishment wants to bring these same policies to the US.

Some people might argue that they are not farmers or captains of industry, so why should they care? The problem is that carbon controls will not be limited to businesses and agriculture; they will one day be present in your home.

A group of academic researchers now argues that in order to stop climate change (which has nothing to do with man-made carbon) every individual will have to accept restrictions on what they can buy, what they can eat and how much fuel and electricity they can use. In a paper titled 'Rationing And Climate Change Mitigation' the group asserts that a rapid reduction of global emissions is needed and that rationing similar to standards enforced during two world wars, and specifically those measures used during WWII, should be enforced again by governments. Only, this time rationing would not be in the name of supporting a war effort but in the name of fighting the phantom of climate catastrophe.

This is not the first time rationing for individuals has been suggested in relation to climate change, though. The World Economic Forum and the UN have long argued in favor of a micro-management approach to carbon controls, using the narrative of "individual carbon footprint tracking." Here, Alibaba president J. Michael Evans boasts at the WEF's Davos conference about "individual carbon footprint tracking" coming soon:

The creation of the climate crisis bogeyman is an obvious ploy for centralized authoritarianism in the name of "the greater good." It's a tiny minority of money elites and political elites fabricating the threat of an impending planet-wide disaster while paying groups of activist scientists billions of dollars to support the false claims. Then, these same elitists offer their own solution, which is to give them even more power to dictate every detail of the lives of average citizens while limiting our access to food, energy and other resources vital to survival (or rebellion).

This is about creating a world in which every individual is required to constantly justify their existence and prove they are worthy to the globalist machine. It is tantamount to emissions based slavery.

islam, stats: Muhammad Was The Most Popular Boy's Name In Irish City In 2022

Mohammad has been the most popular boy's baby name in the U.K. for the past six years, while it was the second-most popular name in the Netherlands last year.

It was also by far the most popular name for baby boys in the Belgian capital of Brussels last year and has also topped the chart in Berlin, the Parisian suburbs, and the Swedish city of Malmo in recent years.

The French civil registry reported in 2021 that at least 20 percent of all babies born in France were being given Islamic first names, and the true figure could be closer to 25 percent.

Muhammad Was The Most Popular Boy's Name In Irish City In 2022

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, FEB 28, 2023 - 04:30 AM

Authored by Thomas Brooke via Remix News,

It follows a trend being witnessed across northern Europe following years of mass migration from predominantly Muslim countries...

Muhammad became the most popular boy’s baby name in the Irish city of Galway last year, data published on Friday by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) revealed.

It is the first time the popular Islamic name has topped the list of baby names in an Irish city, and follows the trend of the U.K. and other European nations that have seen the name top the charts in recent years.

Jack and Noah dominated in other Irish counties, while James made up the top three. All three names retain their places in the top three from last year.

Stats, government: feb28 Canadian 'Super Pigs' About To Invade US, Unleash Major Damage

Already beset by wild boars in southern regions, **the US is about to be invaded by hordes of "super pigs"** set to spill over from their current ranges in Canada and blaze a multifaceted path of destruction across northern states and beyond.

A cross between domestic pigs and European wild boar, these beasts pack a wallop -- the largest "super pig" killed so far was **well over 600 pounds -- and scientists say they're highly intelligent too.**

Feral hogs already inflict economic damages of about $1.5 billion a year in the United States, and with this imminent gift from our Canadian neighbors, **that toll's growth is set to accelerate.** The pigs bring destruction in a variety of ways: **devouring crops, uprooting trees, contaminating water, and carrying viruses that can leap into human populations.**

Typically three feet tall and five feet long, **"these pigs are easily the worst invasive large mammal on the planet,"** the University of Saskatchewan's Ryan Brook tells *Fox News*.

“Wild hogs feed on anything. **They gobble up tons and tons of goslings and ducklings in the spring. They can take down a whitetail deer,** even an adult," Brook told *Field & Stream*. "Originally, it was like ‘wow, this is something we can hunt.’ But it’s become clear that they’re threatening our whitetail deer, elk, and especially, waterfowl."

“The only people who should be worried about this is **anyone who lives in North America and eats meat, or eats vegetables, or eats any foods based on grain crops, or spends time outside for any reason,”** said Brook, who heads the university's Canadian Wild Pig Research Project and whom a colleague christened "Chairman of the Boar."

The feral hog attack on the USA is about to become a pincers movement, with hordes of super pigs opening a new, northern front

The disaster started when Canadians imported European wild boars in the 1980s to add another agricultural dimension, mating them with domestic pigs to create bigger pigs. **After the market for wild boar topped out in 2001, many ranchers simply let them loose into the wild**, confident they stood no chance against winter in the Great White North.

However, **the brainy beasts -- whose DNA goes back to Siberia -- quickly figured out how to make deep snow caves, even lining the bottoms with cattails scythed with their sharp tusks.** "They’re so warm inside that one of the ways we use to find these pigs is to fly first thing in the morning when it’s really cold, colder than -30, and you will actually see steam just pouring out the top of the snow,” Brook told *The Guardian*.

Now, they're even constructing above-ground residences that experts like to call "pigloos."

This latest plague upon the United States is likely to be permanent. On the plus side, **people in northern states can start enjoying this exhilarating form of hunting --** *which has the additional leftist-aggravating benefit of leaning heavy on fossil fuels and semi-automatic rifles:*

topic of canadian pig invasion leads to hilarious comments about trans people, woke culture, etc.....

> *Canadian 'Super Pigs'..... they're "easily the worst invasive large mammal on the planet"*

Thought Tyler was talking about their blue-haired, nose-ringed, they/them gender confused Starbucks baristas

play_arrow161play_arrow

ZeeMasterOfPuppets
4 days ago

They don't invade ... They/them get invaded in the rear way

play_arrow36play_arrow

rete
4 days ago

Oh, they're invasive alright

play_arrow33play_arrow

rag_house
4 days ago

Gender confused almost all have autism spectrum disorder. You can thank the childhood vaccine schedule for their existence.

play_arrow41play_arrow

eyewillcomply
4 days ago
(Edited)

Is this a subliminal message for white men to start shooting creatures with big noses?

play_arrow35play_arrow1

BLOTTO
4 days ago

'However, **the brainy beasts -- whose DNA goes back to Siberia -- quickly figured out how to make deep snow caves, even lining the bottoms with cattails scythed with their sharp tusks.'**

Do you think a Starbucks barista would figure out how to survive in the bush?

play_arrow45play_arrow

Dan The Man
4 days ago

All i can think of is the wild pig bacon

play_arrow14play_arrow

Systems Planet
4 days ago
(Edited)

I think it's inhumane to shoot them once, and leave them to die in pain.

Why not finish them off so they die fast?

play_arrow19play_arrow2

TBT or not TBT
4 days ago

Dear Systems Planet, the feral super pigs we already have travel in groups, at night. If you are stealthy and use an nice NVD, you can often place your shot to drop ONE of the group in place. Preferably a sow(to suppress their numbers). But even with a suppressor the rest start moving so you are then shooting at moving ones, leading their center mass. As these are extremely tough animals, they keep going after they're shot unless you happen to hint something really important.

So the run/limp off into the dark into some brush and either die or don't, whatever. Any that are immobilized but not dead sure you can walk up and whack them with your pistol(the rounds are way cheaper).

If a sow had nursing babies they reassemble with the dead mom a bit after and you can gun them down as you see fit. Great practice for your pistol skills but you miss a lot. Rifle rounds seem a waste but hits are more likely.

IMHO the humane thing, which comes at a cost, is to move up to more devastating cartridge. An AR-10 platform for example. Pricier ammo but then you get a more satisfying body count. For the latter, sometimes buzzards are your friend because they find the ones who died later, way over there.

More humane still, trap them, back up the trailer, and drive them to a meat harvester.

play_arrow16play_arrow

Lumpen Pro
4 days ago
(Edited)

> *"Dear Systems Planet, the feral super pigs..." ~ TBT or not TBT*

For a second, I thought that read *federal* super pigs.

play_arrow10play_arrow

RebBiker
4 days ago

"For a second, I thought that read *federal* super pigs."

For a second, I thought they were talking about female joggers.

play_arrow9play_arrow

Drummerboy56

3 days ago

Noseberg swine

play_arrow2play_arrow

Will39
PREMIUM
3 days ago

No, it’s not black brown and yellow men also hunt

play_arrowplay_arrow

I.M.Notamoose
3 days ago

BLOTTO -- it depends on what type of bush... or whose....

play_arrowplay_arrow

I'm Jack's Sock Puppet
4 days ago

And somehow Canadians still complain bacon is expensive lately.

Learn To Pig ... wait as you guys above mentioned, they already master it.

Learn To Hunt.

play_arrow10play_arrow

Market Pulse
3 days ago

Remember Canada's ruling King is taking away the guns. Hard to kill those suckers without them. In medieval days, it was 50/50 who died when they hunted them with spears. Special spears. Long with cross hilts at the end. You had to bury the butt of the spear in the ground and stick the hog as it was charging you. Usually the momentum of the hog ran it all the way down the shaft as it was trying to kill you. If you were lucky that day, it died before it hit the cross shaft that helped prevent it from getting you. Good times. Would bring the "excitement" back to hunting though!

play_arrow8play_arrow

Whiteness
4 days ago
(Edited)

Interesting. I've not heard that before...

play_arrow1play_arrow

Blue Dingo
4 days ago

I thought they were referring to Jennifer Granholm.

play_arrow11play_arrow

Twitchet_dread,
4 days ago

I thought this was an article about Stacy abrams, my bad.

play_arrow17play_arrow

Cataclysms-Happen
4 days ago

Naaa, it’s yet another example of how Fn stupid governments are.. once again nature didn’t do this/F up/ we did... so tired of dip****s thinking they have a clue... what next? Crossbreed the murder hornet with mosquitoes?

play_arrow2play_arrow

I.M.Notamoose
3 days ago
(Edited)

Cannot be either Granholm or Abrams... the super pig/boar hybrids are referred to as " **the brainy beasts** "... "brainy" just does not apply to either of the listed people...

play_arrowplay_arrow

redfish64
4 days ago

The "they're highly intelligent" line should have gave it away.

play_arrow5play_arrow

ConnectingTheDots
3 days ago

Just another distraction from the criminal syndicate taking control of "our" government.

Personally I am far more worried about the invasion of useless politicians working for the globalist agenda.

play_arrow2play_arrow

SEC vs Bitcoin
4 days ago

How in the hell does starbucks find these people? Serious question coming from a small highly conservative town in Texas. Only thing I can think of is that managers are encouraged to enforce being “different” a prerequisite for hire and/or possibly even financially incentive those weirdos. I’ve been trying to figure this out for years…

play_arrow5play_arrow

I_Am_Z28.310
4 days ago

Starbucks pays for their employees' gender surgery / transition. That's why trans work there

play_arrow3play_arrow

TBT or not TBT
3 days ago

Believe it or not I ordered coffee from a cleanshaven, tatoo free, miltary buzz cut, physically Starbucks worker the other day.   He was ex USAF intelligence, 20 years in the service, expert on Nork communication intercepts.   White guy, not a tiny bit Asian.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Z Free
4 days ago

Canadians Call ‘Em 'Super Pigs'. Texans Call It Barbecue.

play_arrow72play_arrow

debt_slave_1029384756
4 days ago

[Smarter and more resourceful than your average pig...]

□□□□ □□□□□

□□

and □ you can shove your vaccine mandates up your ASS

play_arrow18play_arrow

Expectorant
4 days ago

The Commies can keep their fake meats.

play_arrow10play_arrow1

Proximus
4 days ago

Amen, bring the big pigs on.

play_arrow7play_arrow

Seek Shelter
4 days ago

One of the best meals I've ever had was the liver of a feral hog killed 10 hours before. I had no idea.

play_arrow14play_arrow1

Man on the Silver Mountain
3 days ago
(Edited)

Pork ribs, ham, bacon ...

I fail to see a problem with a feral hog "invasion" - it's a great hunting opportunity. I was never a fan of lean venison, but stocking a freezer with hundreds of pounds of pork is one hell of an incentive to go hunt - and collect a hunting rifle or two along the way.

play_arrow6play_arrow

Capn Balz
3 days ago

Where I live in N. Fl, you can bag both in the same day from the same stand. I like to mix the pork and venison 50/50 to make my burger. Or I trap some youngun's and feed them off before butchering, borrowing (castrating) the boars first. Can get exciting tying down a 100 -200 pounder so you can cut his nutz off. Most of our management areas no longer allow removal of live hogs, but I have private land I hunt.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Lost My Shorts
4 days ago

Do murder hornets eat super pigs? Or vice versa?

play_arrow8play_arrow

clot shot
4 days ago

I've seen massive ones in NTX. Better carry a ranch rifle in the rural areas

play_arrow3play_arrow

TBT or not TBT
4 days ago

A lot of ranch hands traded in the bolt action rifle for an AR or AK variant with a holo sight.   They move in packs.

play_arrow9play_arrow

WilliamShatner
4 days ago

I hunt these things in CA, get one a year and only one because of the cost. It's literally hundreds of dollars after paying tag fee (small) then hunt guide fee (huge) to meat processing (big). In total, it's like a grand to get a pig. It would be nice if the government would help and subsidize my hunt, it would only cost a few hundred. Instead, they will subsidize someone's purchase of an EV.

Government, what a racket.

play_arrow61play_arrow1

Known Fact
4 days ago

Isn't there an expression here at ZH along the lines of Shoot, Shovel and Shut Up?

play_arrow20play_arrow

Laughing Snake
4 days ago

That comes from James Wesley Rawles. He owns survivalblog.com

play_arrowplay_arrow

RockyR
4 days ago

In Texas, they pay you to shoot them in some places. Note: these are different than javelina.

play_arrow16play_arrow

TBT or not TBT
4 days ago

Often some cross between siberian hogs escaped from a game ranch and very productive domesticated ones escaped from a pig raising business.

The result is fast breeding, fast growing etc but tusked, fast,.strong and potentially very aggressive, oh and eventually, huge.

play_arrow5play_arrow

Man on the Silver Mountain
3 days ago

Huge.

That means more ribs and bigger hams. What's not to like about that? A rifle is the perfect standoff distance tool and negates the strong and aggressive downside of a nasty-tempered pig.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Proximus
4 days ago

That's Cali bro. Get out while you can.

play_arrow7play_arrow

Castor gordo el tercero
4 days ago

No please stay there... Running is for pussies anyway.

play_arrow8play_arrow

2002Silverado
4 days ago
(Edited)

What's the meat like? I heard that (maybe the boars) it has to be prepped somehow to get rid of an unsavory taste, maybe soaked in brine or something. 3 times at least the weight of a deer, so I guess the cost of butchering is too, unless you just DIY. I'd try and bait them with apples or whatever and use a crossbow to do away with the other expenses. If you need a guide to find 'em, I'm thinking they're not an apocalyptic problem yet. Never seen them in Quebec, but apparently all over the prairies.

play_arrow12play_arrow

Just_Charge_It_To_Matt
4 days ago

Just cut out the pork belly part to make bacon, and then sell the bacon.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Just_Charge_It_To_Matt
4 days ago

Then use the carcass as bait for more boars... wash, rinse, repeat.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Friedrich not Salma
4 days ago

Not much bacon on the wild hogs. Too lean. Not much rib meat either. But good hams, front shoulders (picnic hams), tenderloins and back straps.

play_arrow9play_arrow

jollyroger51
3 days ago

I believe picnics are what we call Boston Butt or pork butt. Great on the smoker.Pork butts are way too much for one person so I only smoke small semi boneless pork roasts, that way I don't end up with 8 lbs. of BBQ pork in the freezer. Yeah, that's a lot of sandwiches but even I get tired of it.

Personally I like using hickory mixed with a little cherry wood on pork .

You folks down in Texas can BBQ all year round. Up here in Michigan we have to dig out our BBQ from under the snow.

play_arrow2play_arrow

CrèmeBrûlée
PREMIUM
4 days ago

Best meat I ever had https://youtu.be/6p5x0nxtqVs

play_arrow2play_arrow

dwhit
3 days ago

Very interesting...

play_arrowplay_arrow

TBT or not TBT
4 days ago

Bait them with apples? Cattle feed plus molasses works great. To keep other species from eating it just add diesel. Then only the hogs still go for it.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Diorama
4 days ago

That 'unsavory taste' is boar taint. It comes from intact (or 'entire') male pigs. Only 50% of men can smell or taste it, but 90% of women can. I've stopped buying pork roasts because I stunk up my house for hours with one affected with b.t. years go. Meat was (to me) inedible. More recently, threw out a package of pork chops for same reason. Now won't buy Co-op brand bacon again. I figure brand name producers have something to lose if they turn off consumers. Co-op doesn't seem to care.

Apparently there's a way to check for the presence of this at slaughter. No way to ameliorate it with any particular cooking or treatment that I'm aware of.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Laughing Snake
4 days ago

Had a friend who used to trap wild hogs. He'd put deer corn and water in a 55 gallon drum near hog sign. He'd let it ferment and dig a pit next to the barrel. Pour in the mash and wait. The pigs would come and lap it up. He would wait for them to get drunk and put a lead on them. Cage them up, fatten them up, then slaughter them. Got more meat that way and it was more palatable, less gamey.

play_arrow6play_arrow

Juche Tony
3 days ago

something I've always admired about Americans is their folksy frontier knowledge of this kind of stuff. Europeans are so ignorant in this regard. Shoot stuff, fix stuff, build stuff, so many Americans are practical folk.

play_arrow5play_arrow

Cheap Chinese Crap
4 days ago
(Edited)

So you're telling me that there is one form of illegal immigrant that Americans are being encouraged to shoot on sight?

play_arrow45play_arrow1

Harm’s_way
4 days ago

Why limit it to just one? Dilbert might be advocating for the same.

play_arrow4play_arrow

Castor gordo el tercero
4 days ago

Yep, and it's actually useful to our population and helps the poor instead of destroying them... Which is why the government is so adamant about getting rid of them.

play_arrow1play_arrow

The New Right
4 days ago

They're not helpful, they ravage an area and just eat and destroy everything in sight. They're like locusts but they will also kill any farm animals and pets unfortunate enough to encounter them.

Back in high school in the late 90's, I had two buddies who stole a trailer load of hogs from my cousin's farm in the middle of the night. Their plan was to sell the hogs at a stock yard the next morning, but they got paranoid and ended up setting them loose out on a back road somewhere. We had never had a hog problem in my western Ohio county but within a year or two we started hearing about farmers finding wallows in their fields, and suddenly guys were shooting these giant hogs all the time. The problem dissipated but man do we howl in laughter if someone brings up the time in high school when Rhett and Danny got stoned and tried to be pig rustlers but ended up causing a wild hog infestation lol

play_arrow14play_arrow2

Just_Charge_It_To_Matt
4 days ago

I hope there is a statute of limitations on high rustling, otherwise you just may have switched if you used their real name.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Friedrich not Salma
4 days ago

Rhett says "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn "

play_arrow3play_arrow

ZIRPdiggler
4 days ago

We already have 600 lb feral swine unleashed on us from the District of Corruption

play_arrow30play_arrow

Cheap Chinese Crap
4 days ago

Yes, but those are domestic swine, not foreign swine.

play_arrow8play_arrow1

countryboy42
4 days ago

And, that's just Nuland.

play_arrow12play_arrow

SafeAndEffective
4 days ago

Wild boars, shooting practice, bacon. It's like a Kid Rock video when I've had too much to drink. Can't turn it up loud enough.

play_arrow25play_arrow1

Z Free
4 days ago

Ha! Bawitdaba, da bang, da dang diggy diggy, diggy, said the boogie, said up jump the boogie. **My Name Is…KID KID ROCK!**

play_arrow11play_arrow

SafeAndEffective
4 days ago

I'm more into the Red Neck Paradise side of Kid Rock, but like that one too for cranking while drunk.

play_arrow3play_arrow

SilverNV
4 days ago

Man up and put on some Pantera.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Z Free
4 days ago

I’m partial to The Cult

play_arrow3play_arrow

SilverNV
4 days ago

Slayer - Reign In Blood

play_arrow1play_arrow

Man on the Silver Mountain
3 days ago

Fire Woman - one of their best.

play_arrowplay_arrow

bIlluminati
4 days ago

I prefer the B-52s (band, not weapon of mass destruction). Nerd mating call in Rock Lobster.

play_arrow3play_arrow

4ladyfox
4 days ago

Love the B-52's!

play_arrowplay_arrow

Fred C Dobbs
4 days ago

Colin James Safronia B. Old R and B from the early 50's.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3naHDLLa28

play_arrowplay_arrow

gunsfromthegrave
4 days ago

While the libs eat bugs ill be hunting these.

play_arrow23play_arrow

Proximus
4 days ago

Mmm hmm, this is not a problem but it is a solution.

Costs an extra 5 dollars for bacon with your omelette.

Now almost free.

play_arrow2play_arrow

Tarzan
4 days ago

This will only be a problem until the ruling class crashes the system, then they're food for those prepared.

Super Pigs, LMAO. Do you have to make everything sound scary, is that a rule now?

play_arrow1play_arrow

plankton
4 days ago

Even pigs want to escape canaduh.

play_arrow21play_arrow

TBT or not TBT
4 days ago

They will not like American gun laws.

play_arrow5play_arrow

Mance Rayder
PREMIUM
4 days ago

lol pigloos

play_arrow20play_arrow

August—Landmesser:
4 days ago

Let the murder hornet and super pigs fight it out-

play_arrow17play_arrow

SilverNV
4 days ago

$10 on Pizza's wife.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Juche Tony
3 days ago

ah but she hasn't got tusks.

Has she?

play_arrowplay_arrow

TedW14
4 days ago

Victoria Nuland is fatter and uglier.

play_arrow15play_arrow

argoz
4 days ago

More cunning and dangerous too.

play_arrow8play_arrow

macroman/Tinfoil masker/GG500
4 days ago

cunting, Fify

play_arrow5play_arrow

not-me---it-was-the-dog
4 days ago

....but kosher!

play_arrow4play_arrow

kilo-lima
4 days ago

Noo, her hooves are not split

play_arrow4play_arrow

AUserDarkly
4 days ago

I take about 20 wild boar a year on my rather smallish plot. They just keep coming, more and more.

play_arrow15play_arrow

SilverNV
4 days ago

White People Problems

play_arrow3play_arrow4

Giant Meteor
4 days ago

Nah, he’s just hamming it up ..

play_arrow8play_arrow

SilverNV
4 days ago

Swine!

play_arrow4play_arrow

SilverNV
4 days ago

Pizza's wife got loose!

RUUUUUUN!

play_arrow15play_arrow1

SafeAndEffective
4 days ago

Mrs. Pizzathehut: "You think this pepperoni comes from you ***?"

play_arrow2play_arrow

DreadstoneofXev
4 days ago

(Preface - I live in rural North Carolina)

I WONDERED why there was a convoy of pickup trucks headed north. Good 'ol boys with Dixie Flag ball caps, coolers filled with beer, and enough guns-n-ammo to take out a small nation.

play_arrow14play_arrow

Geoffrey-Durden
4 days ago

We live in Neuse River area and they are the one local animal (besides big cats) that I haven't laid eyeballs on.

Not sure how much of this is fear ****.

play_arrow2play_arrow

Car 54 Where Are U
4 days ago

I thought this might have been a Snyder article at first!

play_arrow3play_arrow

rag_house
4 days ago

Just saw the article. Planning an expedition now.

play_arrow2play_arrow

SilverNV
4 days ago

There is no hunting like that of hunting another man's super pig.

play_arrow2play_arrow

ObamaBidensucks
4 days ago

Don't believe the hype. The gov just shot and killed hundreds of harmless feral cows and cattle because the deemed them a "threat"

These hogs might just keep you alive when Biden or someone worse than him finishing shutting off the food supply like you know they are doing now.

The gov will recommend you kill all these feral hogs. I would say let them live. Whatever they recommend, the opposite is probably the best .

Look at the price of eggs now compared to 4 years ago,,,look at the 100s of burning food plants.

play_arrow10play_arrow

VideoEng_NC
4 days ago

Except that these wild boars have been known for years to do more harm than good. They destroy at the root level, not good.

play_arrow7play_arrow

pparalegal
4 days ago
(Edited)

Farmers and ranchers will pay you to take them off their land.

Wild boar hunting is legal in California using rifles and handguns with soft point or expanding bullets, muzzleloading rifles of at least .40 caliber, shotguns capable of holding no more than three shells and firing single slugs, archery equipment and crossbows. A hunting license and wild pig tag are generally required (naturally the state gov wants in on the action) to take wild pig in California, with no daily bag or possession limit. Guided wild pig hunts are available with archery and rifle options, and spot and stalk hunting is also possible. Non-resident tags cost $75.60 and a hunting license is also required. The best time to hunt is in the spring, when the pigs are at their peak.

We have been trying to coax them into the big cities full of trash cans and little animals. But the sly wild animals give us the side eye and say they are not so easily tricked.

play_arrow10play_arrow

Giant Meteor
4 days ago

Ahh, very good. Peak pig !

play_arrow1play_arrow

vini vidi
4 days ago

Run em with dogs.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Giant Meteor
4 days ago

Understood ..

play_arrowplay_arrow

Cantgive2fks
3 days ago
(Edited)

Can’t hunt with dogs in California anymore…

now the black bear population is out of control , way more bear than swine at least in my neighborhood.

Censorship, government, stats: mar4 Sequoia Capital Exec Admits "Even Democrats Like Me Are Fed Up With San Francisco"

Ai, tech: mar4 ChatGPT has the FTC worried about AI scams and hype

"The FTC has already seen a staggering rise in fraud on social media," she said. "AI tools that generate authentic-seeming videos, photos, audio, and text could supercharge this trend, allowing fraudsters greater reach and speed," from imposter scams and identity theft to payment fraud and fake website creation. Chatbots could exacerbate these trends, Gruenwald said.

While the FTC did not provide specific examples of AI-powered fraud, it's not hard to imagine how people could be fooled. Already, AI-generated audio of Joe Biden and Donald Trump trash-talking while gaming has gone viral on TikTok. Combined with deepfake video and speech-mimicking chatbots, bad actors could mislead the public with faked footage of politicians in the lead up to an election. Similarly, phishing calls and emails could start sounding more like humans instead of robots, giving hackers new tricks to rob consumer and company finances.

Aware of these threats, Gruenwald didn't mince words: "We're prepared to hold – and have held – accountable the firms and individuals who engage in these practices."

he FTC's instincts are right, today's generative AI may pose less economic disruption than
ception.

Markets, government, inflation: feb28 **Apartment Rents Slide Across All US Cities Amid "Crush" Of New Supply**

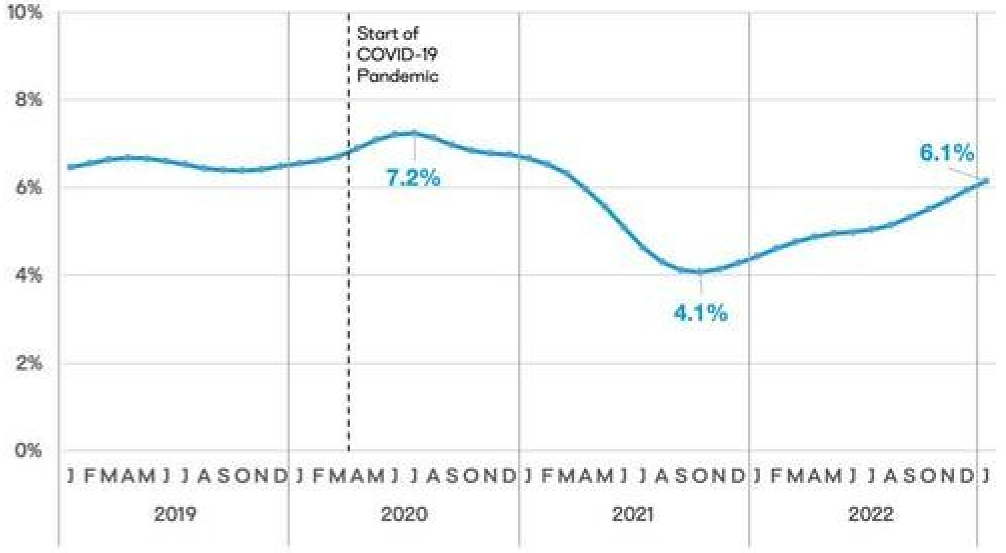
Apartment Rents Slide Across All US Cities Amid "Crush" Of New Supply

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, FEB 27, 2023 - 10:20 PM

Back in September, when looking at various leading rental market indicators, we reported that "Manhattan Apartment Rents Finally "Plateau" After Red-Hot Summer" a trend reversal that was also observed at the national level as we observed in "Nationwide Rents Drop For First Time In Two Years." With rents peaking in August, two months later the retnal drop accelerated as we discussed in "Just Tumbled The Most On Record As Economy Craters", incidentally something we wrote just hours after the latest FOMC, when Fed chair Jerome Powell clearly hadn't yet gotten the rent memo as the following two quotes from his November FOMC presser reveal:

-

The Seattle metro area’s median rent was $1,706 in January, while in the Boston metro area it was $1,879. Other measurements of rent with different sample criteria show much higher rent prices, but similar long-term trends in price movement.



Apartment List National Vacancy Index (2019-Present)

Source: Apartment List Vacancy Index
Data Available: https://www.apartmentlist.com/research/category/data-rent-estimates

Of course, there is a lot of room to fall: even after a 3.5% decline in new-lease rents since last summer, rents in many cities remain 20% or 30% higher than they were when the pandemic began. Rents in the Tucson, Ariz., Tampa, Fla., and Miami metro areas are all 35% higher than in March 2020, according to an Apartment List report.

“Renters are still having a tougher time than they were even a year-and-a-half ago,” said Chris Salviati, economist at Apartment List. However, if the Fed keeps rising rates and ignoring the general economic malaise - which the Biden admin is doing everything to cover up - rents should be in freefall in just a few months, but don't expect the Fed to respond: as usual it takes the US central bank about 6 to 9 months to realize it is ***always*** behind the curve.

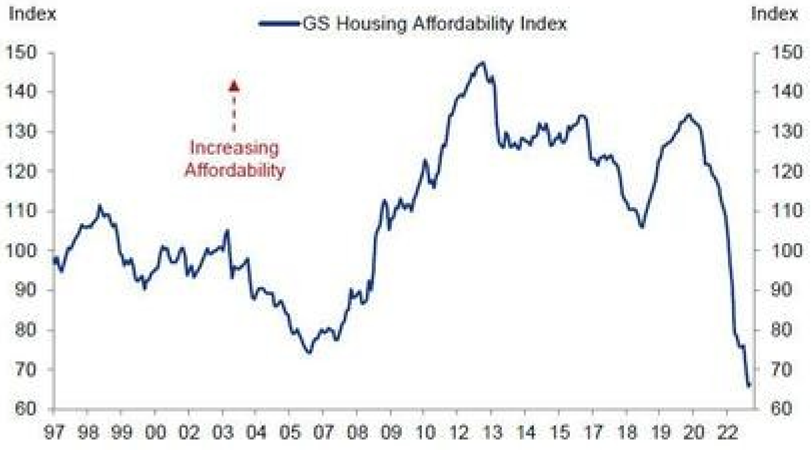
Indeed, the supply of new rentals is already having an impact: according to software company RealPage, **the share of apartment tenants who renewed leases declined in January to 52%, the lowest level for that month since 2018**; the data suggests some tenants are finding better deals at other buildings.

“Renters facing lease renewals suddenly have a lot more options,” RealPage economist Jay Parsons said in a report. Landlords are likely to start dropping their renewal rents to prevent tenants from leaving, he added.

Ironically, asking rents are sliding just as the much-delayed shelter cost component of the CPI basket soared by oar 7.9% in January compared with the same month a year earlier. Of course, as we long ago noted, the impact of rent declines tends to lead what is expressed in the CPI by as much as 12 months. Furthermore, as we discussed recently, many renters are in the middle of leases signed before recent price drops. That is one reason why the rising cost of rent reflected in the CPI shows annual price growth that is still higher than market measures, which track new leases.

And while some seasonal stalling in rents is normal, Timiraos cautions that according to projections from CoStar, the market faces a significant headwind in the form of a supply "crush", namely the ***biggest delivery of new supply since 1986:*** nearly half a million new apartments are coming on line this year as developers seek to cash in on the high rents that tenants have been paying. Indeed, as discussed over the weekend, countless renters facing the most unaffordable housing market in generations...

Exhibit 14: US housing affordability at lowest levels in history
GS Housing Affordability Index



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

... are unable to to buy a home because of higher mortgage rates and steep prices, so rentals have been in high demand.

Censorship, vaccine: feb28 **readlater:CDC Spreads False Information About COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring**

The CDC has previously offered misinformation and refused to correct it.

War, government: feb28 Every Peruvian president who has held office since 1990 has been in jail, or is in jail currently

There are so many ex-presidents behind bars, that there's literally no more space to put them in specialized units, away from general population inmates.

As Bloomberg points out, **every single Peruvian president who has held office since 1990 has been in jail, or is in jail currently**, or has been slapped with a detention order, equaling six total.

According to *Bloomberg*, "The **Barbadillo jail** on the outskirts of Lima is currently occupied by former president Alberto Fujimori, held there since 2007 over death squad killings and corruption, and Pedro Castillo, who attempted a coup in December."

And now with Alejandro headed there, "Adding a third presidential inmate would exceed the two-person capacity stated in documents published by prison authority INPE."

The presidential jail was previously home behind bars for other famous (or infamous) heads of state as follows:

In addition to Fujimori, Toledo and Castillo, three other ex-presidents have faced detention orders. Ollanta Humala, who governed between 2011 and 2016, was in Barbadillo over allegations that Odebrecht had illegally financed his presidential campaign.

Government, china, sanctions, markets: feb28 Lithium Industry Reeling After China Shutters 10% Of Global Supply

That's a nice little EV industry you got over there in the US, it's be a shame if suddenly it found itself without the most important commodity.

That's one way to interpret what just happened in China; another - a less cynical - is the way Bloomberg described it, namely that China's lithium industry itself is reeling as its top production hub - responsible for around a 10th of the world's supply - faces sweeping closures amid a government probe of environmental infringements.

The crackdown in Yichun, Jiangxi province, also known as the country's "Lithium capital" follows a local lithium frenzy over the past year as miners raced to feed rampant demand for the battery material — and to benefit from record global prices. Now, they're grappling with a close-up inspection by environment officials sent from Beijing.

According to Yicai newspaper, **ore-processing operations in Yichun have been ordered to stop as investigators probe alleged violations at lithium mines**. That, Bloomberg notes, **threatens somewhere between 8% and 13% of global supply,** according to various analyst estimates, although it's unclear for how long the immediate shutdowns will last.

The sudden probe injects a big dose of uncertainty into a lithium market that has seen prices drop, bringing some relief to EV manufacturers, as more global output emerges. Jiangxi province was expected to be a big source of extra supply, from a lithium-bearing mineral known as lepidolite.

"This supervision may mean that the inspection and control over lepidolite mining in China will be more stringent in the future," said Susan Zou, analyst at Rystad Energy. Companies with operations in Yichun include major battery manufacturers Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. and Gotion High-Tech Co., whose shares both fell more than 1% on Monday.

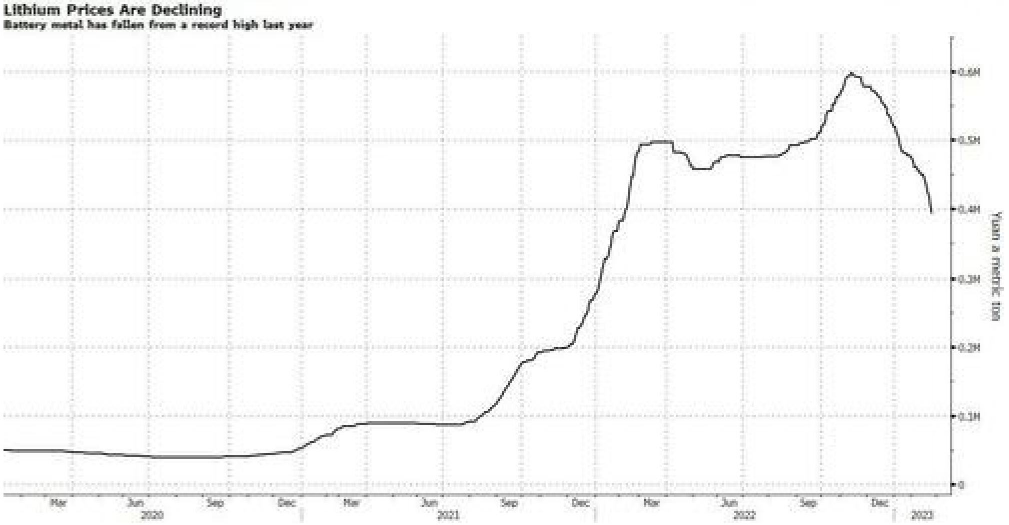
Due to the ongoing probe, all lepidolite mining in Yichun aside from those by a state-owned company have been suspended, but refineries are still operational, Daiwa analysts Dennis Ip and Leo Ho said.

Global lithium prices soared to a record high last year as demand from China's booming electric-vehicle industry outstripped production. And, as so often happens in commodities, where the cure to high prices is more supply, leading to lower prices, this high-profit, high-demand environment has encouraged miners to skirt regulations.

Some companies had already been targeted for infringements, including incidents of pollution, over the past year. This is a much wider crackdown, and involves officials from central government departments including the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Yucai added that Beijing will mainly look at violations at lithium mines and seek to guide the "healthy development" of the industry; they will largely target those mining without permits or with expired licenses.

Curiously, a recent Goldman report found that **the Chinese car industry's demand for lithium has fallen by more than half in recent months,** a dramatic reversal that will drive a further slump in the market. Meanwhile, Chinese prices have dropped more than 30% from last year's peak.



According to calculations form Citic Securities analyst Bai Junfei, **a month-long mining halt in Yichun would reduce lithium output by an amount equivalent to around 13% of the world's total**. Rystad Energy, a consultancy, estimated the amount at 8%.

"At present, the market speculation is that the probe may stop after the two sessions in China next month," Rystad's Zou said, referring to the annual parliamentary meetings due early March.

History, journal: feb28 the mayflower was just the puritans: people who stemmed from the reformation movement against the catholic church, who I think, also disagreed with t he protestants as well. They were like its own subsect of protestants, probably radicals of their time. The ship sailed in 160 with 102 passengers. The puritans believed the New World to be their promised land. Not all that surprising, really. Who better to send on such a dangerous expendition than an irate minorty that had been expelled from their homeland. They're very survival as a people will depend on their ability to settle the land. Nothing better than an extistential crisis to get people motivated...

Motivations for the voyage

See also: Pilgrims (Plymouth Colony) § History

A congregation of approximately 400 English Protestants living in exile in Leiden, Holland, were dissatisfied with the failure of the Church of England to reform what they felt were many excesses and abuses. But rather than work for change in England (as other Puritans did), they chose to live as Separatists in religiously tolerant Holland in 1608. As separatists, they were considered illegal radicals by their home country of England.[6]

The government of Leiden was recognized for offering financial aid to reformed churches, whether English, French or German, which made it a sought-after destination for Protestant intellectuals.[1]:17 Many of the separatists were illegal members of a church in Nottinghamshire, England, secretly practicing their Puritan form of Protestantism. When they learned that the authorities were aware of their congregation, church members fled in the night with little more than the clothes they were wearing, and clandestinely made it to Holland.[1]:18

Painting by Isaac Claesz Van Swanenburg of workers in Leiden's wool industry

Life in Holland became increasingly difficult for the congregation. They were forced into menial and backbreaking jobs, such as cleaning wool, which led to a variety of health afflictions. In addition, a number of the country's leading theologians began engaging in open debates which led to civil unrest, instilling the fear that Spain might again place Holland's population under siege, as it had done years earlier.[6] England's James I subsequently formed an alliance with Holland against Spain, with a condition outlawing independent English church congregations in Holland.[1]:26 In aggregate, these became the separatists' motivating factors to sail for the New World, which would have the added benefit of being beyond the reach of King James and his bishops.[6]

Their desire to travel to America was considered audacious and risky, as previous attempts to settle in North America had failed. Jamestown, founded in 1607, saw most of its settlers die within the first year. 440 of the 500 new arrivals died of starvation during the first six months of winter.[6] The Puritan separatists also learned of the constant threat of attacks by indigenous peoples.[6] But despite all the arguments against traveling to this new land, their conviction that God wanted them to go held sway: "We verily believe and trust the Lord is with us," they wrote, "and that he will graciously prosper our indeavours, according to the simplicity of our hearts therein."[6][7]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayflower

China, war: feb28 China Blasts US 'Disinformation, Absolute Hypocrisy' On Russia Ties, Vows Retaliation For Sanctions

She said that the US is ultimately busy "spreading disinformation that China would supply weapons to Russia and sanctioning Chinese companies under that pretext."

One of the Chinese companies in question, Changsha Tianyi Space Science and Technology Research Institute, previously came under sanctions for allegedly supplying the Russian mercenary firm Wagner Group with satellite imagery of Ukraine.

War, middle east: feb28 Eqyptian foreign minister visits damacus for first time since 2011 invasion in a move of solidary following devasting earthquake

The visit to Syria represents **the first by a high-level Egyptian official since the start of the US-backed war in 2011**. Upon his arrival at Damascus International Airport, Shoukry was received by Syria’s Foreign Minister, Faisal Mekdad.

Egypt severed diplomatic relations with Damascus and announced its support for the opposition in 2013, during the presidency of the Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated Muhammad Morsi, who was overthrown that year in a military coup led by Sisi.

Ties were restored the same year following Sisi’s coup. However, relations were never fully mended, and Damascus **remains excluded from the Cairo-based Arab League** after it was suspended in 2011. In recent years, Jordan and the UAE, two backers of the extremist insurgency in Syria, have restored their relations with the Syrian government.

Since the earthquake, Arab states have embraced Syria. Tunisia has expressed its intention to restore diplomatic ties, and even Saudi Arabia – who actively supported extremist groups with the aim of overthrowing the government – has expressed the need to ‘end the status quo’ regarding enmity with Damascus.

The US and UK are trying to thwart normalization efforts with Arab capitals...

Stats, censorship, vaccine: feb28 “Please Don’t Write About It”: New York Times Science Reporter Declares Lab Leak Theory “Racist”

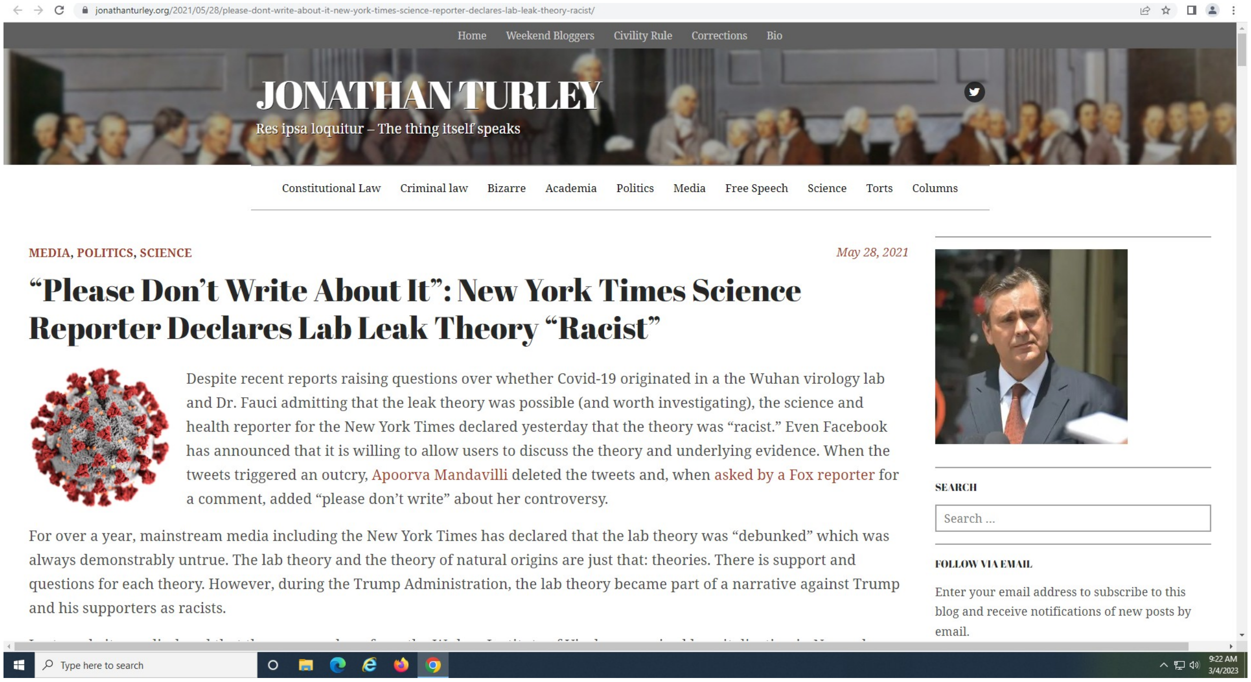
Now various scientists and sources have acknowledged that the lab could be the origin of the virus and should be investigated with the natural origins theory. The change is embarrassing to many reporters who assured readers that the lab theory was debunked racist conspiracy theory.

Apoorva Mandavilli is one of those who was supposed to be covering such stories and exploring all possible origins. She is insisting that, regardless of what Fauci or others say, it is nothing more than a racist conspiracy theory. She tweeted “Someday we will stop talking about the lab leak theory and maybe even admit its racist roots. But alas, that day is not yet here.” She added that “A theory can have racist roots and still gather reasonable supporters along the way. Doesn’t make the roots any less racist or the theory any more convincing, though.”

Many noted that a science writer should … well … follow the science. An objective reporter would recognize that either origin is possible but that there is thus far no conclusive evidence. The lack of evidence is due in large part to the Chinese government arresting scientists, barring access, and preventing full inquiries despite the death of millions around the world.

Mandavilli later revised her statement to say that the lab theory is “possible” but not “plausible.” She did not explain why it is not plausible or why (if it is possible) it is clearly also a racist theory.

Later she deleted the tweets and, when a reporter contacted her, explained “I deleted it because it unleashed some incredibly nasty tweets and DMs. So please don’t write about it.”



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MEDIA, POLITICS, SCIENCE

May 28, 2021

“Please Don’t Write About It”: New York Times Science Reporter Declares Lab Leak Theory “Racist”

Despite recent reports raising questions over whether Covid-19 originated in a the Wuhan virology lab and Dr. Fauci admitting that the leak theory was possible (and worth investigating), the science and health reporter for the New York Times declared yesterday that the theory was “racist.” Even Facebook has announced that it is willing to allow users to discuss the theory and underlying evidence. When the tweets triggered an outcry, Apoorva Mandavilli deleted the tweets and, when asked by a Fox reporter for a comment, added “please don’t write” about her controversy.

For over a year, mainstream media including the New York Times has declared that the lab theory was “debunked” which was always demonstrably untrue. The lab theory and the theory of natural origins are just that: theories. There is support and questions for each theory. However, during the Trump Administration, the lab theory became part of a narrative against Trump and his supporters as racists.

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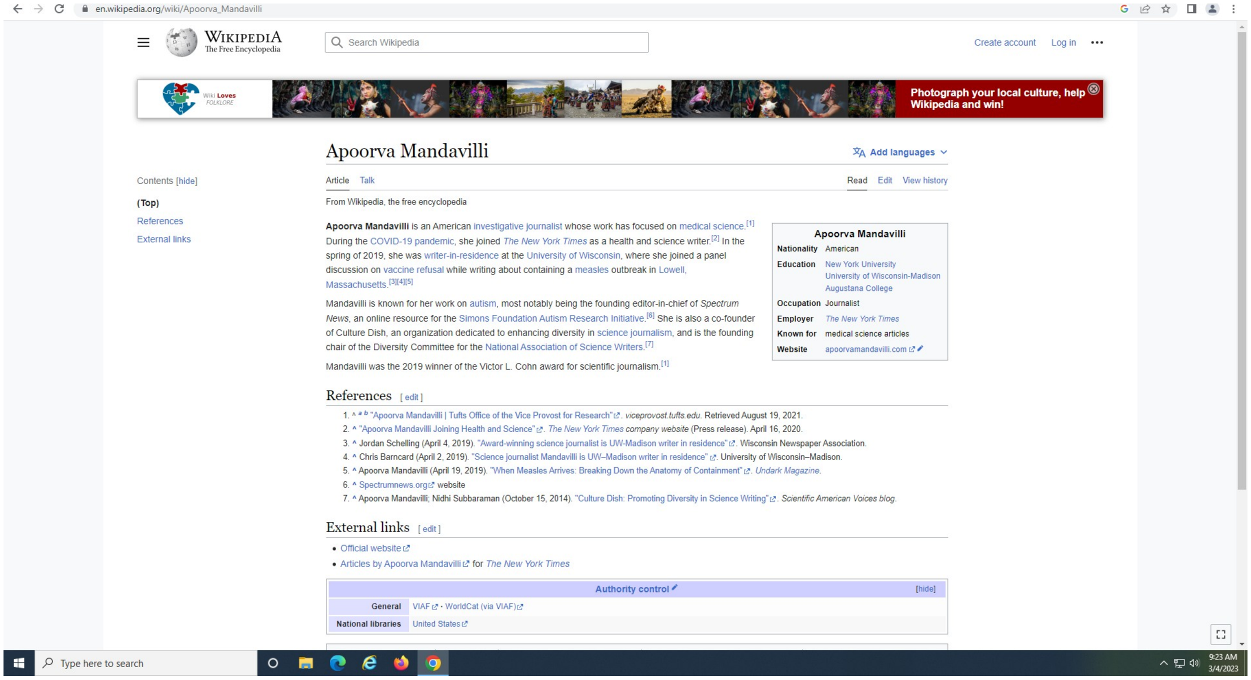

Apoorva Mandavilli

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Apoorva Mandavilli is an American investigative journalist whose work has focused on medical science.[1] During the COVID-19 pandemic, she joined *The New York Times* as a health and science writer.[2] In the spring of 2019, she was writer-in-residence at the University of Wisconsin, where she joined a panel discussion on vaccine refusal while writing about containing a measles outbreak in Lowell, Massachusetts.[3][4][5]

Mandavilli is known for her work on autism, most notably being the founding editor-in-chief of *Spectrum News*, an online resource for the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative.[6] She is also a co-founder of Culture Dish, an organization dedicated to enhancing diversity in science journalism, and is the founding chair of the Diversity Committee for the National Association of Science Writers.[7]

Mandavilli was the 2019 winner of the Victor L. Cohn award for scientific journalism.[1]

Apoorva Mandavilli	
Nationality	American
Education	New York University University of Wisconsin-Madison Augustana College
Occupation	Journalist
Employer	*The New York Times*
Known for	medical science articles
Website	apoorvamandavilli.com

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External links [edit]

- Official website
- Articles by Apoorva Mandavilli for *The New York Times*

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vaccine, censorship, government: Biden told ‘60 Minutes’ COVID pandemic ‘is over,’ sparking liberal backlash, September 19, 2022

Biden repeatedly asserted that the pandemic was in the nation’s rear-view mirror while speaking to CBS’ “60 Minutes” at the Detroit Auto Show last week.

“The pandemic is over,” he said.

“We still have a problem with COVID. We’re still doing a lot of work on it. But the pandemic is over.”

Walking through the Huntington Place convention center, Biden also told correspondent Scott Pelley, “If you notice, no one’s wearing masks.”

“Everybody seems to be in pretty good shape, and so I think it’s changing, and I think this is a perfect example of it.”

Progressive commentators used social media to lash out at the president over his remarks, with MSNBC host Medhi Hasan accusing Biden of lying to the American public.

“One of the (many) reasons they’re not wearing masks is because people like Biden keep (falsely) telling them the pandemic is over,” Hasan tweeted.

President Biden declared the COVID-19 pandemic “over” during an interview on “60 Minutes” that aired Sunday night.CBS/60 Minutes

Progressive Democratic Kentucky state Rep. Attica Scott expressed outrage that mainstream members of her party “keep playing these games with our lives.”

“You don’t get to just declare a global pandemic over, Mr. @POTUS,” Scott wrote.

Former Democratic Ohio state Sen. Nina Turner, a senior fellow at the progressive Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy, also rejected Biden’s assertion.

“The pandemic isn’t over,” Turner said.

“We are over the pandemic. The pandemic is not over with us. Big distinction.”

Experts also took Biden to task, with Dr. James Hamblin, a lecturer in public health policy at Yale University, saying that mask-wearing wasn’t an accurate gauge of whether the deadly virus was still spreading.

“A pandemic isn’t like bootcut jeans where you look around at what people are wearing and declare it over,” Hamblin tweeted.

Dr. Erif Feigl-Ding, an epidemiologist and former Harvard University faculty member, responded to Biden with an emphatic, “Heck no.”

“With all due respect, @JoeBiden — you’re wrong. Pandemic is not over. Almost 3,000 Americans are dying from #COVID19 every single week,” he wrote.

“A weekly 9/11 is a very big deal. Don’t even get me started on #LongCOVID —wreaking havoc on millions more.”

Feigl-Ding also followed up hours later, tweeting, “I’m still shaking my head at what Biden says. If he only knew how much I stuck my head out and sacrificed for him in 2020…”

Dr. Megan Ranney, dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, even used one of Biden’s favorite phrases to rebut him.

“Is the pandemic DIFFERENT? Sure,” she wrote.

“But over?! With 400 deaths a day?! I call malarkey.”

Politico reported that Biden’s assertion wasn’t part of his planned remarks and caught several of his own health officials by surprise, citing administration officials familiar with the matter.

Biden’s off-the-cuff comments have frequently landed him in hot water during his more than 50 years in politics, and he acknowledged being a “gaffe machine” while running for the White House in 2018.

Turley: The COVID Lab Leak Is A Scandal Of Media And Government Censorship

Others in academia quickly joined the bandwagon to assure the public that there is no scientific basis for their theory, leaving only racist or politics as the motivation behind the theory. In early 2020, with little available evidence, two op-eds in *The Lancet* in February and *Nature Medicine* went all-in on the denial front.

The Lancet op-ed stated, “**We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that Covid-19 does not have a natural origin.**”

In September 2020, Dr. Li-Meng Yan, a virologist and former postdoctoral fellow at the University of Hong Kong, dared to repeat the theory on Fox News, saying, **“I can present solid scientific evidence . . . [that] it is a man-made virus created in the lab.”** The left-leaning *PolitiFact* slammed her and gave her a “pant7s on fire rating.”

All of those experts and writers who were called racists or suspended by social media were simply forgotten in media coverage.

That is why this is really about censorship.

The media guaranteed that we did not have a full debate over the origins of the virus and attacked those who had the temerity to state the obvious that there was a plausible basis for suspecting the Wuhan lab.

None of this has diminished demands for more censorship. Even after Twitter admitted that it wrongly blocked The New York Post story before the 2020 election, Democratic senators responded by warning the company not to cut back on censorship and even demanded more censorship.

Recently, the Twitter Files revealed an extensive and secret FBI effort to censor citizens on social media.

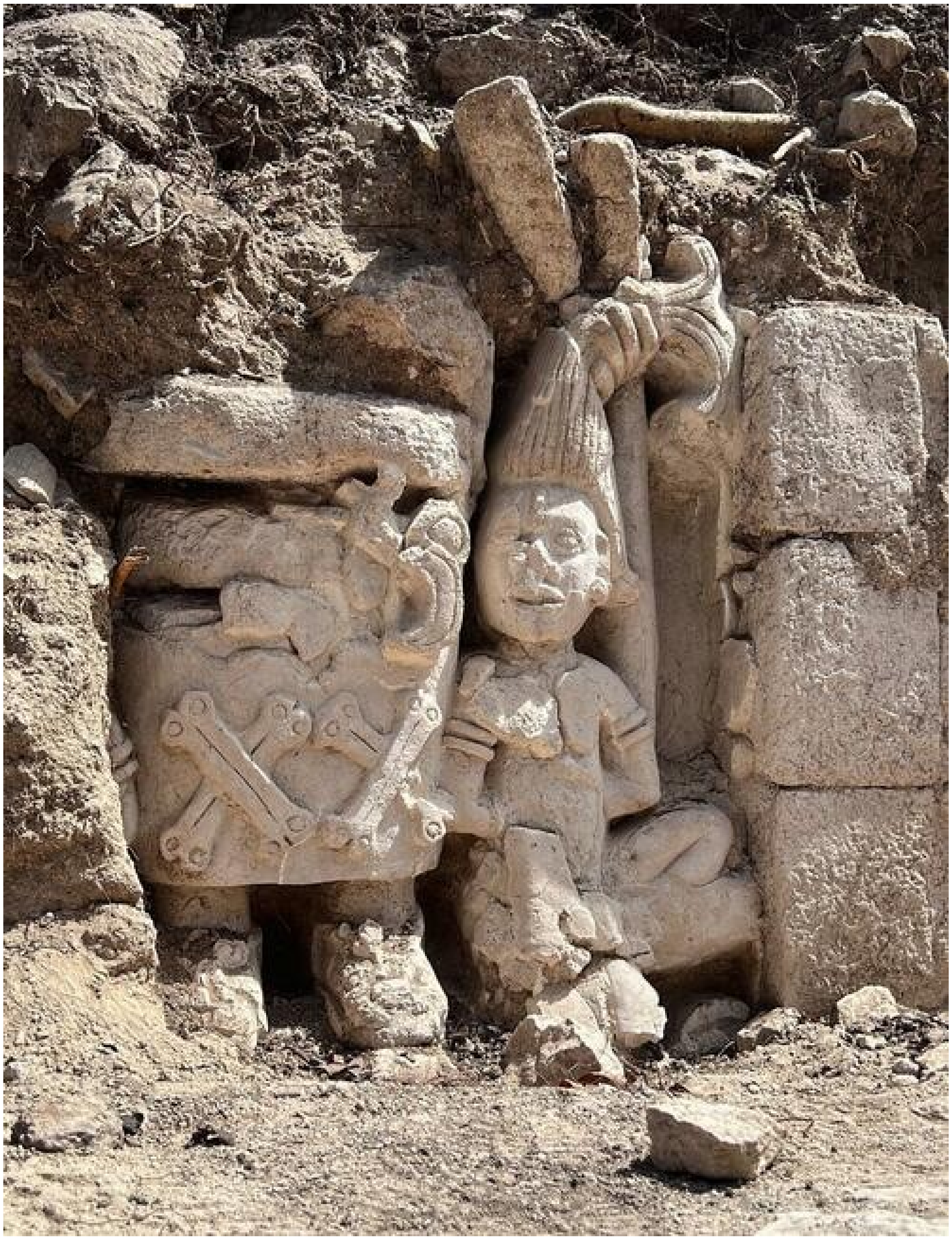
Mexican President Tweets Image Of Mythical Elf As Possible Distraction Amid Widespread Protests

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) tweeted an image on Saturday showing what he said was a mythical woodland elf of Mayan folklore. The picture might be a distraction after social and political unrest flared up on Sunday. Over 500,000 people protested in Mexico City to voice anger over AMLO's move to consolidate the electoral authority, according to Reuters.

"I share two photos of our supervision of the Mayan Train works: one, taken by an engineer three days ago, apparently from an Aluxe; another, by Diego Prieto of a splendid pre-Hispanic sculpture in Ek Balam," AMLO said.

The nighttime photo by the engineer shows what appears to be the mythical woodland elf.

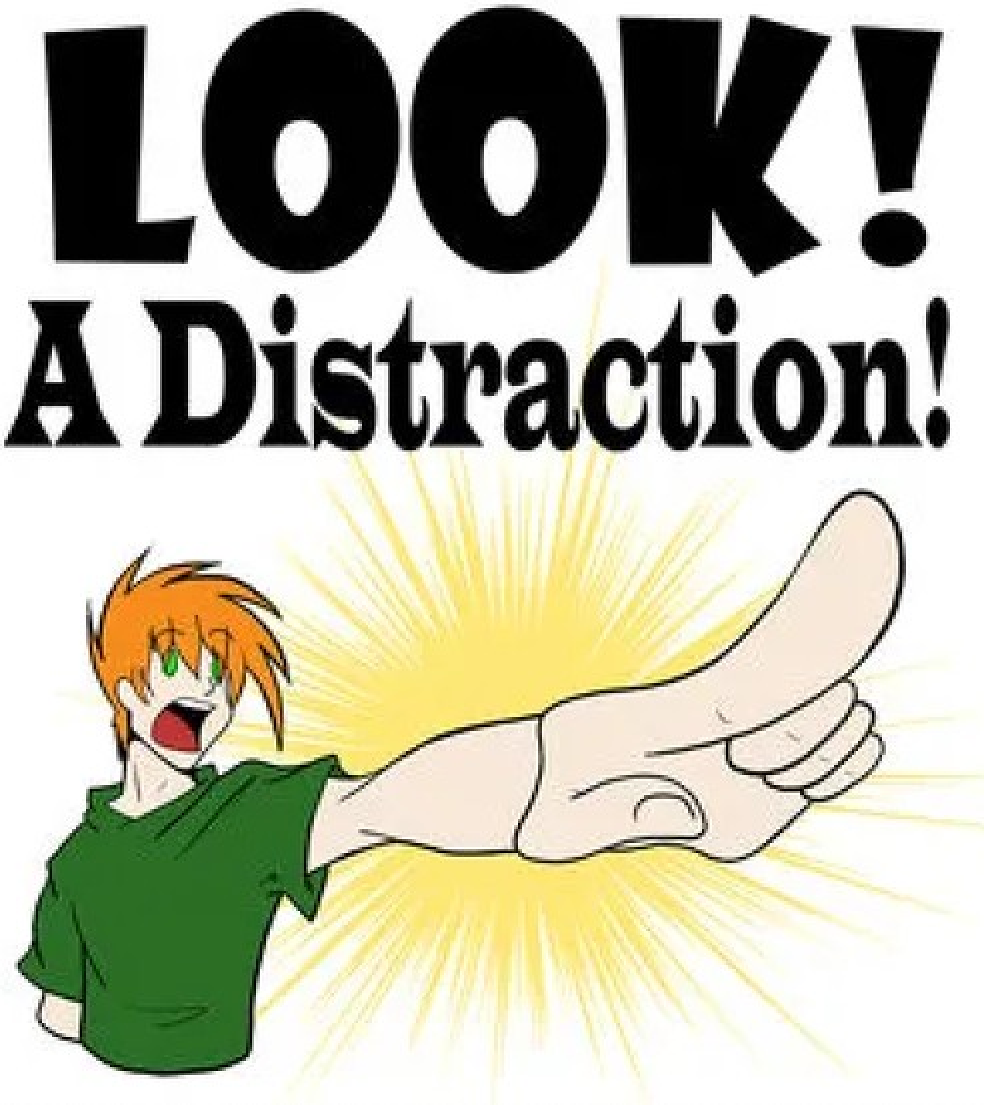
The second image the president posted is a sculpture of the Aluxe from Mayan times.



"Everything is mystical," AMLO said.

According to traditional Mayan belief, the Aluxe is said to live in dense forests and play tricks on people.

However, this could be the oldest trick in the book.



LOOK!
A Distraction!

That's because half a million people gathered on the streets of Mexico City on Sunday to voice concern over Mexico's Congress' new overhaul of the National Electoral Institute that will allegedly weaken Mexican democracy. It's a move that some view as a bid for AMLO to stay in power.

According to National Electoral Institute, AMLO's overhaul will slash thousands of jobs safeguarding elections.

... and what's the best distraction AMLO can conjure up? Well, it isn't balloons or UFOs but rather a mythical woodland elf.

Racial differences in the roman empire

Gaius Julius Verus Maximus[a] (217/220 – May 238) was the son of the Roman Emperor Maximinus Thrax and his wife, Caecilia Paulina.

Biography[edit]

The unreliable *Historia Augusta* claims that emperor Severus Alexander considered marrying his sister Theoclia to Maximus but declined because he believed his sister would not enjoy having a Barbarian for a father-in-law.[1]

Maximinus appointed his son Maximus Caesar around 236, but he held little real power. Both were murdered by the Praetorian Guard in May 238, during the Siege of Aquileia in the Year of the Six Emperors.

maximinus vs 5 senatorial emperor elects; ends in Maximinus being assassinated by own troops during the seige of Aquileia, described by wikipedia as a 'senatorial victory'

In 238 (which came to be known as the Year of the Six Emperors), a senatorial revolt broke out, leading to the successive proclamation of Gordian I, Gordian II, Pupienus, Balbinus and Gordian III as emperors in opposition to Maximinus. Maximinus advanced on Rome to put down the revolt, but was halted at Aquileia, where he was assassinated by disaffected elements of the Legio II *Parthica*.

In 235, following the murder of Emperor Alexander Severus in Moguntiacum (modern Mainz),[6] the capital of the Roman province Germania Superior, Maximinus Thrax was acclaimed emperor.[7] In the following years, there was a growing opposition against Maximinus in the Roman Senate and amongst the majority of the population of Rome. In 238, a rebellion broke out in the Africa Province, where Gordian's grandfather and uncle, Gordian I and II, were proclaimed joint emperors.[8] This revolt was suppressed within a month by Cappellianus, governor of Numidia and a loyal supporter of Maximinus Thrax.[8]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordian_III

The Senate, showing its hostility towards Maximinus by supporting the Gordiani, elected Pupienus and Balbinus as joint emperors.[9] These senators were not popular men, so the Senate decided to raise Marcus Antonius Gordianus to the rank of *Caesar*.[10] Maximinus, moving quickly to attack the Senate's newly elected emperors, encountered difficulties marching his army through an Alpine winter.[10] Arriving at Aquileia and short on supplies, Maximinus besieged the city.[10] After four weeks, Maximinus' demoralized army mutinied and the Legio II Parthica murdered him.[11]

The situation for Pupienus and Balbinus, despite Maximinus' death, was doomed from the start with popular riots, military discontent and an enormous fire that consumed Rome in June 238. The next month, Pupienus and Balbinus were killed by the Praetorian Guard and Gordian proclaimed sole emperor.[12]

File:Bust Gordianus III Louvre Ma1063.jpg

Bust, 242–244	
Roman emperor	
Augustus	c. August 238 – February 244[1]
Predecessor	Pupienus and Balbinus
Successor	Philip the Arab
Caesar	c. May – August 238[2]
Born	20 January 225

	Rome, Italy
Died	c. February 244 (aged 19) Zaitha
Spouse	Tranquillina

Due to Gordian's age, the imperial government was surrendered to the aristocratic families, who controlled the affairs of Rome through the Senate.[13] In 240, Sabinianus revolted in the African province, but he was quickly defeated.[14] In 241, Gordian was married to Furia Sabinia Tranquillina,[15] daughter of the newly appointed praetorian prefect, Timesitheus. As chief of the Praetorian Guard and father in law of the Emperor, Timesitheus quickly became the *de facto* ruler of the Roman Empire.[16]

During Gordian's reign there were severe earthquakes, so severe that cities fell into the ground along with their inhabitants.[17] In response to these earthquakes Gordian consulted the Sibylline books.[17]

Year of the Six Emperors

24 languages

- Article
- Talk
  - Read
  - Edit
  - View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Not to be confused with Year of the Four Emperors or Year of the Five Emperors.

Part of a series on Roman imperial dynasties

Year of the Six Emperors

AD 238

- Maximinus Thrax
- Gordian I and Gordian II
- Pupienus and Balbinus, nominally with
  - Gordian III

- v
- t
- e

The six emperors. Top row: Gordian I and Gordian II.

Middle row: Pupienus and Balbinus.

Bottom row: Maximinus Thrax and Gordian III.

The **Year of the Six Emperors** was the year AD 238, during which six men made claims to be emperors of Rome. This was an early symptom of what historians now call the **Crisis of the Third Century**, also known as **Military Anarchy** or the **Imperial Crisis** (AD 235–284), a period in which the Roman Empire nearly collapsed under the combined pressures of foreign invasions and migrations into the Roman territory, civil wars, peasant rebellions, political instability (with multiple usurpers competing for power), Roman reliance on (and growing influence of) foreign mercenaries known as foederati and commanders nominally working for Rome (but increasingly independent), the devastating social and economic effects of the plague, debasement of currency, and economic depression. The crisis ended with the ascension of Diocletian and his implementation of reforms in 284.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Aquileia

Soldiers of the II *Parthica* killed Maximinus in his tent, along with his son Maximus (who had been appointed deputy emperor in 236), and surrendered to Pupienus at the end of June. Maximinus' and his son's corpses were decapitated and their heads carried to Rome. For saving Rome from a public enemy, the soldiers were pardoned and sent back to their provinces.

The co-emperor then returned to Rome, only to find the city in riot. Balbinus had not managed to control the situation, and the city had burned in a fire, resulting in mutiny. With both emperors present, the situation calmed down, but the unease remained.

Coins from their reign show one of them on one side and two clasped hands on the other to show their joint power, yet their relationship was clouded with suspicion from the start, with each fearing assassination by the other. They were planning an enormous double campaign, Pupienus against the Parthians and Balbinus against the Carpians (Grant says against the Goths and the Persians, respectively), but they quarrelled frequently and could not agree or trust each other.

It was during one of these heated discussions, in May or on July 29, that the Praetorian Guard decided to intervene. They stormed into the room containing the emperors, seized them both, stripped them, dragged them naked through the streets, tortured and eventually murdered them. On the same day, Gordian III was proclaimed sole emperor (238–244), though in reality his advisors exercised most of his power. Together Pupienus and Balbinus had ruled for only 99 days.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_of_the_Six_Emperors

See also[edit]

- Year of the Four Emperors (AD 69)
- Year of the Five Emperors (AD 193)

the inflation before, christianity, gods, government, and I guess the Driuds engaged in human sacrifice according ot one of the worlds top historians during the 20th century, a person who's work is still frequently referenced, even today

The ultimate result of the inflation was that the goyernruentand its employees to a large extent abandoned a money economy. (The government, it is true, still exacted many. taxes, but met the bulk of its requirements by levies in kindTT^oldiers and officials still received money pay, but the more important part of their income
3 4
consisted of issues of foodstuffs and clothing. /By the beginning of the fourth century promotion to higher ram was rewarded by double and multiple issues of rations, and this practice may very well go back to the third century. These conditions, it may be noted, only applied to government employees. In private transac- tions the depreciated currency continued in full use

The taxpayers ought to have gained in proportion as the troops lost, and it may be doubted whether the actual bulk of taxation was excessive, .though it wa s levied f rom a shrunken population. im- poverished by .rhe. Tes.truc.tion_ of constaht~ w ars^ But the Burden” 'waslggravated. by its uneven -incidence, -The requisitions wliich in ^ffect.superseded the regular taxation were a rbitrarily levie d where and when they were required, and might prove ruinous to some provinces, while others escaped lightly. Furthermore neither soldiers nor officials were content with their meagre incomes. Soldiers recouped themselves by plundering. when on campaign, I and by extorting free maintenance whenever they travelled about / the country. A number of inscriptions record the complaints of villages about the exactions of travelling soldiers and officials. It was probably also during this period that officials began systematically to exact from the public those fees (sportulae) which later became a standing institution.

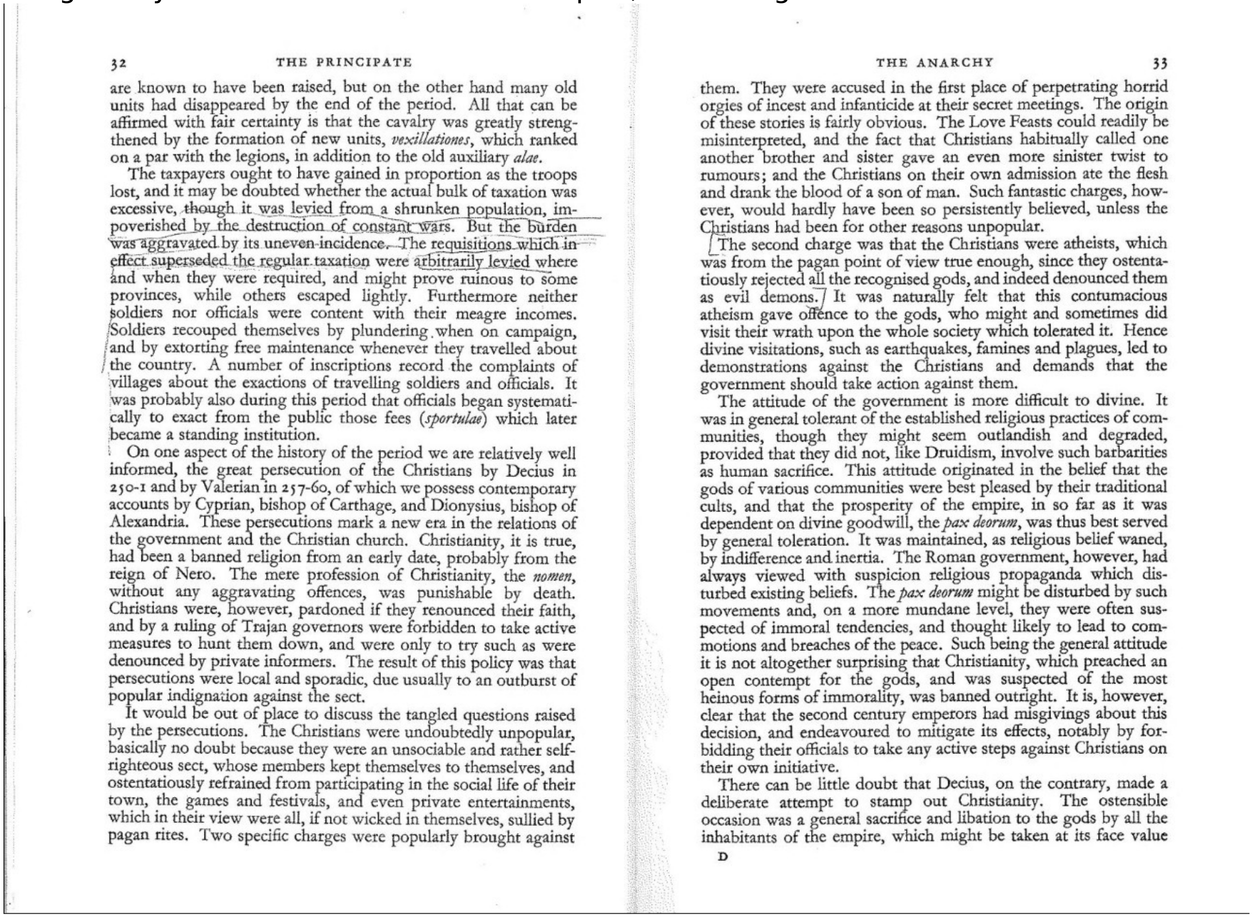
t On one aspect of the history of the period we are relatively well informed, the great persecution of the Christians by Decius in 250-1 and by Valerian in 257-60, of which we possess contemporary accounts by Cyprian, bishop of Carthage, and Dionysius, bishop of Alexandria. These persecutions mark a new era in the relations of the government and the Christian church. Christianity, it is true, had been a banned religion from an early date, probably from the reign of Nero. The mere profession of Christianity, the nomen , without any aggravating offences, was punishable by death. Chrisdans were, however, pardoned if they renounced their faith, and by a ruling of Trajan governors were forbidden to take active measures to hunt them down, and were only to try such as were denounced by private informers. The result of this policy was that persecutions were local and sporadic, due usually to an outburst of popular indignation against the sect.

It would be out of place to discuss the tangled questions raised by the persecutions. The Christians were undoubtedly unpopular, basically no doubt because they were an unsociable and rather self- righteous sect, whose members kept themselves to themselves, and ostentatiously refrained from participating in the social life of their town, the games and festivals, and even private entertainments, which in their view were all, if not wicked in themselves, sullied by pagan rites. Two specific charges were popularly brought against them. They were accused in the first place of perpetrating horrid orgies of incest and infanticide at their secret meetings. The origin of these stories is fairly obvious. The Love Feasts could readily be misinterpreted, and the fact that Christians habitually called one another brother and sister gave an even more sinister twist to rumours; and the Christians on their own admission ate the flesh and drank the blood of a son of man. Such fantastic charges, how- ever, would hardly have been so persistently believed, unless the Christians had been for other reasons unpopular.

[The second charge was that the Christians were atheists, which was from the pagan point of view true enough, since they ostentatiously rejected all the recognised gods, and indeed denounced them as evil demonsTJ It was naturally felt that this contumacious atheism gave offence to the gods, who might and sometimes did visit their wrath upon the whole society which tolerated it. Hence divine visitations, such as earthquakes, famines and plagues, led to demonstrations against the Christians and demands that the government should take action against them.

The attitude of the government is more difficult to divine. It was in general tolerant of the established religious practices of com- munities, though they might seem outlandish and degraded, provided that they did not, like Druidism, involve such barbarities as human sacrifice. This attitude originated in the belief that the gods of various communities were best pleased by their traditional cults, and that the prosperity of the empire, in so far as it was dependent on divine goodwill, the pax deorum , was thus best served by general toleration. It was maintained, as religious belief waned, by indifference and inertia. The Roman government, however, had always viewed with suspicion religious propaganda which dis- turbed existing beliefs. The pax deorum might be disturbed by such movements and, on a more mundane level, they were often sus- pected of immoral tendencies, and thought likely to lead to com- motions and breaches of the peace. Such being the general attitude it is not altogether surprising that Christianity, which preached an open contempt for the gods, and was suspected of the most heinous forms of immorality, was banned outright. It is, however, clear that the second century emperors had misgivings about this decision, and endeavoured to mitigate its effects, notably by for- bidding their officials to take any active steps against Christians on their own initiative.

There can be little doubt that Decius, on the contrary, made a deliberate attempt to stamp out Christianity. The ostensible occasion was a general sacrifice and libation to the gods by all the inhabitants of the empire, which might be taken at its face value



are known to have been raised, but on the other hand many old units had disappeared by the end of the period. All that can be affirmed with fair certainty is that the cavalry was greatly strengthened by the formation of new units, *vexillationes*, which ranked on a par with the legions, in addition to the old auxiliary *alae*.

The taxpayers ought to have gained in proportion as the troops lost, and it may be doubted whether the actual bulk of taxation was excessive, though it was levied from a shrunken population, impoverished by the destruction of constant wars. But the burden was aggravated by its uneven incidence. The requisitions which in effect superseded the regular taxation were arbitrarily levied where and when they were required, and might prove ruinous to some provinces, while others escaped lightly. Furthermore neither soldiers nor officials were content with their meagre incomes. Soldiers recouped themselves by plundering when on campaign, and by extorting free maintenance whenever they travelled about the country. A number of inscriptions record the complaints of villages about the exactions of travelling soldiers and officials. It was probably also during this period that officials began systematically to exact from the public those fees (*sportulae*) which later became a standing institution.

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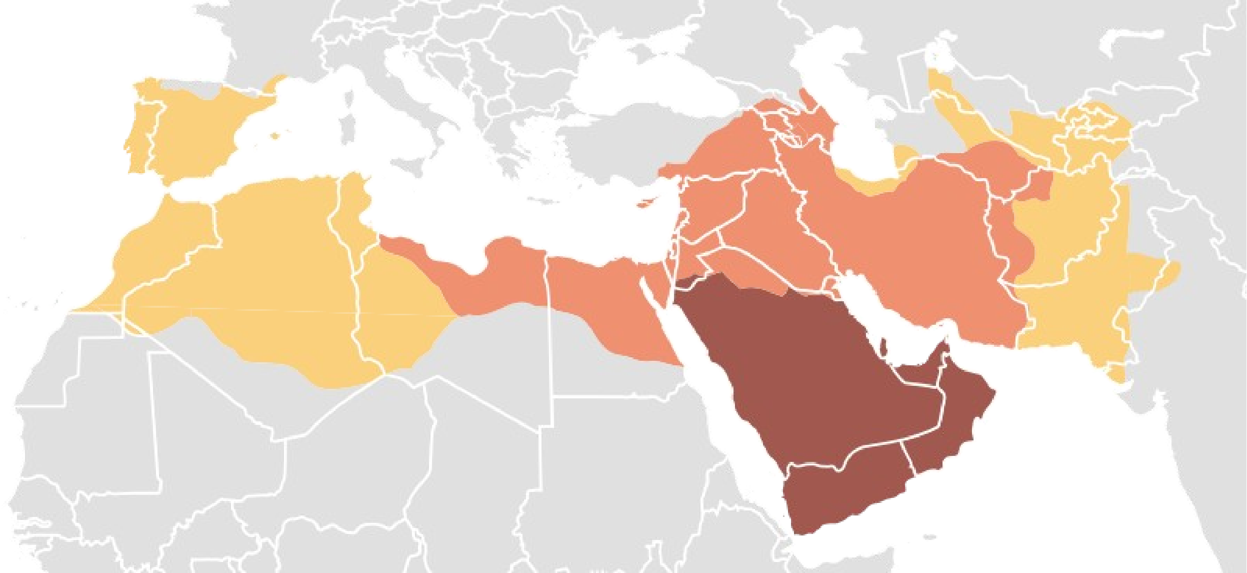
https://archive.org/details/JonesLaterRomanEmpire01/page/n23/mode/1up?view=theater

the romans ruled eqypt for 67 1 years 30 BC - 641 when it was taken over by the islamic conquest

Egypt (Latin: *Aegyptus* [ae̯'gʏptʊs]; Koinē Greek: Αἴγυπτος *Aígyptos* [ɛ́:gyptos]) was a subdivision of the Roman Empire from Rome's invasion of the Ptolemaic Egyptian Kingdom after the battle of Alexandria in 30 BC to its loss by the Byzantine Empire to the Islamic conquests in AD 641. The province encompassed most of modern-day Egypt except for the Sinai, and was bordered by the provinces of Crete and Cyrenaica to the west and Judea, later Arabia Petraea, to the East. Egypt came to serve as a major producer of grain for the empire and had a highly developed urban economy. Aegyptus was by far the wealthiest Eastern Roman province,[2][3] and by far the wealthiest Roman province outside of Italy.[4] The population of Roman Egypt is unknown, although estimates vary from 4 to 8 million.[1] Alexandria, its capital, was the largest port and second largest city of the Roman Empire. [5][6]

Within 41 years, the islamic empire conquored most of eastern rome.

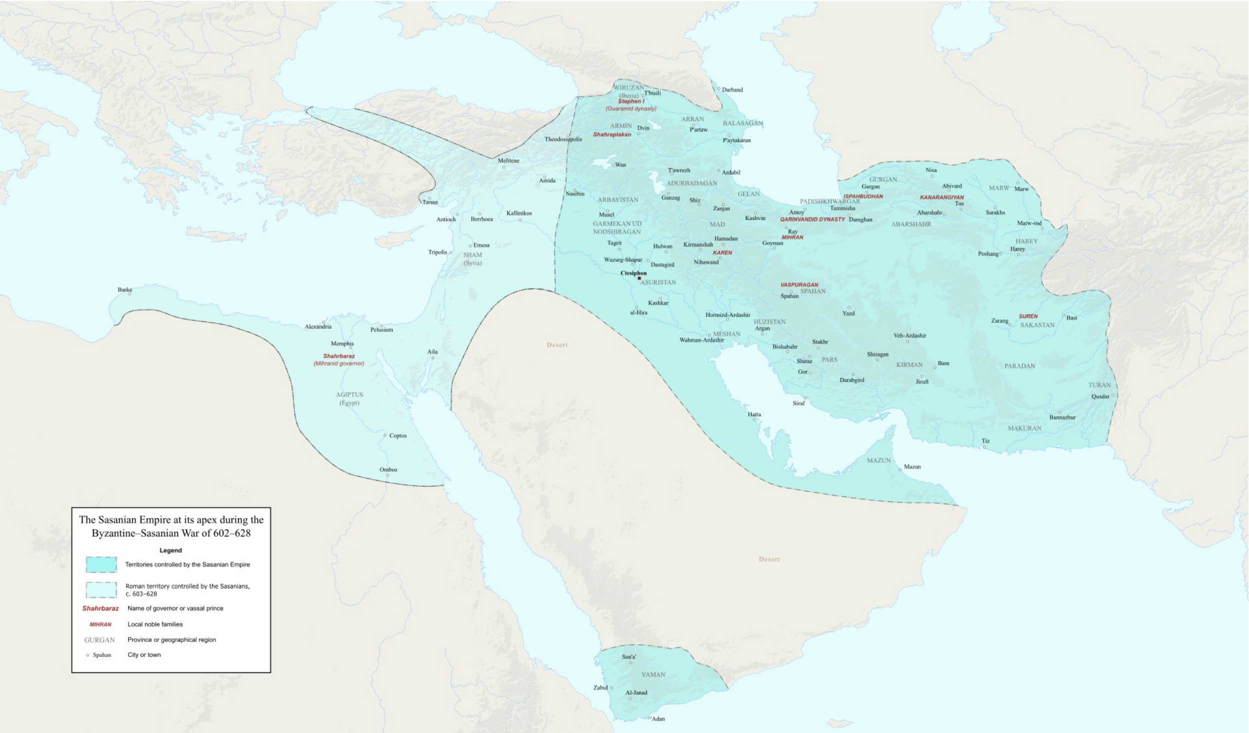


🟫 Expansion under Muhammad, 622–632
🟧 Expansion under the Rashidun Caliphate, 632–661
🟨 Expansion under the Umayyad Caliphate, 661–750

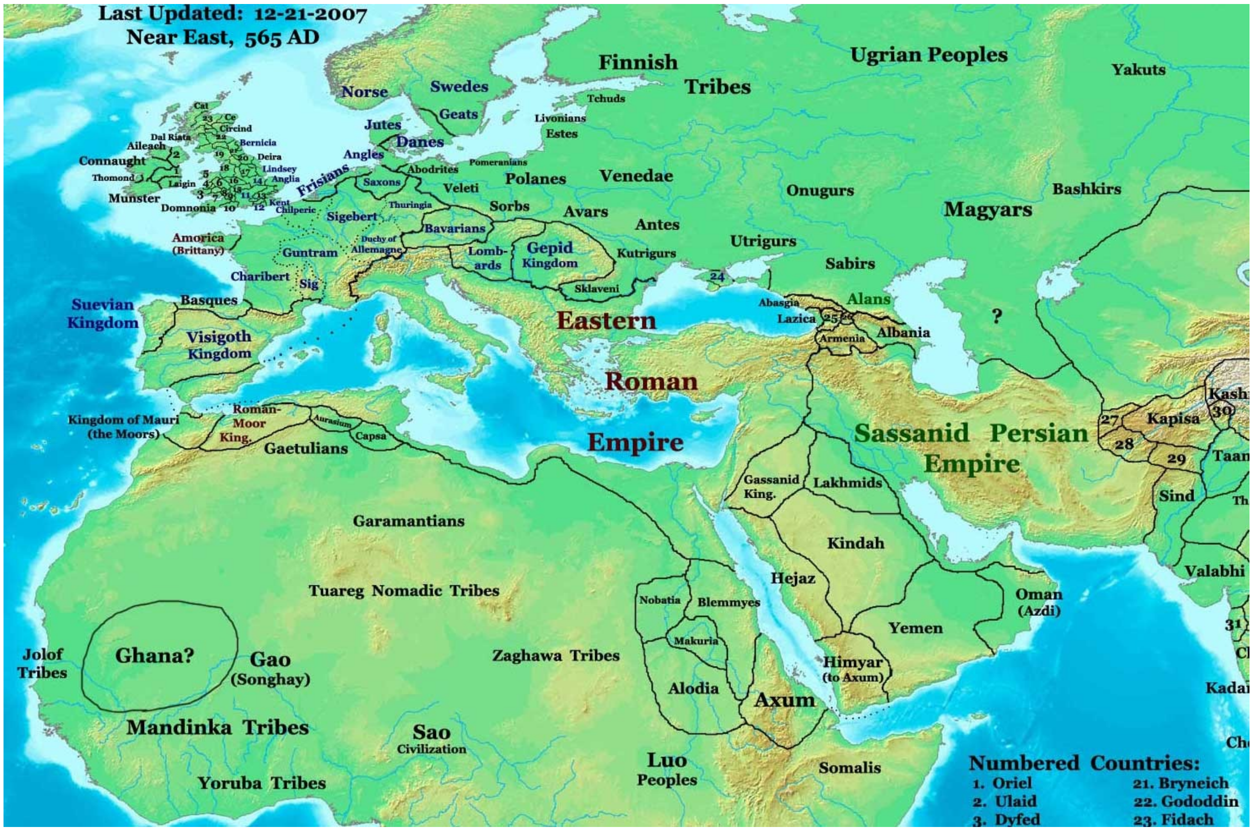
Date	622–750 CE
Location	Western Asia, North Africa, Central Asia, South Asia, Eastern Europe and Southern Europe[a]
Territorial changes	Islamic rule imposed from Iberia in the west to India in the east

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Muslim_conquests

Almost looks identical to the Sassinoid empire


The Sasanian Empire at its apex during the Byzantine–Sasanian War of 602–628
Legend
Territories controlled by the Sasanian Empire
Roman territory controlled by the Sasanians, c. 603–628
Shahrbaraz Name of governor or vassal prince
MIHRAN Local noble families
GURGAN Province or geographical region
Spahan City or town

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sasanian_Empire


Last Updated: 12-21-2007
Near East, 565 AD
Finnish Tribes
Ugrian Peoples
Yakuts
Norse
Swedes
Geats
Jutes
Danes
Angles
Frisians
Saxons
Abodrites
Veleti
Polanes
Venedae
Onugurs
Bashkirs
Magyars
Sorbs
Avars
Antes
Utrigurs
Sabirs
Bavarians
Gepid Kingdom
Lomb-ards
Kutrigurs
Sklaveni
Suevian Kingdom
Basques
Visigoth Kingdom
Eastern Roman Empire
Alans
Albania
Armenia
Lazica
Abasgia
Sassanid Persian Empire
Kapisa
Sind
Valabhi
Kingdom of Mauri (the Moors)
Roman-Moor King.
Gaetulians
Capsa
Garamantians
Gassanid King.
Lakhmids
Kindah
Hejaz
Yemen
Oman (Azdi)
Himyar (to Axum)
Tuareg Nomadic Tribes
Nobatia
Blemmyes
Makuria
Alodia
Axum
Jolof Tribes
Ghana?
Gao (Songhay)
Zaghawa Tribes
Mandinka Tribes
Sao Civilization
Luo Peoples
Somalis
Yoruba Tribes
Numbered Countries:
1. Oriel
2. Ulaid
3. Dyfed
21. Bryneich
22. Gododdin
23. Fidach

A map of the Near East in 565, showing Byzantine Egypt and its neighbors.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Egypt

The **War of Actium**[1][2][3][4][5] (32–30 BC) was the last civil war of the Roman Republic, fought between Mark Antony (assisted by Cleopatra and by extension Ptolemaic Egypt) and Octavian. In 32 BC, Octavian convinced the Roman Senate to declare war on the Egyptian queen Cleopatra. Her lover and ally Mark Antony, who was Octavian's rival, gave his support for her cause. Forty-percent of the Roman Senate, together with both consuls, left Rome to join the war on Antony's side. After a decisive victory for Octavian at the Battle of Actium, Cleopatra and Antony withdrew to Alexandria, where Octavian besieged the city until both Antony and Cleopatra were forced to commit suicide.

The war involved some of the largest Roman armies ever seen. Both Antony and Octavian's legions were experienced veterans of previous civil wars who had fought together, many also having once served under Caesar. The two did however raise their own legions separately.

Following the end of the war, Octavian brought peace to the Roman state that had been plagued by a century of civil wars. Octavian became the most powerful man in the

Roman world and the Senate bestowed upon him the honorific of Augustus in 27 BC. Octavian, now Augustus, would be the first Roman emperor and would transform the Republic into the Roman Empire.

The last Republican civil war would mark the beginning of the Pax Romana, a period of relative internal peace and stability.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_Actium

the roman secret service: Praetorian Guard

In 27 BC, after Rome's transition from republic to empire, the first emperor of Rome, Augustus, designated the Praetorians as his personal security escort. For three centuries, the guards of the Roman emperor were also known for their palace intrigues, by which influence upon imperial politics the Praetorians could overthrow an emperor and then proclaim his successor as the new *caesar* of Rome. In AD 312, Constantine the Great disbanded the *cohortes praetoriae* and destroyed their barracks at the Castra Praetoria.[1]

In the period of the Roman Republic (509–27 BC) the Praetorian Guard originated as bodyguards for Roman generals.

Priesthoods of ancient Rome: The Augur

An **augur** was a priest and official in the classical Roman world. His main role was the practice of augury, the interpretation of the will of the gods by studying events he observed within a predetermined sacred space (*templum*). The *templum* corresponded to the heavenly space above. The augur's decisions were based on what he personally saw or heard from within the *templum*; they included thunder, lightning and any accidental signs such as falling objects, but in particular, birdsigns; whether the birds he saw flew in groups or alone, what noises they made as they flew, the direction of flight, what kind of birds they were, how many there were, or how they fed. This practice was known as "*taking the auspices*". As circumstance did not always favour the convenient appearance of wild birds or weather phenomena, domesticated chickens kept for the purpose were sometimes released into the templum, where their behaviour, particularly how they fed, could be studied by the augur.[1]

The augural ceremony and function of the augur was central to any major undertaking in Roman society – public or private – including matters of war, commerce, and religion. Augurs sought the divine will regarding any proposed course of action which might affect Rome's *pax*, *fortuna*, and *salus* (peace, good fortune, and well-being).[2]

Kingdom of Rome[edit]

The Roman historian Livy stressed the importance of the augurs: "Who does not know that this city was founded only after taking the auspices, that everything in war and in peace, at home and abroad, was done only after taking the auspices?"[5]

In the Regal period, which ended 509 BC, tradition holds that there were three augurs at a time; they numbered nine by the third century BC; Sulla increased their number to fifteen. By the Principate, their numbers swelled even further to an estimated 25 members.[6]

Roman Republic[edit]

During the Republic, priesthoods were prized as greatly as the consulship, the censorship, and the triumph. Membership gave the lifelong right to participate prominently in processions at *ludi* and in public banquets; augurs proudly displayed the symbol of the office, the *lituus*.[6]

Roman augurs were part of a college (Latin *collegium*) of priests who shared the duties and responsibilities of the position. At the foundation of the Republic in 510 BC, the patricians held sole claim to this office; by 300 BC, the office was open to plebeian occupation as well. Senior members of the *collegium* put forth nominations for any vacancies, and members voted on whom to co-opt.

According to Cicero, the *auctoritas* of *ius augurum* included the right to adjourn and overturn the process of law: Consular election could be – and was – rendered invalid by inaugural error. For Cicero, this made the augur the most powerful authority in the Republic. Cicero himself was co-opted into the college only late in his career.[7]

In the later Republic, augury was supervised by the college of *pontifices*, a priestly-magistral office whose powers were increasingly woven into the *cursus honorum*. The office of *pontifex maximus* eventually became a *de facto* consular prerogative.[8]

Roman Empire[edit]

The effectiveness of augury could only be judged retrospectively; the divinely ordained condition of peace (*pax deorum*) was an outcome of successful augury. Those whose actions had led to divine wrath (*ira deorum*) could not have possessed a true right of augury (*ius augurum*).[9] Of all the protagonists in the Civil War, only Octavian could have possessed it, because he alone had restored the *pax deorum* to the Roman people. Lucan, writing during the Principate, described the recent Civil War as "unnatural" – a mirror to supernatural disturbances in the greater cosmos. His imagery is apt to the traditional principles of augury and its broader interpretation by Stoic apologists of the Imperial cult.[10] In the Stoic cosmology the *pax deorum* is the expression of natural order in human affairs.[11]

When his colleague Lepidus died, Augustus assumed his office as *pontifex maximus*, took priestly control over the State oracles (including the Sibylline books), and used his powers as censor to suppress the circulation of "unapproved" oracles.[12]

Despite their lack of political influence under the Empire, the augurate, as with its fellow *quattuor amplissima collegia*, continued to confer prestige on its members.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augur

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augur

a sacred area around the city of rome: The pomerium

Tradition maintained that the pomerium was the original line ploughed by Romulus around the walls of the original city, and that it was inaugurated by Servius

Tullius. The legendary date of its demarcation, 21 April, continued to be celebrated as the anniversary of the city's founding.[4]

The ***pomerium*** or ***pomoerium*** was a religious boundary around the city of Rome and cities controlled by Rome. In legal terms, Rome existed only within its *pomerium*; everything beyond it was simply territory (*ager*) belonging to Rome.

The pomerium was not a walled area, but rather a legally and religiously defined one marked by *cippi*. It encompassed neither the entire metropolitan area nor even all the Seven Hills (the Palatine Hill was within the *pomerium*, but the Capitoline and Aventine Hills were not). The Curia Hostilia and the well of the Comitium in the Forum Romanum, two extremely important locations in the government of the city-state and its empire, were located within the pomerium. The Temple of Bellona was beyond the pomerium.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pomerium

Lucius Cassius Dio, whose favourite place was his hometown Nicaea, a member of the gens cassia class and once a senator under Commodus, wrote a massive piece of ROman history over a period of 22 years. Known as a Roman History, it included 80 volumes and emcopassed 1400 years of roman history, covering up to the time of Romulous until 229 AD

Lucius Cassius Dio[ii] was the son of Cassius Apronianus, a Roman senator and member of the gens Cassia, who was born and raised at Nicaea in Bithynia. Byzantine tradition maintains that Dio's mother was the daughter or sister of the Greek orator and philosopher, Dio Chrysostom; however, this relationship has been disputed. Although Dio was a Roman citizen, he wrote in Greek. Dio always maintained a love for his hometown of Nicaea, calling it "my home", as opposed to his description of his villa in Capua, Italy ("the place where I spend my time whenever I am in Italy"). *Potter, David (2014). The Roman Empire at Bay, AD 180-395. Taylor & Francis.*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassius_Dio

early bureaucrats of late antiquity: Peter the Patrician, a lawyer and abassador of his time

Peter the Patrician (Latin: *Petrus Patricius*, Greek: Πέτρος ὁ Πατρίκιος, *Petros ho Patrikios*; c. 500–565) was a senior Byzantine official, diplomat, and historian. A well-educated and successful lawyer, he was repeatedly sent as envoy to Ostrogothic Italy in the prelude to the Gothic War of 535–554.

he was appointed to the post of *magister officiorum*, head of the imperial secretariat, which he held for an unparalleled 26 years. In this capacity, he was one of the leading ministers of Emperor Justinian I (r. 527–565), playing an important role in the Byzantine emperor's religious policies and the relations with Sassanid Persia; most notably he led the negotiations for the peace agreement of 562 that ended the 20-year-long Lazic War.[2] His historical writings survive only in fragments, but provide unique source material on early Byzantine ceremonies and diplomatic issues between Byzantium and the Sassanids.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_the_Patrician

Father of monasticism for christianity, Anthony the Great (251-356)

The fame of Anthony spread and reached Emperor Constantine, who wrote to him requesting his prayers. The brethren were pleased with the Emperor's letter, but Anthony was not overawed and wrote back exhorting the Emperor and his sons not to esteem this world but remember the next.[11]

Most of what is known about Anthony comes from the *Life of Anthony*. Written in Greek around 360 by Athanasius of Alexandria, it depicts Anthony as an illiterate and holy man who through his existence in a primordial landscape has an absolute connection to the divine truth, which always is in harmony with that of Athanasius as the biographer.[6]

A continuation of the genre of secular Greek biography,[7] it became his most widely read work.[8] Sometime before 374 it was translated into Latin by Evagrius of Antioch. The Latin translation helped the *Life* become one of the best-known works of literature in the Christian world, a status it would hold through the Middle Ages.[9]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_the_Great

Pachomius the Great 292 AD -- 348

Pachomius was born in 292 in The Thebaid (near modern-day Luxor, Egypt) to pagan parents.[4] According to his hagiography, at age 21, Pachomius was swept up against his will in a Roman army recruitment drive, a common occurrence during this period of turmoil and civil war. With several other youths, he was put onto a ship that floated down the Nile and arrived at Thebes in the evening.[5] Here he first encountered local Christians, who customarily brought food and comfort daily to the conscripted troops. This made a lasting impression, and Pachomius vowed to investigate Christianity further when he got out. He was able to leave the army without ever having to fight, was converted and baptized (314).

Pachomius then came into contact with several well known ascetics and decided to pursue that path under the guidance of the hermit named Palaemon (317). One of his devotions, popular at the time, was praying with his arms stretched out in the form of a cross.[5] After studying seven years with Palaemon, Pachomius set out to lead the life of a hermit near St. Anthony of Egypt, whose practices he imitated until Pachomius heard a voice in Tabennisi that told him to build a dwelling for the hermits to come to.[6] An earlier ascetic named Macarius had created a number of proto-monasteries called lavra, or cells, where holy men who were physically or mentally unable to achieve the rigors of Anthony's solitary life would live in a community setting.

Pachomius established his first monastery between 318 and 323 at Tabennisi, Egypt.[7] His elder brother John joined him, and soon more than 100 monks lived nearby. Pachomius set about organizing these cells into a formal organization. Until then, Christian asceticism had been solitary or *eremitic* with male or female monastics living in individual huts or caves and meeting only for occasional worship services. Pachomius created the community or *cenobitic* organization, in which male or female monastics lived together and held their property in common under the leadership of an abbot or abbess. Pachomius realized that some men, acquainted only with the eremitical life, might speedily become disgusted if the distracting cares of the cenobitical life were thrust too abruptly upon them. He therefore allowed them to devote their whole time to spiritual exercises, undertaking all the community's administrative tasks himself. The community hailed Pachomius as "Abba" ("father" in Aramaic), from which "Abbot" derives. The monastery at Tabennisi, though enlarged several times, soon became too small and a second was founded at Pabau (Faou).[6] After 336, Pachomius spent most of his time at Pabau. Though Pachomius sometimes acted as lector for nearby shepherds, neither he nor any of his monks became priests. St. Athanasius visited and wished to ordain him in 333, but Pachomius fled from him. Athanasius' visit was probably a result of Pachomius' zealous defence of orthodoxy against Arianism.[5] Basil of Caesarea visited, then took many of Pachomius' ideas, which he adapted and implemented in Caesarea. This ascetic rule, or Ascetica, is still used today by the Eastern Orthodox Church, comparable to that of the Rule of St. Benedict in the West.

The Development of Paganism in the Roman Empire https://archive.org/details/TheDevelopmentOfPaganismInTheRomanEmpire_837/CAH_12_12/

AHM Jones' "The Later Roman Empire", is considered "itself almost a primary source.", and still frequently referenced today. He was highly

acclaimed during his time, and was known to have an "encyclopedic memory".

Among English-speaking Romanists, the Later Roman Empire can denote not just a period and a geographical area, but also a book, A.H.M. Jones’s *The Later Roman Empire 284-602: A Social, Economic, and Administrative Survey* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1964). Jones’s great work (conventionally *LRE*) remains a fundamental tool for scholars of the later empire. There are several reasons for this: the most obvious is that it reflects Jones’ astonishingly broad reading and prodigious memory of the primary sources. Jones aspired to have read everything surviving from his period, although he soon drew the line at various categories of text, notably sermons. His confidence in his accuracy was such that he submitted the two volumes of text to the press before the third volume of notes was ready. On virtually any aspect of social or political organisation, the *LRE* can usually be relied upon to present the ancient textual evidence in accurate and comprehensive detail: it is itself almost a primary source.

"Jones was reportedly an extremely fast reader with an encyclopedic memory. His disdain for "small talk" sometimes made him seem remote and cold to those who did not know him well, but he was warmly regarded by his students. He was sometimes criticized for not fully acknowledging the work of other scholars in his own footnotes, a habit he was aware of and apologized for in the preface to his first book."

ahm: "I ignore the two major intellectual achieve- ments of the age, theology and law, but discuss the organisation and finances of the church, the administration of justice, and the social status of the clergy and of lawyers."

https://archive.org/details/JonesLaterRomanEmpire01/page/n1/mode/1up?view=theater

MORE INCREDIBLE STUFF FROM AHM: (The object of the depreciation of the coins was jpf cours e to enable the government to issue more denarii from the same amount

of silver. The mints during this period were increased in number and'enlarged in size, and were kept very busy issuing floods of bad coins. The resulting inflation of the currency was further enhanced, and more rapidly, by the manoeuvres described above, whereby the nominal value of the coins was arbitrarily raised. The result was a qsteep rise in prices. The intermediate stages cannot be traced, but it is known t hat the price of a modius of wheat, which in the second century in normal conditions cost half a denarius or little more, was in 301 fixed at 100 denarii; and Diocletian's prices were certainly below current levels. Wheat is a fairly good index of the general level of prices, ancLsuch few other prices as we possess show com- parable increases, /ir would seem then that the real value of the denarius sank during the third centurv to about 0.5 per cent, of what it had been before the inflation. 18 J

keyword finance, page 28: the inflation and the importance of the mints to the roman empire

The coins show that the depreciation of the currency gained momentum, and reached its climax under Gallienus, whose Antoniniani are not only short weight and vilely minted, but have become virtually copper coins, containing less than 5 per cent, of silver. Aurelian carried through some kind of reform, calling in the mixture of issues, bad and less bad, which were current, and substituting for them two uniform series of fairly respectable silver- plated copper coins, the larger marked XX.I or XXI or XX (in Greek KA), and the smaller VSV.

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The. result must. have been that a. black market in aurei grew up, where they could be sold for more than their theoretical value of twenty-five denarii: this state of affairs is implied by a document of the reign of Elagabalus, which shows that it was a privilege for an officer to draw his salary in gold coins.

No taxpayer was going to pay his taxes in gold, if the treasury would accept his aurei as being worth only twenty-five denarii each, when he could pay in debased denarii. Aurei went into hoards or were melted down. Gold issues did not actually cease altogether, but they became rare and sporadic, and the coins were moreover minted at very varied weights. It is probable that they were issued only for donatives (for which it was customary to use gold, as the sums involved were large), and that the coins were not intended to bear any fixed relation to the standard denarius currency, but were in effect pieces of bullion, which could be sold at current rates. The gold for these issues was obtained by concurrent levies of aurum coronanum from the cities. It was a very ancient practice that on joyful occasions, such as the accession or jubilee of an emperor, the cities of the empire should offer him gold crowns, and these levies of bullion had long been de facto compulsory. Cassius Dio complains that Caracalla multiplied the occasions on which crowns had to be offered by proclaiming fictitious victories, and the rapid succession of emperors in the third century must have made levies very frequent . 20

The economic results of the inflation can only be conjectured

https://archive.org/details/JonesLaterRomanEmpire01/page/n19/mode/1up?view=theater&q=FINANCE

government programs to reclaim lost territory in the form of reduced or eliminated tribute payments offered to title holders who attempted to recultivate what could only be considered at the time as failed government expansion p[rojects.

Racked as it was by constant civil w ars, ..the empire, was the less abde foTesT^ and unluckily its enemies, ...were at

thi s tim e particula rly active. On the eastern frontier the Parthians hadToffered no serious threat, but d uring the reign of Alexander

Scverusa_.revolutiontock..plac£,7rii3Ah.e..Persiandynasty..of.the Sassanids established itself. The Sassanids were much more efficient rulers than the Arsacids, and moreover revived the national pride of the Persian people, restoring the old faith of Zoroastrianism and recalling the glories of the Achaemenids. The new dynasty nursed irredentist ambitions of recovering all the territories which the ancient Persian kings had ruled, Syria, Egypt and Asia Minor, and the Ro man empire was henceforth continually menaced by an aggressive eastern neighbour, who on several 'dccasions“dufrng This petiodThvadeci Mesopotamia and Syria. On the Danube old enemies like the Marcomanni and the Quadi were reinforced by immigrant German tribes, like the Goths and the Vandals, who not only repeatedly ravaged Illyticum and Thrace and even Greece and Italy but taking to the sea, carried their devastations into Asia Minor.! (On the Rhine new confederations of tribes, the Franks and the Alamans, appeared and invaded Gaul, and even penetrated into Spain. In the growing weakness of the empire unruly peoples long under control, like the Berber tribes of Africa or the Isaurian highlanders of Asia Minor, broke loose again and raided their settled neighbours^

/The destruction caused by the continued civil wars and barbarian invasions must have been immense.] Cities were sacked and burned, crops destroyed, cattle driven off, and the population carried away into slavery by the barbarian raiders. The Ro man armies were almost as destructive; they too sacked cities and requisitioned crops and cattle for food and transport, jin the track of a Roman army, as of a barbarian horde, the population must often have starved, and it is not surprising that in the circumstances the plague, which had first invaded the empire under Marcus Aurelius, continued periodically to ravage the provinces.! It is very

likely that the population sank substantially, Depopulation seems to have begun- as-eatly as the jreign.of Marcus, who settled thousands of Marcomannic prisoners in Italy. By the death of Commodus so

much land in Italy and the provinces had gone out of cultivation

as to disturb Pertinax, who offered a secure title and ten years immunity from tribute to anyone who would bring /deserted estates— even imperial property— into cultivation again. (There is some evidence that the conditions of the third century aggravated these problems} Several emperors, notably Probus, are recorded to have settled/large groups of barbarian prisoners on the land; and Aurelian, in order to protect the revenue, ordered thatimeach— city the council should be corporately responsible for the tribute due on the deserted lands in its territory. 17

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debt bondage and the roman class system: the plabians and patricians according ot cicero. The plebians fight for civil rights, create tribunals..

Conflict of the orders[edit]

Main article: Conflict of the Orders

The Conflict of the Orders (Latin: *ordo* meaning "social rank") refers to a struggle by plebeians for full political rights from the patricians.[9] According to Roman tradition, shortly after the establishment of the Republic, plebeians objected to their exclusion from power and exploitation by the patricians. The plebeians were able to achieve their political goals by a series of secessions from the city: "a combination of mutiny and a strike".[10]

Ancient Roman tradition claimed that the Conflict led to laws being published, written down, and given open access starting in 494 BC with the law of the Twelve Tables, which also introduced the concept of equality before the law, often referred to in Latin as *libertas*", which became foundational to republican politics.[11] This succession also forced the creation of plebeian tribunes with authority to defend plebeian interests.[9] Following this, there was a period of consular tribunes who shared power between plebeians and patricians in various years, but the consular tribunes apparently were not endowed with religious authority.[12] In 445 BC, the *lex Canuleia* permitted intermarriage among plebeians and patricians.[13]

There was a radical reform in 367–6 BC, which abolished consular tribunes and "laid the foundation for a system of government led by two consuls, shared between patricians and plebeians"[14] over the religious objections of patricians, requiring at least one of the consuls to be a plebeian.[15] And after 342 BC, plebeians regularly attained the consulship.[16] Debt bondage was abolished in 326, freeing plebeians from the possibility of slavery by patrician creditors.[17] By 287, with the passage of the *lex Hortensia*, plebiscites – or laws passed by the *concilium plebis* – were made binding on the whole Roman people.[18]

Europe[edit]

Classical antiquity[edit]

Debt bondage was "quite normal" in classical antiquity.[24] The poor or those who had fallen irredeemably in debt might place themselves into bondage "voluntarily"—or more precisely, might be compelled by circumstances to choose debt bondage as a way to anticipate and avoid worse terms that their creditors might impose on them.[25] In the Greco-Roman world, debt bondage was a distinct legal category into which a free person might fall, in theory temporarily, distinguished from the pervasive practice of slavery, which included enslavement as a result of defaulting on debt. Many forms of debt bondage existed in both ancient Greece and ancient Rome.[26]

Ancient Greece[edit]

Debt bondage was widespread in ancient Greece. The only city-state known to have abolished it is Athens, as early as the Archaic period under the debt reform legislation of Solon.[27] Both enslavement for debt and debt bondage were practiced in Ptolemaic Egypt.[28] By the Hellenistic period, the limited evidence indicates that debt bondage had replaced outright enslavement for debt.[28]

The most onerous debt bondage was various forms of *paramonē*, "indentured labor." As a matter of law, a person subjected to *paramonē* was categorically free, and not a slave, but in practice his freedom was severely constrained by his servitude.[29] Solon's reforms occurred in the context of democratic politics at Athens that required clearer distinctions between "free" and "slave"; as a perverse consequence, chattel slavery increased.[30]

The selling of one's own child into slavery is likely in most cases to have resulted from extreme poverty or debt, but strictly speaking is a form of chattel slavery, not debt bondage. The exact legal circumstances in Greece, however, are far more poorly documented than in ancient Rome.[29]

Ancient Rome[edit]

Main article: Nexum

Nexum was a debt bondage contract in the early Roman Republic. Within the Roman legal system, it was a form of *mancipatio*. Though the terms of the contract would vary, essentially a free man pledged himself as a bond slave *(nexus)* as surety for a loan. He might also hand over his son as collateral. Although the bondsman might be subjected to humiliation and abuse, as a legal citizen he was supposed to be exempt from corporal punishment. *Nexum* was abolished by the *Lex Poetelia Papiria* in 326 BC, in part to prevent abuses to the physical integrity of citizens who had fallen into debt bondage.[31]

Roman historians illuminated the abolition of *nexum* with a traditional story that varied in its particulars; basically, a *nexus* who was a handsome but upstanding youth suffered sexual harassment by the holder of the debt. In one version, the youth had gone into debt to pay for his father's funeral; in others, he had been handed over by his father. In all versions, he is presented as a model of virtue. Historical or not, the cautionary tale highlighted the incongruities of subjecting one free citizen to another's use, and the legal response was aimed at establishing the citizen's right to liberty *(libertas)*, as distinguished from the slave or social outcast.[32]

Cicero considered the abolition of *nexum* primarily a political maneuver to appease the common people *(plebs)*: the law was passed during the Conflict of the Orders, when plebeians were struggling to establish their rights in relation to the hereditary privileges of the patricians. Although *nexum* was abolished as a way to secure a loan, debt bondage might still result after a debtor defaulted.[32]

European Middle Ages[edit]

While serfdom under feudalism was the predominant political and economic system in Europe in the High Middle Ages, persisting in the Austrian Empire till 1848 and the Russian Empire until 1861 (details),[33] debt bondage (and slavery) provided other forms of unfree labour.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plebeians

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassia_gens https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Debt_bondage

important people at important intervals: Publius Quinctilius Varus, first "officially appointed" governor of the newly created roman province of Germania in 7 AD. Prior to this, it is said he was a main aggrevator of Jewish hatred towards the empire. This was due to his recorded 1000's of crucifixions of the people of .

Publius Quinctilius Varus (Cremona, 46 BC – Teutoburg Forest, AD 9) was a Roman general and politician under the first Roman emperor Augustus. Varus is generally remembered for having lost three Roman legions when ambushed by Germanic tribes led by Arminius in the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest, whereupon he killed himself.

In 8–7 BC, Varus governed the province of Africa.[16] Later he went to govern Syria from 7–6 BC until 4 BC with four legions under his command, where he was known for his harsh rule and high taxes. The Jewish historian Josephus mentions the swift action of Varus against a messianic revolt in Judaea after the death of the Roman client king, Herod the Great, in 4 BC. After occupying Jerusalem, he crucified 2000 Jewish rebels and may have thus been one of the prime objects of popular anti-Roman sentiment in Judaea (Josephus, who made every effort to reconcile the Jewish people to Roman rule, felt it necessary to point out how lenient this judicial massacre had been). Indeed, at precisely this moment the Jews, nearly *en masse*, began a full-scale boycott of Roman pottery (red slip ware).[17] Thus, the archaeological record seems to verify mass popular protest against Rome because of Varus' cruelty.

Following the massacre in Judaea, Varus returned to Antioch.[18][19] Between 10 BC and 6 AD Tiberius, his brother Drusus, Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus, and Germanicus conducted long campaigns in Germania, the area north of the Upper Danube and east of the Rhine, in an attempt at achieving a further major expansion of the Roman Empire together with a shortening of its frontier line. They subdued several Germanic tribes, such as the Cherusci. In 6 AD, Tiberius declared Germania pacified, and Varus was appointed to govern it. Tiberius, who would later rule as emperor, left the region to suppress the Great Illyrian Revolt. Augustus made Publius Quinctilius Varus the first "officially appointed" governor of the newly created Roman province of Germania in 7 AD.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Publius_Quinctilius_Varus

according ahm, Maximin order to persecute christians was not followed enthusiastically by the masses, and he says that it might have been due to the previous 40 years of christian tolerance that . The people had officially accepted the christians into their homes at that point.

support. We hear of no public demonstrations against the Christians during this period and no popular demands for their punishment; the official petitions of Nicomedia and other cities were clearly stimulated by Maximin himself.

Some governors, such as Florus of Numidia, are branded by the Christian sources as ruthless persecutors, but the majority seem to have been content to do their strict duty. Anullinus, proconsul of Africa, who figures prominently in the acts of the martyrs, is revealed by one story to have been far from enthusiastic. Information was lodged that die books which he had seized and burnt in the church of Carthage were not really the Scriptures, but heretical texts; Anullinus refused to take any action against the bishop, Mensurius — the Scriptures had been officially burnt, and that was enough. At a lower level the city magistrates were equally accommodating: at Tigisis in Numidia they pressed the bishop, Secundus, to give them any literature to burn, so that they could say that they had obeyed the edict. In the East officials were willing (for a consideration) to register as having sacrificed any Christians who were reluctant to do so but wished to avoid the penalties. Even more obligingly they would arrange bogus tortures for clerics who, having sacrificed once, wished to rehabilitate themselves as confessors. The public, it would seem, had got used to Christians and their peculiar ways — ■which were gradually becoming less peculiar — during the forty years of toleration, and now had little persecuting zeal. 72

74 DIOCLETIAN

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The severity of the persecution differed very greatly in the various parts of the empire. There was no persecution in Gaul or Britain, and in Italy, Africa and Spain it lasted for little more than a year, and moreover, since only the first edict seems to have been promulgated, affected mainly the clergy, including readers, who had to surrender the Scriptures and church property; the laity were only involved if they attended illicit services. There seems to have been very little resistance except in Africa, where Christianity had, spread to the peasantry, who were fanatically devoted to their new faith, and were of tougher stuff than the townspeople. The records show that large numbers of the clergy tamely surrendered the Scriptures, others went into hiding, and many compromised by surrendering secular books, heretical works, or worn-out copies of the Scriptures. But a considerable number openly defied the government, and some of them were executed. 73

In the East the test was much more severe, lasting eight years in the European provinces and ten in the Asiatic. Here again there seems to have been no mass resistance except in Egypt, where Christianity had spread to a peasant population which was notorious for its fanaticism and stubborn defiance of authority; 'amongst them', as Ammianus remarks, 'a man blushes if he cannot show many scars on his body, earned by refusing his taxes'. How many were executed is unknown, but very large numbers must have been condemned to the mines and quarries; those of Egypt did not suffice to hold them, for Eusebius records that two batches, of 97 and 130 respectively, were transferred to the copper mines of southern Palestine, and even farther afield to Cilicia. We possess accurate statistics for one province only, Palestine, where Eusebius kept a careful count. Here during the whole course of the persecution thirty-seven persons were executed, apart from eight Egyptians, who were caught carrying comforts to their fellow countrymen in the mines, and forty-three convicts, also probably Egyptians for the most part. There is no reason to think that Palestine had a smaller Christian population than most provinces, or that its percentage of martyrs was lower. 74

The actual number of executions, therefore, would seem to have been low in the East, except perhaps in Egypt, despite the length of the persecution. This is, of course, no measure of the suffering inflicted. Many more were maimed and sent to the mines, and many underwent flogging and torture. The government was not out to kill Christians, but to make them conform, and it was only as a last resort that the death penalty was inflicted. In a very high proportion of the recorded cases, indeed, it appears that the martyrs brought their fate upon themselves by deliberate acts of contumacy. In Palestine, for instance, the first martyr, Procopius, provoked the governor by reciting the Elomeric verse, 'A multitude of lords is not good : let there be one lord, one king', an obviously seditious reflection on the tetrarchy; six others presented themselves before the governor with hands bound, shouting that they were Christians; and four interrupted the governor at a public sacrifice. 75

The mild scale of penances laid down by Peter, bishop of Alexandria, and by the council of Ancyra, suggests that very large numbers of Christians lapsed, or had resort to more or less dubious compromises, such as getting a pagan friend — or, less creditably, compelling a Christian slave — to impersonate them. Many, including Eusebius himself, succeeded in lying low, without either compromising themselves or suffering arrest. As with the Decian and Valerianic persecutions the general effect was to strengthen the Church. Its morale was enhanced by the valour of the martyrs and confessors, and as the lapsed hastened to be readmitted when the storm had passed, its numbers were not reduced. The only permanent damage done to the Church was the formation of two dissident sects, the Donatists in Africa and the Melitians in Egypt. In these areas, where resistance had been strong, mainly amongst the lower classes, there was bitter feeling against those who had compromised or lapsed, and large numbers of rigorists refused to readmit them or to submit to clergy whose record they regarded as suspect. Of these rigorist sects die Melitians certainly, and the Donatists probably, survived the Arab conquest. 76

They were, however, premature in their rejoicings, for before six months were out Maximin, who had evidently accepted Galerius' edict of toleration with reluctance, was reopening hostilities. This time the campaign was more subtle. In the autumn of 311 the authorities of Nicomedia, the imperial residence, petitioned the emperor that no Christian might be allowed to live in their territory. Maximin graciously acceded to their request, and other cities fol- lowed suit, including Antioch and Tyre. Soon whole provinces were making similar petitions ; we possess a copy of that drawn up by the provincial council of Lycia and Pamphylia. Maximin also waged a vigorous propaganda campaign against Christianity, posting up in public places the spurious Acts of Pilate, and in- structing that they be taught in all schools, and publishing the confessions of formerly Christian women that they had taken part in incestuous orgies. He furthermore endeavoured to revivify paganism by appointing a high priest for each city to supervise the other priests and see that sacrifices were daily offered to the gods, and in each province a superior high priest to supervise those of the cities. These official priests had authority to ban Christian worship, public or private, and to arrest Christians and hand them over to the provincial governor if they refused to sacrifice. Maximin at first enforced these measures by hard labour in the mines, but later re- introduced the death penalty. This persecution was relaxed by an edict issued in the winter of 312-13, and finally called off in the spring of 313, immediately before Maximin's defeat and death. 7

There is no reason to doubt that the motive of the persecution was, as Galerius and Maximin state in several edicts, religious. Both these two emperors, who were the prime movers of the policy, were by all accounts convinced and fanatical pagans, and no doubt sincerely wished to restore the traditional worship of the gods in accordance with 'the ancient laws and public discipline of the Romans'.

The Later Roman Empire 284-602, a Social Economic and Administrative Survey, by A. H. M. Jones (Oxford, 1964), https://archive.org/details/JonesLaterRomanEmpire01/page/n41/mode/2up?q=god

tax reform

The virtue of the new system lay in its simplicity. [It provided a ready means of assessing the incidence of the diverse levies which the government required to raise, in wheat, barley, meat, wine, oil, clothing, horses, camels, mules, oxen, recruits, labourers and what not. ((Each taxpayer was assessed at so many iuga and so many capimpx. he assessment of each city comprised the total of its tax- payers, that of each province the total of its cities, and that of each diocese the total of its provinces.!! When the praetorian prefecture had calculated that the army required so many modii of wheat and of barley, so many pounds of meat, so many sextarii of wine and of oil, so many cloaks and tunics, it involved only a simple arithmetical calculation to determine how much each iugum (or in the developed system each iugum or caput) must produce, and to draw up the demand notes for each province, city and individual taxpayer accordingly!!

By his new system, whereby multifarious requisitions could be assessed equitably on every taxpayer, (Diocletian made it possible for the state to dispense with the use of money, except for such minor adjustments as those mentioned above , and to rel y a l most entirely on requisitions in kind.

Finally the new system made it possible for the first time for the Roman empire to have a budget in the modem sense, an annual _ . assessment of governmental requirements, and an annual adjust- ment of taxes to meet these requirements. TKe indiction for each year was calculated by the praetorian" prefects in accordance with estimated needs. The calculations naturally became after a while fairly stereotyped, but adjustments were regularly made and usually, as was natural, in an upward direction. It was in fact a fault of the system that it was too flexible. It was fatally easy to\ add a little more to the indiction instead of trying to reduce I expenditure.

Diocletian did not rely only upon requisition to meet the needs' of the state. He also instituted a number of state factories. Lac- tantius speaks of his building armament works (fabricae), and a constitution of Constantine issued in 326 mentions the state weaving establishments (gynaecia and linyphia) ; it is to be presumed that the dyeing works (baphia) were also started by Diocletian. The weaving and dyeing works were manned by imperial slaves, as were the mints; the above-mentioned edict of Constantine frees Christians who had been made slaves of the treasury and drafted into the weaving mills during the persecution. They were directed by procurators under the control of the rationalis summarum. The armament workers, on the other hand, were soldiers. Each factory was commanded, like a regiment, by a tribune or praepositus , under the supreme control of the praetorian prefects. 54

The obscure institution of the primipili pastus dates from before Diocletian, who cites a constitution of Aurelian on the subject, but seems to have become more important in his reign. From later legislation it would appear that it was the duty of the centurio princeps of each provincial officium , on being promoted primipilus , to convoy to a dux on the frontier the annona levied in his province. The task seems to have been an expensive burden, and often left the primipilus concerned in debt to the treasury: three constitutions of Diocletian deal with legal questions arising out of such debts. In this way the once honourable rank of primus pilus, which is still under Valerian spoken of as a source of profit, became a burden to be if possible evaded. 55

/By his administrative, military and fiscal reforms Diocletian gave security and order to the empire./ /The huge army which he built up effectively defended the frontiers and suppressed internal dis- orders. His enlarged bureaucracy administered justice more promptly and vigorously, saw to the execution of much-needed public works, and collected the necessary revenue with ruthless efficiency .//The new fiscal sy steps ensured that the burden was more or less equitably apportioned/ /As against this the increased army and civil service imposed a Heavy burden on the already strained economic capacity of the empire/ Lactantius declares that the burden was intolerable: ‘the number of recipients began to be so much greater than that of the taxpayers that the resources of the cultivators were exhausted by the enormous levies, and the fields were abandoned and cultivation returned to woodland’. 56

Lactantius’ words are echoed by the orator who in 31 1 thanked Constantine for remissions to the civitas of the Aedui in Gaul. (He laments the ruin of agriculture, citing the flat land along the Saone, which had once been vineyard, and was now a marsh, and as the reason states that land which never meets its expenses is inevitably deserted, owing to the poverty of the country people, who, staggering under a load of debt, cannot carry out the drainage work and cut back the growth of bushes’./ The orator, however, claims that his city laboured under special disabilities; it possessed no navigable rivers, and roads with such severe gradients that wagons had to be unloaded or sent only half full, and the transport charges of the annona were therefore excessive. He contrasts with the territory of the Aedui the flourishing fields of the Rerni, Nervii and

Tricassini. The, truth, wou ld seem to be that the rate of taxation -

was such as to ma ke the^ c ul tiv ation of some marginal land im r _

I profitable, but ncit, too high for that of average quality |jhe crude system of assessment in -many dioceses made no allowance for differences of productivity. Aurelius Victor, writing two generations later, could say that the taxation of Diocletian’s day was tolerable,

owing to the moderation of that period, and had only bec ome

ruinous Jn Ms own day. If, as Themistius states, it had doubled in the interval, the orlginaL rate cannot have been very excessive. 57

Diocletian’s fiscal reforms had one by-product which was to prove of far-reaching importance. It was a common administrative practice in Egypt, and probably in other provinces also, when a census was to be taken, to order the population to return to their own place (in Greek idia, in Latin origo). A typical edict of a prefect of Egypt runs : ‘As the house to house registration is in progress, it is necessary to warn all persons who are for any reason absent from their own homes that they must return to their domicile to complete the usual operation of the registration and devote themselves to their agricultural duties.’ The primary object was no doubt to facilitate the compilation of the lists on which the poll tax was based, but the government took the opportunity of the census to recall peasants to their land. Diocletian appears to have rein- forced this rule and made it universal. In 307-8 the praepositus of the fifth pagus of the Arsinoite territory wrote to a colleague in a neighbouring pagus reminding him of ‘the Diocletian appears to have rein- forced this rule and made it universal. In 307-8 the praepositus of

the fifth pagus of the Arsinoite territory wrote to a colleague in a neighbouring pagus reminding him of ‘the order of the divine and celestial August fortune of our lords the emperors’ that strangers found in the villages should be restored to their homes under penalty of five folks, and requesting that certain villagers of Caranis reported! to be in his correspondent’s pagus should be returned. A generation later we find the surviving inhabitants of Theadelphia appealing to the prefect of Egypt to repatriate their errant fellow villagers, whom they had tried in vain to round up by their own efforts. 58

It henceforth became illegal for a peasant — the rule applied only toTHe'TuHPp 7)pulation, since they alone were registered in the’'” census and paid the poll tax— to. .leave his registered domicile. How ffifcMotmcile was defined depended on the form of the census records. In Egypt the rural population was registered by villages, and a man’s legal origo was therefore his village. Elsewhere also freeholders were normally registered in their villages, but, tenants

look more into this

in many provinces by their farms under the heading of the land- Jwnerrthisis the system Found in the epigraphic census records of Asia Minor. T his me ant jn effect that the tenant was bound to his .particular farm a nd thus, to . his landlord . The tie was hereditary, ifdr orlgo h.^ always been determined by paternity and not by I residence: in the census records children, even infants, are regis-j tiered, although they paid no poll tax, with the evident implication j that they belonged to their parent’s place of registration and would inrdue course pay their poll tax there. 59

/ Twenty years of peace from civil wars and barbarian invasions and the gradual suppression of local disorders must have brought some renewal of prosperity to the cities of the empire, and there are signs of it in the greatly increased number of public dedications and some revival of building activity. But the financial exigencies of the government increased the burdens of the derations, who had to shoulder the task of collecting the recurrent levies and to make good from their own fortunes the deficits which were more likely to occur as the rate of taxation rose.\ (There was as a result a growing reluctance of sons of derations to follow in their fathers’ footsteps.

and of other financially qualified persons to accept nomination: Diocletian had to inform a certain Protus that neither a grant of immunity from the governor, nor the fact that he was over the age of fifty, nor that he had the gout, were valid excuses)} In some respects Diocletian maintained old standards : he did not relax the ban on the admission of freedmen to the curia. But others of his

laws suggest that in some cities it was difficult to find satisfactory recruits. He ruled that illiteracy was no bar to the decurionate, and that infamia (which followed on conviction for offences such as fraud), while it debarred a man from honores, did not excuse him from turner a.®*

The shortage of decurions was no doubt in part due to im- poverishment following on the troubles of the third century. But it was greatly increased by the wide range of alternative careers thrown open to decurions and their sons and other potential members of the curia by Diocletian’s expansion of the army and the civil service. It is a measure of the gravity of the situation that Diocletian, despite his urgent need for military manpower, had to debar from the army ‘not only sons of decurions, but all who offer their names for armed service to the prejudice of civic burdens’. 61

This prohibition will have affected only the humblest strata of curiales: no man of substance would have wished to enlist as a

common soldier. A greater leniency was shown with regard to officer posts in the army. Diocletian, at a consistory to which the principales (leading decurions) of Antioch were summoned, ruled : ‘We have granted indulgence from personal and civic munera to certain dignities, viz. to those who are either former protectores or former praepositi. They will therefore not be called to personal or civic munera? This ruling led to abuse. Constantine thundered: ‘It is not to be borne that those who have never seen a battle, nor set eyes on the standards, nor handled weapons, should creep into titles of military distinction. Accordingly those who have received letters bestowing the rank of former protectores , former praepositi , or former tribuni are not to have the privilege which is earned by those who reach this rank after completing the regular course of service under arms.’ 62

The government could hardly bar curiales from these ranks, for it needed men of education and standing to fill the numerous posts which carried them, and men of these qualifications were hard to find outside the ranks of the curial class. Provided that they had previously performed all their curial offices, no harm was done by their obtaining equestrian rank, for they would only enjoy personal immunity for the rest of their lives, and their sons would take over their curial duties. The privileges were, however, liable to abuse. In the first place decurions and their sons, or persons liable for nomination to the curia, might obtain an equestrian dignity before completing, or even before beginning, their civic career. And secondly they might through interest or bribery acquire titular equestrian dignity without performing any service to the state. Both these abuses had appeared before 317, when both Constantine and Licinius issued constitutions to check them. Constantine insisted that no decurion was to be appointed a praeses until he had filled all his civic offices. Licinius ruled that decurions, who had by corrupt practices obtained codicils of the perjectissimatus, ducena , centena or egregiatus — the four grades of the equestrian hierarchy — should forfeit them, and be restored to their councils. 64

https://archive.org/details/JonesLaterRomanEmpire01/page/n42/mode/1up?q=god

persecution of Christians

It was probably in 298 that an incident occurred which broke the peace. At a sacrifice held in the presence of Diocletian and his Caesar Galerius the haruspices were unable to obtain the desired omens, and attributed their failure to Christians present, who were averting the power of the demons by making the sign of the Cross. Diocletian, who seems to have been a man of rather old-fashioned piety — he had adopted the old Roman god Jupiter Optimus Maximus as his patron — was naturally infuriated by this insolent interruption of the traditional rites of the Roman state, and issued an order that all soldiers must sacrifice to the gods or be discharged. This order created little stir — the numbers involved were probably relatively small — and nothing further happened for five years . Then in 303 the storm broke. It is somewhat mysterious why action should have been so long postponed, or why such strong measures should have been taken after the long delay. Lactantius is probably right in regarding the Caesar Galerius, who was a rabid pagan, as the prime mover in the affair, and it would seem that he had some difficulty in inducing Diocletian to take action. 66

On 23 February 303 an edict was published at Nicomedia ordering all copies of the Scriptures to be surrendered and burnt, all churches to be demolished or dismantled, and forbidding meetings for Christian worship. The church at Nicomedia was promptly demolished by a squad of troops. Next day a supplementary edict was posted depriving all Christians who failed to conform of any rank that they might hold (thus making them liable to torture and summary execution), and debarring all Christrian from bringing actions in the courts; imperial freedmen who remained Christian were reduced to slavery. These edicts were promulgated in the West also, and were strictly enforced by

Maximian in Italy, Spain and Africa. In Gaul and Britain the Caesar Constantius, who was sympathetic to the Christians, contented himself with demolishing the churches. 67

As a result of fires which broke out in the imperial palace — alleged to have been arranged by Galerius — and hostile demonstrations in Syria and Armenia Minor, another edict went out for the arrest of all bishops and clergy. After a while, however, the government tired of holding so many prisoners and decided on a dramatic stroke. The clergy were to be released — with other minor malefactors — on the occasion of Diocletian’s vicennalia , but first they must be made to sacrifice. They were accordingly bullied or flogged or tortured into submission. If this failed, they were physically constrained to go through the motions of sacrifice, or in some cases merely issued with certificates that they had sacrificed, after which they were released. There is no evidence that these measures were taken in the West. Finally, about a year after the opening of the persecution, an edict was issued ordering everyone to sacrifice. There is no convincing evidence that this edict was promulgated in the West. 68

About a year later, on i May 305, Diocletian and Maximian abdicated and were succeeded by Galerius and Constantius. For about a year the persecution seems to have hung fire throughout the empire, and in the West it was never resumed. Constantine continued the tolerant policy of his father, and Maxentius made peace with the church and even restored its confiscated property. In the East the persecution was revived under Galerius and his Caesar Maximin, both ardent pagans, and dragged on for four years in the European provinces until Galerius’ death in 3 1 1, and for two years longer, until Maximin’s fall in 313, in the dioceses of Pontica, Asiana and Oriens. We have a full account of events in Oriens, where Eusebius lived throughout the whole persecution. Here another general sacrifice was ordered in the spring of 306, and yet another in the autumn of 308. They were more efficiently organised than that of 304, for which no administrative preparations seem to have been made: in 306 lists were drawn up and individuals called up by name to sacrifice, and in 308 the curator and duoviri of each city, with the tabularius , who kept the census records, were instructed to enforce the edict. Food put out for sale in the market was hallowed by libations, while sentries were posted at the doors of the baths to compel ail entrants to sacrifice. Executions were relatively few, for from 307 onwards Maximin no longer imposed the death penalty save in exceptional cases of contumacy, but sent obstinate recusants to the mines, having first blinded them in one eye and severed the tendons of one foot. 69

In Galerius' dominions the persecution, which was doubtless as rigorous, was abruptly called off on 30 April 311, when the emperor, who had contracted a painful disease which he apparently attributed to the vengeance of the Christian God, issued an edict explicitly granting toleration to the Christians. He died a few days later, but his edict was observed both by Licinius in the European provinces which he occupied, and by Maximin in Asia Minor; the latter extended its application to his own original dominions, the Oriental diocese. The convicts were released and the churches reopened, and the Christians joyfully celebrated their victory. 70

keyword: iugum

The system of laeti is also spoken of by, a Gallic orator in 296 as if it were an established institution. Hinder this system, as we know it later, certain lands (terras laeticae) in Gaul and Italy were set apart for the settlement of barbarians from outside the empire, who were, with their descendants, liable to military service.^

The new armies had not only to be recruited but maintained. It must again be emphasised that owing to the inflation the cost of each soldier, as compared with the second and early third century, was very low. The common soldiers, who formed the great majority, received little more than their rations, clothing and arms, and, in the case of troopers, horses and fodder. Non-commissioned ranks got from double up to perhaps quintuple rations, while officers had lost even more by the depreciation of their once substantial money pay. Nevertheless even to feed, clothe, arm and mount so large an army was a heavy burden, and Lactantius was not entirely unjustified in complaining that the number of those in receipt of payment began to exceed that of the taxpayers.

iocletian made valiant efforts to re-establish a sound currency and thereby to stabilise prices) He issued good gold and silver coins clearly marked with theif weight, and a larger silver-washed copper nummus of superior quality. He no doubt intended to create a unified currency of gold, silver and copper coins like that of the pre-inflation period. He certainly failed. His issues of gold and silver must have been small, and he continued to mint nunimi in vast quantities. Prices therefore continued to rise, and the gold and silver coins commanded a premium above their nominal value. 41
In 301 Diocletian attempted to stem the tide by his famous Edictum de Pretiis, which fixed maximum prices and wages in the utmost detail and threatened with the death penalty any who exceeded them or withheld their goods from the market-j Despite ruthless executions this measure was, according to Lactantius, an utter failure: goods simply vanished and the edict was soon allowed to become a dead letter. 42
If he was unsuccessful in coping with the currency problem, Diocletian did a great service to the empire by ratio nalising the requisitions in kind..which were in practice the most importarfft Idf nrof reyenuq. These requisitions had originated as indicitows~ exTraordinarice , and were apparently still levied qn an arbitrary and inequitable way, when and where required, j Diocletian in the first place made them a regular annual event : in Egypt a quinquennial cycle of indictions was instituted in 287 — the well-known cycle of fifteen years was not introduced till after Diocletian's time in 312. And in the second place the burden was equitably distributed between provinces, cities and individuals. As Atistius Optatus, prefect of Egypt, announced in 297, 'Our provident emperors, Diocletian and Maximian the Augusti, and Constantius and Maximian the

Caesars, have learned that the assessment of fiscal burdens takes place in such a manner that some taxpayers are

church: Battle of the Milvian Bridge, good stuff on roman religion

Some[12] have considered the vision in a solar context (e.g. as a solar halo phenomenon called a sun dog), which may have preceded the Christian beliefs later expressed by Constantine. Coins of Constantine depicting him as the companion of a solar deity were minted as late as 313, the year following the battle. The solar deity Sol Invictus is often pictured with a nimbus or halo. Various emperors portrayed Sol Invictus on their official coinage, with a wide range of legends, only a few of which incorporated the epithet *invictus*, such as the legend SOLI INVICTO COMITI, claiming the Unconquered Sun as a companion to the emperor, used with particular frequency by Constantine.[13] Constantine's official coinage continues to bear images of Sol until 325/6. A solidus of Constantine as well as a gold medallion from his reign depict the Emperor's bust in profile jugate with Sol Invictus, with the legend INVICTUS CONSTANTINUS.[14] The official cults of Sol Invictus and Sol Invictus Mithras were popular amongst the soldiers of the Roman Army. Statuettes of Sol Invictus, carried by the standard-bearers, appear in three places in reliefs on the Arch of Constantine. Constantine's triumphal arch was carefully positioned to align with the colossal statue of Sol by the Colosseum, so that Sol formed the dominant backdrop when seen from the direction of the main approach towards the arch.[15]

It was expected that Maxentius would remain within Rome and endure a siege; he had successfully employed this strategy twice before, during the invasions of Severus and Galerius. Indeed, Maxentius had organised the stockpiling of large amounts of food in the city in preparation for such an event. Surprisingly, he decided otherwise, choosing to meet Constantine in open battle. Ancient sources commenting on these events attribute this decision either to divine intervention (e.g. Lactantius, Eusebius) or superstition (e.g. Zosimus). They also note that the day of the battle was the same as the day of his accession (28 October), which was generally thought to be a good omen. Additionally, Maxentius is reported to have consulted the oracular Sibylline Books, which stated that "on October 28 an enemy of the Romans would perish". Maxentius interpreted this prophecy as being favourable to himself.[16] Lactantius also reports that the populace supported Constantine with acclamations during circus games.[17]

Battle of the Milvian Bridge: Constantine won the battle and started on the path that led him to end the Tetrarchy and become the sole ruler of the Roman Empire.

According to Christian chroniclers Eusebius of Caesarea and Lactantius, the battle marked the beginning of Constantine's conversion to Christianity. Eusebius of Caesarea recounts that Constantine and his soldiers had a vision sent by the Christian God. This was interpreted as a promise of victory if the sign of the Chi Rho, the first two letters of Christ's name in Greek, was painted on the soldiers' shields. The Arch of Constantine, erected in celebration of the victory, certainly attributes Constantine's success to divine intervention; however, the monument does not display any overtly Christian symbolism.

Stats, history: germany has invaded france 3 times over the past 150 years Germany had invaded France twice in living memory, in World War | and World War Il, and also defeated France in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71

william of orange, spainish empire, and austrian hapsburgs

The Spanish Empire was a global maritime superpower whose possessions included the Spanish Netherlands, Milan,
the Kingdom of Naples, the Philippines, and much of the Americas. In contrast, Austria was a land-based power, focused on ensuring their pre-eminence within Germany and securing their eastern border against the Ottoman Empire.24
A Protestant, William participated in several wars against the powerful Catholic French ruler Louis XIV in coalition with both Protestant and Catholic powers in Europe. Many Protestants heralded William as a champion of their faith. In 1685, his Catholic uncle and father-in-law, James, became king of England, Scotland, and Ireland. James's reign was unpopular with the Protestant majority in Britain, who feared a revival of Catholicism. Supported by a group of influential British political and religious leaders, William invaded England in what became known as the Glorious Revolution. In 1688, he landed at the south-western English port of Brixham; James was deposed shortly afterward.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_III_of

The Thirty Years' War" was one of the longest and most destructive conflicts in European history, lasting from 1618 to 1648

leopold, elected holy roman emperor vs the sun king Louis XIV is a popular rivalry in history

History, stats: In modern times, legal or administrative bodies with strict, arbitrary rulings, no "due process" rights to those accused, and secretive proceedings are sometimes metaphorically called "star chambers", deriving from the arbrtrary courts

abused by elites in England from the late 15th century to the mid-17th century (c. 1641)

Alternatively, William Blackstone, a notable English jurist writing in 1769, speculated that the name had been derived from the legal word "starr" meaning the contract or obligation to a Jew (from the Hebrew שטר (*shtar*) meaning 'document'). This term was in use until 1290, when Edward I had all Jews expelled from England. Blackstone thought the "Starr Chamber" might originally have been used for the deposition and storage of such contracts.[4] However, the *Oxford English Dictionary* gives this etymology "no claim to consideration."[3]

Other etymological speculations mentioned by Blackstone include the derivation from Old English *steoran* (steer) meaning "to govern"; as a court used to punish cozenage (in Latin: *crimen stellionatus*); or that the chamber was full of windows.[4]

Another function of the Court of Star Chamber was to act like a court of equity, which could impose punishment for actions which were deemed to be morally reprehensible but were not in violation of the letter of the law. This gave the Star Chamber great flexibility, as it could punish defendants for any action which the court felt should be unlawful, even when in fact it was technically lawful.

However, this meant that the justice meted out by the Star Chamber could be very arbitrary and subjective, and it enabled the court to be used later on in its history as an instrument of oppression rather than for the purpose of justice for which it was intended. Many crimes which are now commonly prosecuted, such as attempt, conspiracy, criminal libel, and perjury, were originally developed by the Court of Star Chamber,[7] along with its more common role of dealing with riots and sedition.

The cases decided in those sessions enabled both the very powerful and those without power to seek redress. Thus King Henry VII used the power of the Star Chamber to break the power of the landed gentry which had been such a cause of problems in the Wars of the Roses. Yet, when local courts were often clogged or mismanaged, the Court of Star Chamber also became a means of appeal for the common people against the excesses of the nobility.

In the reign of King Henry VIII, the court was under the leadership of Cardinal Wolsey (the Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor) and Thomas Cranmer (the Archbishop of Canterbury) (1515–1529). From this time forward, the Court of Star Chamber became a political weapon for bringing actions against those who opposed the policies of King Henry VIII, his ministers and his parliament.

Although it was initially a court of appeal, King Henry, Wolsey and Cranmer encouraged plaintiffs to bring their cases directly to the Star Chamber, bypassing the lower courts entirely.

The Court was used extensively to control Wales, after the Laws in Wales Acts (sometimes referred to as the "Acts of Union"). The Tudor-era gentry in Wales turned to the Chamber to evict Welsh landowners and protect themselves, and in general, protect the advantages given to them by the Laws in Wales Acts.

Stuarts[edit]

The power of the Court of Star Chamber grew considerably under the House of Stuart, and by the time of King Charles I, it had become synonymous with misuse and abuse of power by the King and his circle. King James I and his son Charles used the court to examine cases of sedition, which meant that the court could be used to suppress opposition to royal policies. It came to be used to try nobles too powerful to be brought to trial in the lower courts.

King Charles I used the Court of Star Chamber as a Parliamentary substitute during the eleven years of Personal Rule, when he ruled without a Parliament. King Charles made extensive use of the Court of Star Chamber to prosecute dissenters, including the Puritans who fled to New England. This was one of the causes of the English Civil War.

On 17 October 1632, the Court of Star Chamber banned all "news books" because of complaints from Spanish and Austrian diplomats that coverage of the Thirty Years' War in England was unfair.[8] As a result, newsbooks pertaining to this matter were often printed in Amsterdam and then smuggled into the country, until control of the press collapsed with the developing ideological conflict of 1640–41.[9]

The Star Chamber became notorious for judgments favourable to the king, for example when Archbishop Laud had William Prynne branded on both cheeks through its agency in 1637 for seditious libel.[10]

In 1571 Elizabeth I set up an equivalent Court in Ireland, the Court of Castle Chamber, to deal with cases of riot and offences against public order. Although it was initially popular with private litigants, under the Stuarts it developed the same reputation for harsh and arbitrary proceedings as its parent court, and during the political confusion of the 1640s, it disappeared.[11]

In the early 1900s, Edgar Lee Masters commented:[12]

In the Star Chamber the council could inflict any punishment short of death, and frequently sentenced objects of its wrath to the pillory, to whipping and to the cutting off of ears. ... With each embarrassment to arbitrary power the Star Chamber became emboldened to undertake further usurpation. ... The Star Chamber finally summoned juries before it for verdicts disagreeable to the government, and fined and imprisoned them. It spread terrorism among those who were called to do constitutional acts. It imposed ruinous fines. It became the chief defence of Charles against assaults upon those usurpations which cost him his life.

Abolition and aftermath[edit]

In 1641, the Long Parliament, led by John Pym and inflamed by the severe treatment of John Lilburne, as well as that of other religious dissenters such as William Prynne, Alexander Leighton, John Bastwick and Henry Burton, abolished the Star Chamber with the Habeas Corpus Act 1640.

The gruesome punishments which the Star Chamber imposed were not forgotten, and were revived by King James II,[13] prompting an article in the Bill of Rights of 1688 "That excessive Baile ought not to be required nor excessive Fines imposed nor cruell and unusuall Punishments inflicted".[14]

Engraving of the Star Chamber, published in "Old and new London" in 1873, taken from a drawing made in 1836

The Chamber itself stood until its demolition in 1806 (or 1834 or early in 1836), when its materials were salvaged.[15][16] The door was reused in the nearby Westminster School until it was destroyed in the Blitz, and the historic Star Chamber ceiling, with its bright gold stars, was brought to Leasowe Castle on the Wirral Peninsula in Cheshire from the Court of Westminster, along with four tapestries depicting the four seasons.

Recent history[edit]

In the late 20th century, the expression was revived in reference to ways of resolving internal high-level questions within the government, usually relating to budget appropriations. The press and some civil servants under the premiership of Margaret Thatcher (1979–1990) revived the term for private ministerial meetings at which disputes between the Treasury and high-spending departments were resolved.[17]

In 2010, the press employed the term for a committee established by the Cameron ministry to plan spending cuts to reduce public debt.[18]

In March 2019, the European Research Group formed its own 'Star Chamber' to pass judgement on Theresa May's then proposed Brexit deal, and which recommended that MPs should *not* back it.[19][20] On 29 December 2020, the ERG's Star Chamber gave a similar verdict on Boris Johnson's recently agreed EU–UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, but on this occasion recommending that their members vote for it because the deal is "consistent with the restoration of UK sovereignty".

Influence on the U.S. Constitution[edit]

The historical abuses of the Star Chamber are considered some of the reasons, along with English common law precedent, behind the protections against compelled self-incrimination embodied in the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution.[21] The meaning of "compelled testimony" under the Fifth Amendment – i.e., the conditions under which a defendant is allowed to "plead the Fifth" to avoid self-incrimination – is thus often interpreted via reference to the inquisitorial methods of the Star Chamber.[21]

As the U.S. Supreme Court described it, "the Star Chamber has, for centuries, symbolized disregard of basic individual rights. The Star Chamber not merely allowed, but required, defendants to have counsel. The defendant's answer to an indictment was not accepted unless it was signed by counsel. When counsel refused to sign the answer, for whatever reason, the defendant was considered to have confessed."[22]

History, church, holy roman empire: the Supremacy of the Crown Act 1534 (establishing the English monarch as head of the Church in England).

the Supremacy of the Crown Act 1534 (establishing the English monarch as head of the Church in England).

wiki says charlamagne was the first holy roman emperor since the fall of the roman empire in 476

On 25 December 800, Pope Leo III crowned the Frankish king Charlemagne as emperor, reviving the title in Western Europe, more than three centuries after the fall of the earlier ancient Western Roman Empire in 476

The title was revived again in 962 when Otto |, King of Germany, was crowned emperor by Pope John XII, fashioning himself as the successor of Charlemagne22 and beginning a continuous existence of the empire for over eight centuries.2%lel Some historians refer to the coronation of Charlemagne as the origin of the empire,“2422! while others prefer the coronation of Otto | as its beginning.“ 1 Henry the Fowler, the founder of the medieval German state (ruled 919-936), has sometimes been considered the founder of the Empire as well.22 The modern view favours Otto as the true founder.

Otto continued his father’s work of unifying all German tribes into a single kingdom and greatly expanded the king’s powers at the expense of the aristocracy. Through strategic marriages and personal appointments, Otto installed members of his family in the kingdom’s most important duchies. This reduced the various dukes, who had previously been co-equals with the king, to royal subjects under his authority. Otto transformed the Roman Catholic Church in Germany to strengthen the royal office and subjected its clergy to his personal control.

After putting down a brief civil war among the rebellious duchies, Otto defeated the Magyars at the Battle of Lechfeld in 955, thus ending the Hungarian invasions of Western Europe. The victory against the pagan Magyars earned Otto a reputation as a savior of Christendom and secured his hold over the kingdom. In 951, Otto came to the aid of Adelaide, the widowed queen of Italy, defeating her enemies, marrying her, and taking control of Italy. By 961, Otto had conquered the Kingdom of Italy and extended his realm’s borders to the north, east, and south. Following the example of Charlemagne’s coronation as “Emperor of the Romans” in 800, Otto was crowned emperor in 962 by Pope John XII in Rome, thus intertwining the affairs of the German kingdom with those of Italy and the papacy. Otto’s coronation as emperor marked the German kings as successors to the empire of Charlemagne, which through the concept of *translatio imperii* also made them consider themselves successors to Ancient Rome.

Otto’s later years were marked by conflicts with the papacy and struggles to stabilize his rule over Italy. Reigning from Rome, Otto sought to improve relations with the Byzantine Empire, which opposed his claim to emperorship and his realm’s further expansion to the south. To resolve this conflict, the Byzantine princess Theophanu married Otto’s son, Otto II, in April 972. Otto finally returned to Germany in August 972 and died at Memleben in 973. Otto II succeeded him as Holy Roman Emperor.

Otto I: Replica of the Magdeburger Reiter, equestrian monument traditionally regarded as portrait of Otto I (Magdeburg, original c. 1240).

Administration of the Empire

The Holy Roman Empire was divided into dozens—eventually hundreds—of individual entities governed by kings, dukes, counts, bishops, abbots, and other rulers, collectively known as princes, who governed their land independently from the emperor, whose power was severely restricted by these various local leaders.

the Anglo-Saxon period denotes the period in Britain between about 450 and 1066, after their initial settlement and up until the Norman Conquest.”

Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55 and 54 BC as part of his Gallic Wars.

Journal: The problem that the τύπος sought to correct was inequality. The emperors were

disturbed to find that in practice some taxpayers paid a lot, while others were let off lightly (ὡς ἔτυχεν τὰς ἐπιβολὰς τῶν δημοσίων εἰσφορῶν γίγνεσθαι ὥς τινας μὲν κου[φ]ίζεσθ[α]ι ἄλλους δὲ βαρῖσθαι).304 They call this inequality a “most evil and destructive custom” (τὴν κακίστην

The “Architecture” of Diocletian’s Tax System

There is much that is still unknown about the system of taxation that Diocletian implemented. For example, the conversion of the abstract fiscal unit, the iugum, into real units of measurement remains a mystery, and despite the wealth of evidence from Egypt, scholars do not know when and where taxpayers paid their taxes in cash or in kind.309 Nonetheless, the basic structure of the system is relatively clear. During the course of his reign Diocletian introduced the foundations of a universal method for assessing and distributing tax burdens, called the iugatio-capitatio.310

Stats, rome, history: Papyrus is thought to have been first manufactured 4-5000 years ago

Papyrus was first manufactured in Egypt as far back as the fourth millennium BCE.[3][4][5] The earliest archaeological evidence of papyrus was excavated in 2012 and 2013 at Wadi al-Jarf, an ancient Egyptian harbor located on the Red Sea coast. These documents, the Diary of Merer, date from c. 2560–2550 BCE (end of the reign of Khufu).[4] The papyrus rolls describe the last years of building the Great Pyramid of Giza.[6]

Papyrus was used as a writing material as early as 3,000 BC in ancient Egypt, and continued to be used to some extent until around 1100 AD.

Although it was produced exclusively in Egypt, where the papyrus plant grew, papyrus (the writing material) was exported throughout the classical world, and it was the most popular writing material for the ancient Greeks and Romans.

was also the medium of the New Testament in the early centuries after the death of Jesus. Christian texts were often in the form of a codex, rather than a roll. A codex contains several leaves bound together much like a modern book.

Papyrus eventually gave way to parchment, and later, paper. The large plantations in Egypt which used to cultivate high-grade papyrus for manufacture disappeared, and wild papyrus also began to disappear as the climate of Egypt slowly changed.

Fortunately for modern scholars, the dry climate of Egypt has preserved thousands of fragments of ancient papyrus. These fragments form the basis of the field of papyrology, the study of ancient papyrus. Papyrus texts offer scholars new literary sources as well as documents, such as letters and government records, which give much insight into life in ancient Egypt.

However, the art of papyrus making remained dead for a thousand years. During the 20th century, when more and more papyrus texts came to light, scholars began to investigate how ancient papyrus manufacturing occurred. Several variations on the basic scheme, which is outlined in Pliny's *Natural History*, were proposed and tested, but none has produced a writing material which is of the quality of ancient papyrus.

Two thousand years ago, papyrus making was a booming industry, and papyrus was made by highly skilled craftsmen working with a specially cultivated strain of papyrus that was bred to produce a high quality writing material. Today, papyrus is made from wild strains of papyrus, and the manufacturing process is carried out on a small scale by the few specialists who choose to make papyrus.

Papyrus was replaced in Europe by the cheaper, locally produced products parchment and vellum, of significantly higher durability in moist climates, though Henri Pirenne's connection of its disappearance with the Muslim conquest of Egypt between 639 and 646 CE is contested.[8] Its last appearance in the Merovingian chancery is with a document of 692, though it was known in Gaul until the middle of the following century. The latest certain dates for the use of papyrus are 1057 for a papal decree (typically conservative, all papal bulls were on papyrus until 1022), under Pope Victor II,[9] and 1087 for an Arabic document. Its use in Egypt continued until it was replaced by less expensive paper introduced by the Islamic world who originally learned of it from the Chinese. By the 12th century, parchment and paper were in use in the Byzantine Empire, but papyrus was still an option.[10]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papyrus

Journal, rome, history: Diocletian Reforms (check source)

Emperor Diocletian massively reformed **the Roman tax system**. In the wake of the Crisis of the Third Century, was forced to requisition supplies from the provinces in order to continue to function. Diocletian turned this requisition into a tax, replacing the old, outdated forms of taxation.

The Late Roman Economy Emperor Diocletian

At some point following the island's recovery by the Empire, the Diocletian Reforms were introduced: Britain as a whole became the Diocese of the Britains under the administration of the Prefecture of the Gauls based in Augusta Treverorum (Trier) and was divided from two provinces into four or five,

The Roman government itself did not collect the taxes; this would have been too complex and difficult an operation for the resources of the ancient government. Instead, the responsibility fell on the curial class. Curiales were members of local city councils, and in order to build prestige among their citizens and demonstrate their fitness to rule, they often paid out of pocket for the construction of temples, the sponsorship of games, and other things that benefitted their citizens. The Roman government required them to pay the tax burden of their cities out of their own pockets in exchange for the right to pass on the taxes to their people. Essentially, the Roman government made the curiales their tax collectors. If they fell short of collecting what their city owed in taxes, they would have to make up the difference with their own money. Thus, membership in the curial class could be financially ruinous, and many tried to escape by enrolling in positions that granted exemptions from curial responsibilities, such as the army, the imperial bureaucracy, or the Church. By the sixth century, the curiales gradually disappeared. As the curial class disappeared, the responsibility of governing cities, as well as raising funds to forward to the government, fell to the Church and local bishops.\

he inherited an empire wit han inflation issue. To deal with it, he changed the tax code so that it was based upon agricultural output, rather than with debased currency.

"Diocletian and his administrators came up with
a basic unit of taxation, iuga (perhaps also called capita). The iuga was based on land and labor, but in order to be fair, it also took into account the fertility of the land, the value of the local crops, etc. With this information, the Roman government could calculate the expected productive output of the Roman Empire on a year to year basis. New censuses would update the information every 5-15 years. When the government calculated its needs, such as how much food, wine, and tunics the army needed, it simply had to determine how much each iugum had to produce and then divide that

among the tax payers. Roman government could plan ahead in a way they never had before. This basic system continued even after Roman currency was restored and the government continued to collect taxes in coinage, as in certain taxes the tax burden of supplies was translated into a monetary amount.

Now this is where things get interesting. The writer hen goes on the claim that this system of taxation was essential collected by a sort of contractor that paid the taxes out of thier own pocket, taking on the rrisk of non-payment themselves--sort of like discounted paper in the debt markets. The collector stands to make a profit in the long run by taking on the risk of holding the debt obligation themselves, but also are expected to pay if something goes wrong, taking the risk of default away frm the empire. The says that these debt collectors were known as Curiales, who were themselves members of the local city council for their taxable location

The Roman government itself did not collect the taxes; this would have been too complex and difficult an operation for the resources of the ancient government. Instead, the responsibility fell on the curial class. Curiales were members of local city councils, and in order to build prestige among their citizens and demonstrate their fitness to rule, they often paid out of pocket for the construction of temples, the sponsorship of games, and other things that benefitted their citizens. The Roman government required them to pay the tax burden of their cities out of their own pockets in exchange for the right to pass on the taxes to their people. Essentially, the Roman government made the curiales their tax collectors. If they fell short of collecting what their city owed in taxes, they would have to make up the difference with their own money. Thus, membership in the curial class could be financially ruinous, and many tried to escape by enrolling in positions that granted exemptions from curial responsibilities, such as the army, the imperial bureaucracy, or the Church. By the sixth century, the curiales gradually disappeared. As the curial class disappeared, the responsibility of governing cities, as well as raising funds to forward to the government, fell to the Church and local bishops.

Government, inflation, war: march1 The UK Is "Rationing" Vegetables... & It's All About Normalization

The UK Is "Rationing" Vegetables... & It's All About Normalization

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, MAR 01, 2023 - 07:30 AM

Authored by Kit Knightly via Off-Guardian.org,

The past few days have seen certain fruits and vegetables "rationed" by major UK supermarkets.

Aldi, Morrisons, Tesco and Sainsbury's have all put limits on customer purchases of peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers.

Just yesterday, Lidl added their own name to that list.

Many – including Justin King, former Sainsbury's CEO – have **jumped at the chance to lay the blame at Brexit's feet.**

But that doesn't make much sense, since Morocco – whence the UK imports a lot of salad vegetables – obviously isn't in the EU. Further, Ireland has been affected too, plus we're only 5 months removed from France (and other EU nations) facing their own "catastrophic food shortages"

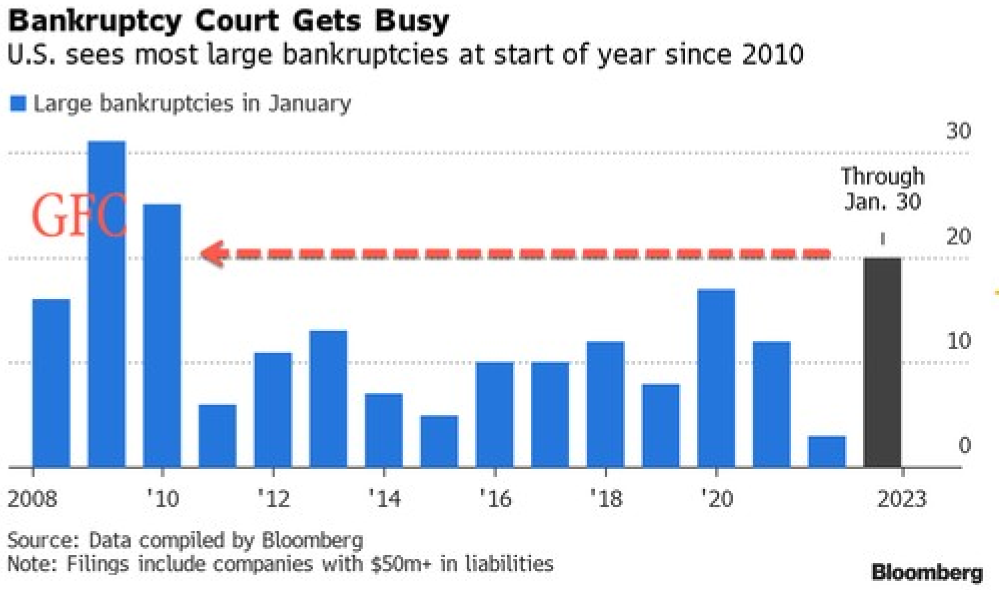
The other side of the Brexit divide is firmly set on **blaming any shortages on the weather.** Of course, that's also helpful to the establishment narrative since the “bad weather” angle can be swiftly and easily parlayed into discussions about climate change. In fact, it already has been.

The real reason there are shortages – supposing there are *real* shortages, not just psy-op nonsense like the toilet paper fiasco at the beginning of the “pandemic” – is that, one way or another, they have been engineered.

Journal: march13

In the event of a much larger outbreak, news organizations that cater to the far right will act as perfect examples for why the internet should be censored. It will be so easy to cite their critisisms of the COVID official narrative, then take them out of context. How will one question the government, then? Yes, the vaccine caused many complications, but this will mean nothing while everybody is dying. All the anti-vaxxers will look crazy, and censorship will seem like a necessary evil.

Government: march1 US Bankruptcy Filings Surge At Fastest Pace Since 2009


Bankruptcy Court Gets Busy

U.S. sees most large bankruptcies at start of year since 2010

Source: Data compiled by Bloomberg

Note: Filings include companies with $50m+ in liabilities

key missing piece, read later, holy roman empire, journal, church, history: the prince-elector of germany

The dignity of elector carried great prestige and was considered to be second only to that of king or emperor.[1] The electors held exclusive privileges that were not shared with other princes of the Empire, and they continued to hold their original titles alongside that of elector.

The heir apparent to a secular prince-elector was known as an **electoral prince**

The **prince-electors** (German: *Kurfürst* (listen (help·info)), pl. *Kurfürsten*, Czech: *Kurfiřt*, Latin: *Princeps Elector*), or **electors** for short, were the members of the electoral college that elected the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.

From the 13th century onwards, the prince-electors had the privilege of electing the monarch who would be crowned by the pope. After 1508, there were no imperial coronations and the election was sufficient. Charles V (elected in 1519) was the last emperor to be crowned (1530); his successors were elected emperors by the electoral college, each being titled "Elected Emperor of the Romans" (German: *erwählter Römischer Kaiser*; Latin: *electus Romanorum imperator*).

The dignity of elector carried great prestige and was considered to be second only to that of king or emperor.[1] The electors held exclusive privileges that were not shared with other princes of the Empire, and they continued to hold their original titles alongside that of elector.

The heir apparent to a secular prince-elector was known as an **electoral prince** (German: *Kurprinz*).

Rights and privileges[edit]

Electors were rulers of *reichsstände* (Imperial Estates), enjoying precedence over the other Imperial Princes. They were, until the 18th century, exclusively entitled to be addressed with the title *Durchlaucht* (Serene Highness). In 1742, the electors became entitled to the superlative *Durchlauchtigste* (Most Serene Highness), while other princes were promoted to *Durchlaucht*.

As rulers of Imperial Estates, the electors enjoyed all the privileges of Imperial Princes, including the right to enter into alliances, to autonomy in relation to dynastic affairs, and to precedence over other subjects. The Golden Bull granted them the Privilegium de non appellando, which prevented their subjects from lodging an appeal to a higher Imperial court. However, while this privilege, and some others, were automatically granted to Electors, they were not exclusive to them and many of the larger Imperial Estates were also to be individually granted some or all those rights and privileges.[2]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince-elector

The electors, like the other princes ruling States of the Empire, were members of the Imperial Diet, which was divided into three *collegia*: the Council of Electors, the Council of Princes, and the Council of Cities. In addition to being members of the Council of Electors, most electors were also members of the Council of Princes by virtue of possessing territory or holding ecclesiastical position. The assent of both bodies was required for important decisions affecting the structure of the Empire, such as the creation of new electorates or States of the Empire.

Many electors ruled a number of States of the Empire or held several ecclesiastical titles, and therefore had multiple votes in the Council of Princes. In 1792, the Elector of Brandenburg had eight votes, the Elector of Bavaria six votes, the Elector of Hanover six votes, the King of Bohemia three votes, the Elector-Archbishop of Trier three votes, the Elector-Archbishop of Cologne two votes, and the Elector-Archbishop of Mainz one vote. Thus, of the hundred votes in the Council of Princes in 1792, twenty-nine belonged to electors, giving them considerable influence in the Council of Princes in addition to their positions as electors.

In addition to voting by colleges or councils, the Imperial Diet also voted in religious coalitions, as provided for in the Peace of Westphalia. The Archbishop of Mainz presided over the Catholic body, or *corpus catholicorum*, while the Elector of Saxony presided over the Protestant body, or *corpus evangelicorum*. The division into religious bodies was on the basis of the official religion of the state, and not of its rulers. Thus, even when the Electors of Saxony were Catholics during the eighteenth century, they continued to preside over the *corpus evangelicorum*, since the state of Saxony was officially Protestant.

1257 to Thirty Years' War[edit]

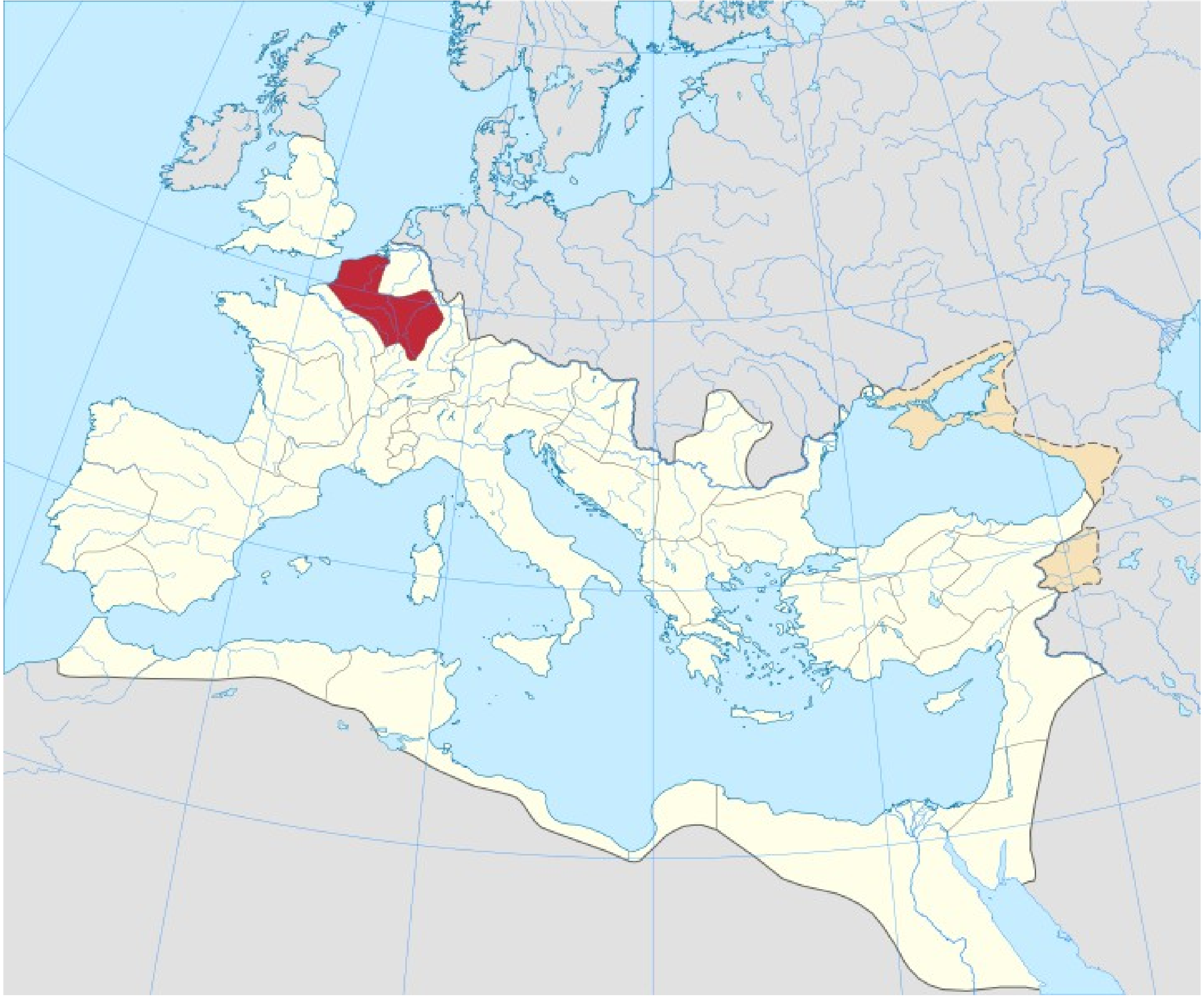
The electoral college is known to have existed by 1152, but its composition is unknown. A letter written by Pope Urban IV in 1265 suggests that by "immemorial custom", seven princes had the right to elect the King and future Emperor. The pope wrote that the seven electors were those who had just voted in the election of 1257, which resulted in the election of two kings.[5]

- Three ecclesiastical Electors:
  - The Archbishop of Mainz

    - The Archbishop of Trier
    - The Archbishop of Cologne
- Four secular Electors:
    - The King of Bohemia
    - The Count Palatine of the Rhine
    - The Duke of Saxony
    - The Margrave of Brandenburg

gallic revolt, years 286–296: real-life Emperor of the North

File:Roman Empire - Belgica (125 AD).svg



Gallia Belgica ("Belgic Gaul") was a province of the Roman Empire located in the north-eastern part of Roman Gaul, in what is today primarily northern France, Belgium, and Luxembourg, along with parts of the Netherlands and Germany.

In 50 BC, after the conquest by Julius Caesar during his Gallic Wars, it became one of the three parts of Gaul (Tres Galliae), the other two being Gallia Aquitania and Gallia Lugdunensis.[1] An official Roman province was later created by emperor Augustus in 22 BC. The province was named for the Belgae, as the largest tribal confederation in the area, but also included the territories of the Treveri, Mediomatrici, Leuci, Sequani, Helvetii and others. The southern border of Belgica, formed by the Marne and Seine rivers, was reported by Caesar as the original cultural boundary between the Belgae and the Celtic Gauls, whom he distinguished from one another.[2]

The province was re-organised several times, first increased and later decreased in size. Diocletian brought the northeastern Civitas Tungrorum into Germania Inferior, joining the Rhineland colonies, and the remaining part of Gallia Belgica was divided into Belgica Prima in the eastern area of the Treveri, Mediomatrici and Leuci, around Luxembourg and the Ardennes, and Belgica Secunda between the English channel and the upper Meuse.

The capital of Belgica Prima, Trier, became an important late western Roman capital.[3]

Part of a series on the

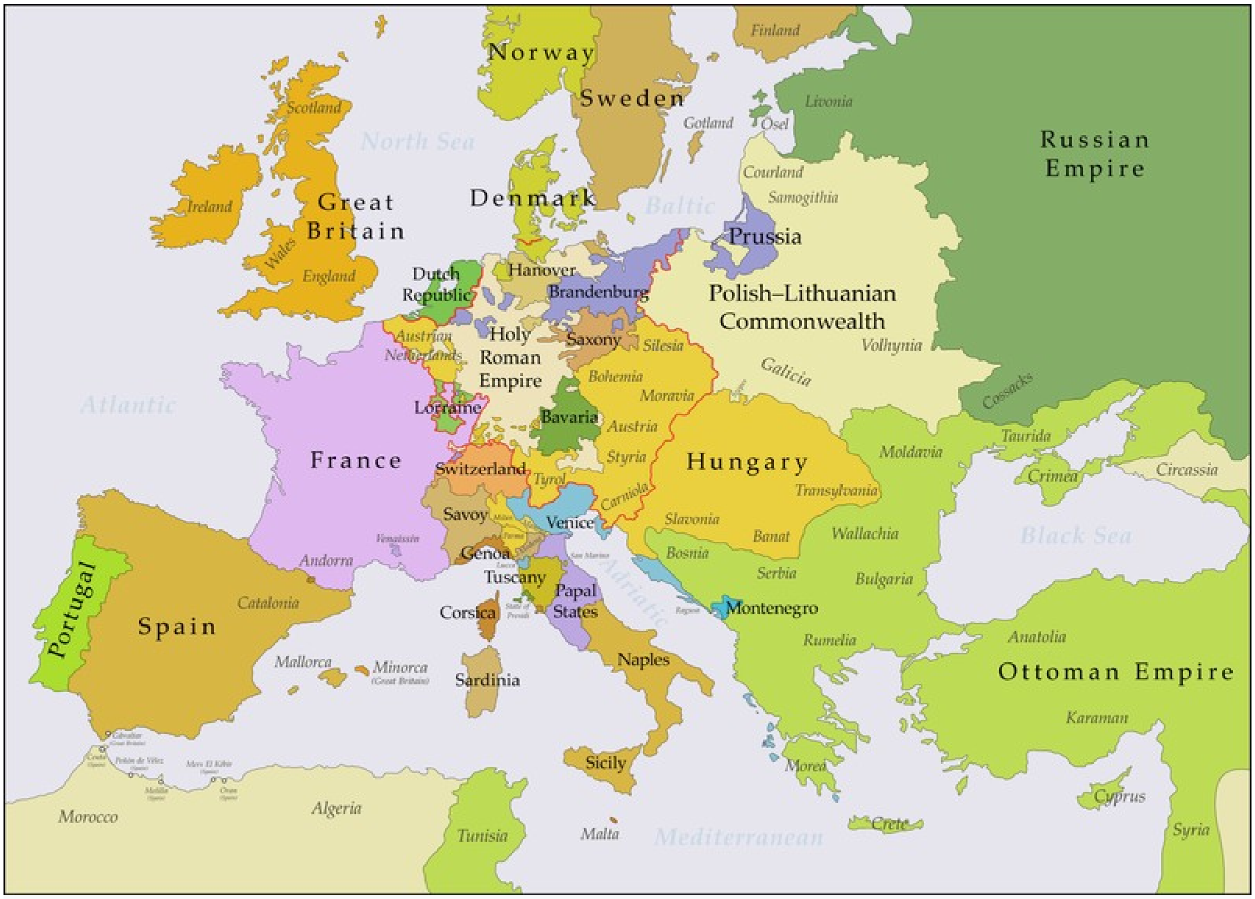
History of Belgium

Part of a series on the

History of Luxembourg

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carausius
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carausian_revolt
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallia_Belgica
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Luxembourg
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchy_of_Lorraine
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Wittelsbach

history, holy roman empire: Europe after the 1738 Treaty of Vienna, which concluded the war.


Finland
Norway
Sweden
Livonia
Scotland
North Sea
Gotland
Osel
Russian Empire
Courland
Samogithia
Ireland
Great Britain
Denmark
Baltic
Prussia
Wales
England
Dutch Republic
Hanover
Brandenburg
Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth
Austrian Netherlands
Holy Roman Empire
Saxony
Silesia
Volhynia
Galicia
Bohemia
Moravia
Cossacks
Atlantic
Lorraine
Bavaria
Austria
Taurida
Moldavia
France
Switzerland
Styria
Hungary
Crimea
Circassia
Tyrol
Transylvania
Savoy
Venice
Carniola
Slavonia
Banat
Wallachia
Black Sea
Venaissin
Bosnia
Andorra
Genoa
Tuscany
Serbia
Bulgaria
Portugal
Spain
Catalonia
Papal States
Adriatic
Corsica
Montenegro
Rumelia
Anatolia
Ottoman Empire
Naples
Mallorca
Minorca (Great Britain)
Sardinia
Karaman
Sicily
Morea
Cyprus
Morocco
Algeria
Tunisia
Malta
Mediterranean
Crete
Syria

Europe after the 1738 Treaty of Vienna, which concluded the war

Europe after the 1738 Treaty of Vienna, which concluded the war (look more into this. needs verfication, I guess. Not really, but i need to know I guess because this map is really helpful for understanding the power dynamics that existed during this important, but little understodd, time period)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Europe_1740_en.png

This article is about the 18th-century conflict. For the 16th-century conflict, see War of the Polish Succession (1587–88). For the 14th-century conflict, see Greater Poland Civil War.

This also shows the politics that fueled power dynamics behind the eventual 'partition' of poland. You also learn how poland was highly influenced by outside, more powerful nations, similar to a client state today.

The **War of the Polish Succession** (Polish: *Wojna o sukcesję polską*; 1733–35) was a major European conflict sparked by a Polish civil war over the succession to Augustus II of Poland, which the other European powers widened in pursuit of their own national interests. France and Spain, the two Bourbon powers, attempted to test the power of the Austrian Habsburgs in Western Europe, as did the Kingdom of Prussia, whilst Saxony and Russia mobilized to support the eventual Polish victor. The fighting in Poland resulted in the accession of Augustus III, who in addition to Russia and Saxony, was politically supported by the Habsburgs.

The war's major military campaigns and battles occurred outside of Poland. The Bourbons, supported by Charles Emmanuel III of Sardinia, moved against isolated Habsburg territories. In the Rhineland, France successfully took the Duchy of Lorraine, and in Italy, Spain regained control over the kingdoms of Naples and Sicily lost in the War of the Spanish Succession, while territorial gains in northern Italy were limited despite bloody campaigning. Great Britain's unwillingness to support Habsburg Austria demonstrated the infirmity of the Anglo-Austrian Alliance.

Although a preliminary peace was reached in 1735, the war was formally ended with the Treaty of Vienna (1738), in which Augustus III was confirmed as king of Poland and his opponent Stanislaus I was awarded the Duchy of Lorraine and Duchy of Bar, then both fiefs of the Holy Roman Empire. Francis Stephen, the duke of Lorraine, was given the Grand Duchy of Tuscany in compensation for the loss of Lorraine. The Duchy of Parma went to Austria whereas Charles of Parma took the crowns of Naples and Sicily. Most of the territorial gains were in favor of the Bourbons, as the Duchies of Lorraine and Bar went from being fiefs of the Holy Roman Empire to that of France, while the Spanish Bourbons gained two new kingdoms in the form of Naples and Sicily. The Austrian Habsburgs, for their part, received two Italian duchies in return, though Parma would soon revert to Bourbon control. Tuscany would be held by the Habsburgs until the Napoleonic era.

The war proved disastrous for Polish independence, and re-affirmed that the affairs of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, including the election of the King himself, would be controlled by the other great powers of Europe. After August III, there would only be one more king of Poland, Stanislas II August, himself a puppet of the Russians, and ultimately Poland would be divided up by its neighbors and cease to exist as a sovereign state by the end of the 18th century. Poland also surrendered claims to Livonia and direct control over the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia, which, although remaining a Polish fief, was not integrated into Poland proper and came under strong Russian influence which only ended with the fall of the Russian Empire in 1917.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Polish_Succession

WAR OF THE POLISH SUCCESSION (1733-1738)

On the death in 1733 of Augustus II of Poland (known as August the Strong, 1670–1733) there were two principal claimants to the throne. First, his son, Augustus III of Saxony (1696–1763), supported by Austria and Russia. Second, Stanisław Leszczyński (1677–1766), the father-in-law of Louis XV (supported by France, Spain and Sardinia). The ensuing war was fought in Poland, along the Rhine and in Italy. The war was ended in 1738 by the Treaty of Vienna. Stanisław, who had seized the throne in 1733, relinquished it and was made Duke of Lorraine while retaining the title King of Poland, and Augustus was recognised as Augustus III of Poland.

The manuscript and printed maps in this section include several accomplished surveys and maps of the lands to either side of long stretches of the Rhine and other rivers, as well as parts of Italy.

https://militarymaps.rct.uk/war-of-the-polish-succession-1733-8

Stats, journal: Digital rights management (DRM) is the management of legal access to digital content. Various tools or technological protection measures (TPM)[1] like access control technologies, can restrict the use of proprietary hardware and copyrighted works.[2]

Found from reading about project muse, described on wikipedia as the

operator of what is known as a "third-party acquisition service:", similar to EBSCO, JSTOR, OverDrive, or ProQuest.[4]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_MUSE

Digital rights management (**DRM**) is the management of legal access to digital content. Various tools or technological protection measures (TPM)[1] like access control technologies, can restrict the use of proprietary hardware and copyrighted works.[2]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_rights_management

I'll read the full story in a bit. might help for understanding this whole JSTOR issue you keep running into on wikipedia. It's amazing that they cite a source, then make it impossible to read without paying 60 bucks for the whole book -- which many times you only require for one quote -- or worse, needing an instiutional access code, something that, and I'm not ocmpletely sure on this, but I'm pretty sure, you can only acquire through going to an accredited university, which would, of ocurse, require someone to pay 25 k or osmething fucked like that. So in essense, unattainable to average person. @We're talking knoewledge here. Old knowledge, many time. Trust me, I've seen it myself many times.

Closing the Gap Between University Presses and Libraries

Two leading university presses are changing the way they sell their digital collections to libraries -- cutting out the middlemen. Will others follow suit?

Lindsay McKenzie

October 18, 2018

MIT Press and the University of Michigan Press have both announced plans to start selling their ebook collections directly to libraries by creating their own distribution platforms.

The publishers previously did not have a mechanism for selling to institutions directly. Instead, access to ebooks was largely brokered through third-party acquisition services such as EBSCO, ProQuest, OverDrive, Project Muse and JSTOR.

Amy Brand, director of MIT Press, said she had been thinking about how to move away from these third-party platforms, known as aggregators, for some time.

“We determined that the MIT Press brand was prestigious enough, and that the collection was large enough, that we could go it on our own," she said.

Not only do these platforms take a “significant percentage” of the revenue from ebook sales, they also create a barrier between university presses and their customers, said Brand. She’d like to build a closer relationship with the libraries that purchase from MIT Press and also gain more insight into how they use the content they buy. Detailed customer usage data is not always made available to publishers from aggregators, she said.

MIT Press's new distribution platform, called MIT Press Direct, is being developed by a company called Silverchair and will launch in beta this December.

Terry Ehling, director for strategic initiatives at MIT Press, said the new platform would give the press greater flexibility in what it can publish.

“Having our own platform allows us to create new products and new services around those products," said Ehling. "We can control the delivery and the look and feel of our products. That was very appealing to us."

Developing its own platform means MIT Press can set its own terms for how content is used, said Brand. For example, there will be no limit on the number of people who can access one ebook at a time -- a common restriction on content sold through aggregators.

The University of Michigan Press is planning to offer its ebook collection directly to libraries in the next few months. Charles Watkinson, director of the press, said the ebook collection will launch in January 2019 on Fulcrum -- an open-source publishing platform being developed with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

“For us, it’s very much about taking back some control of our digital content,” said Watkinson. It was “impossible” to sell some of the publisher's more experimental content, such as this ebook with 3-D modeling, through the aggregators’ platforms, said Watkinson.

Like Brand, Watkinson worried that his organization “simply lost touch with the library market.”

“Despite being based in a library at the University of Michigan, we no longer have a good sense of what our most important companies are thinking and needing, and by extension what their faculty and student users are interested in,” he said.

The University of Michigan Press will continue to offer access to individual titles through JSTOR, Project Muse, ProQuest, EBSCO and OverDrive, said Watkinson. “But we’ll only offer our comprehensive collection of scholarly ebooks directly,” he said.

Both MIT Press and the University of Michigan Press will offer tiered pricing structures for their collections -- with prices corresponding to the size of the institutions buying the books. Ehling said that MIT Press has not yet finalized pricing for its collections, but plans to do so by mid-December.

Watkinson said that the list price for the University of Michigan ebook collection would be $6,800, but university libraries will pay between $694 and $5,780 per year based on their size. For this price, the libraries will get perpetual access to all titles published in 2019, and a year's access to approximately 1,000 titles in the publisher's back catalog. Watkinson said the press expects to publish at least 80 titles in 2019.

By taking control of the distribution of their ebook collections, MIT Press and the University of Michigan Press will soon join a very select group of university presses that sell their collections directly to libraries -- including the presses of Oxford and Cambridge Universities in Britain and Duke University in North Carolina.

Allison Belan, assistant director for digital strategy at Duke University Press, said Duke has been selling its ebook collection directly to libraries since 2008. The press already had a sales team that sold journal access to libraries, so it “wasn’t a huge leap” to do the same for ebooks, she said.

One of the biggest barriers to other universities selling their collections directly to libraries is cost. Many university presses don’t have the money to invest in platforms or sales teams.

“There’s a big investment for a university press to sell bundles directly,” Belan said.

Peter Berkery, executive director of the Association of University Presses, said it was too soon to describe the movement as a trend. “There’s a lot of experimentation,” he said, noting the unlikeliness of all university presses deciding to start selling directly to customers any time soon. Many university presses will be watching the progress of MIT and Michigan’s efforts with interest, however.

“Whenever MIT or Michigan do something, people pay attention,” said Berkery.

Frank Smith, director of books at JSTOR, said he is pleased to see university presses experimenting. He thinks there is enough diversity of opinion and business models in the sector that there will always be some university presses that want to work with aggregators.

Joseph Esposito, senior partner at publishing consultancy Clarke & Esposito, also believes more university presses trying to sell their ebooks directly to libraries is a good thing. But notes it is a “tough market” with lots of competition.

“Will libraries buy books directly from an individual university press, or do the libraries experience such administrative efficiency by going through [third-party acquisition services] that the university presses will only be able to get a small number of customers?” he asked.

Rick Anderson, associate dean for collections and scholarly communication at the Marriott Library at the University of Utah, said whether libraries choose to work directly with university presses or not will likely come down to a question of scale.

It will be “relatively easy” to work with larger presses like MIT Press or the University of Michigan Press, but “if we had to deal with all university presses individually, that would be a problem,” he said.

Smaller university presses could, however, offer “deep discounts in return for direct dealing,” said Anderson. “My door is always open to a publisher that wants to talk about discounts. We might be willing to invest more staff time if the price is right.”

The market for ebooks is changing, said Watkinson, of Michigan. Constrained budgets mean some libraries prefer to buy ebooks on a title by title basis, rather than purchasing whole collections. He thinks only about 100 libraries will purchase the University of Michigan Press ebook collection.

“We are targeting a high-end group,” he said.

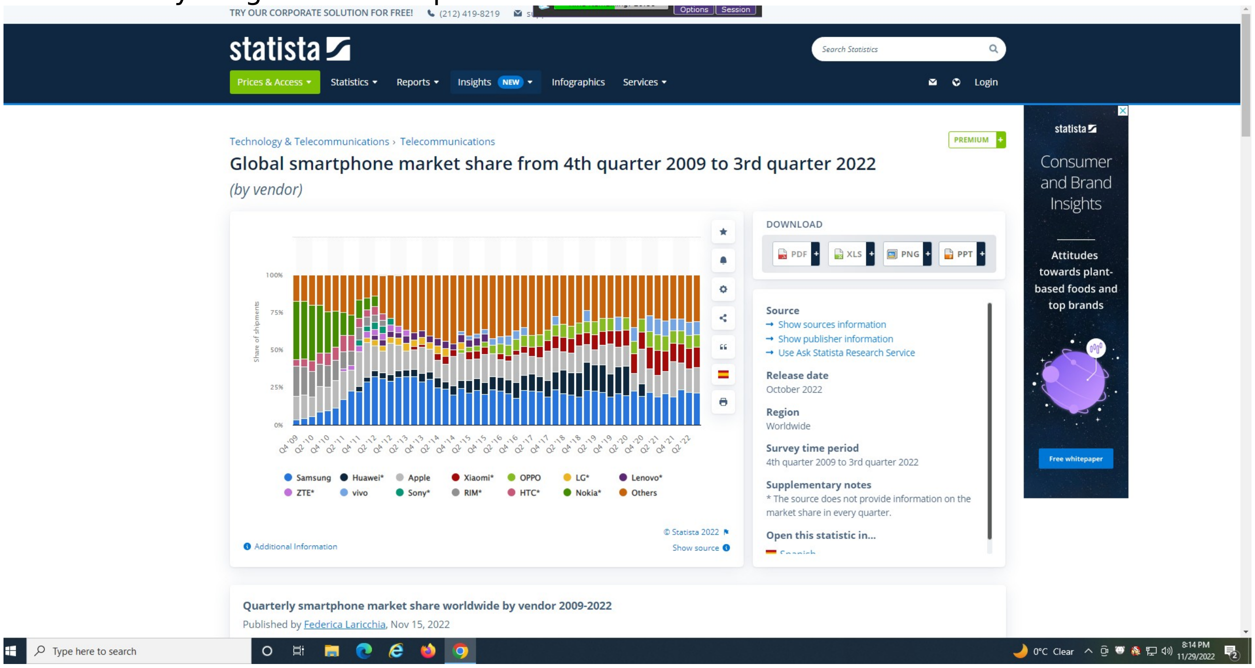
Journal: 1.7 bottles of a standard 80-proof liquor per person, per week: that's how much alcohol people in the United States were drinking in 1830. Sounds like the Wild West was Wild Drunk. Could have played a big part in all the shoot outs back then--that, and the fact that

they didn't even have finger-printing, let alone the camera's watching everyone, and everything, today.

The 1800s: When Americans Drank Whiskey Like it was Water
With all of that said, though, there’s one aspect of the road to Prohibition that is undeniable, and that’s the American appetite for alcohol. In short: We have oftentimes been a nation of drunks, but by today’s standards, average alcohol consumption in large parts of the 19th century U.S.A. was almost beyond rational belief. You will likely find it hard to accept as a fact just how much booze the average American was consuming in the first half of the 1800’s. The figures are almost cartoonishly high, so let’s consider how we got there first.
By 1830, alcohol consumption reached its peak at a truly outlandish 7 gallons of ethanol a year per capita. Via Okrent:
In modern terms, those seven gallons are the equivalent of 1.7 bottles of a standard 80-proof liquor per person, per week— https://www.pastemagazine.com/drink/alcohol-history/the-1800s-when-americans- drank-whiskey-like-it-was/

Stats, government: feb28 China Top 3 Trading Partners: The E.U., U.S.A, and South Korea

tech: “The beauty of the Apple model is that they'll continue to make their chips faster than any other hardware company, selling the benefits of speed for decades to come,” Gene Munster, managing partner at Loup Ventures, wrote in an analyst note. “When it comes to retaining customers and growing Mac revenue, speed is the gift that keeps giving.” https://finance.yahoo.com/news/apple-wants-to-control-everything-from-its-chips-to-screens- 193041594.html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Technology & Telecommunications › Telecommunications

Global smartphone market share from 4th quarter 2009 to 3rd quarter 2022

(by vendor)

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Release date
October 2022

Region
Worldwide

Survey time period
4th quarter 2009 to 3rd quarter 2022

Supplementary notes
* The source does not provide information on the market share in every quarter.

Open this statistic in...

Quarterly smartphone market share worldwide by vendor 2009-2022
Published by Federica Laricchia, Nov 15, 2022

rs. Huawei's market share reached up to 20 percent in previous years, however, strong performances from rivals and the effects of the U.S. trade ban have since seen Huawei fall outside the list of top five vendors by smartphone shipments.
https://www.statista.com/statistics/271496/global-market-share-held-by-smartphone-vendors-since-4th-quarter-2009/

In a meeting with reporters last year, Kyung Kye-hyun, head of Samsung Electronics’ semiconductor business, expressed concern about “difficulties in the long run when we have to put new equipment into our factory in China”.
Kyung also said South Korea should seek “understanding” from China, the country’s biggest trading partner
In South Korea, Japan and Taiwan, the US push to hobble China’s tech advancement has presented challenges.
South Korea’s Samsung and SK Hynix, which together lead global production of memory chips, and Taiwan’s TSMC, the No 1 player in non-memory chips, all operate production facilities in China.

Japan, another US ally and home to some of the world’s leading semiconductor materials producers and equipment makers, last year exported more than one-third of its manufacturing equipment to China. In a meeting with reporters last year, Kyung Kye-hyun, head of Samsung Electronics’ semiconductor business, expressed concern about “difficulties in the long run when we have to put new equipment into our factory in China”.
Kyung also said South Korea should seek “understanding” from China, the country’s biggest trading partner, before joining a proposed “Chip 4 alliance” comprising the US, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan.
In August, Biden signed the Chips and Science Act, which highlighted how the US relies on East Asia for 75 percent of its semiconductors.
https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2023/1/5/us- bid-to-hobble-chinas-chips-spells-friend-south- korea-taiwan?traffic_ source=KeepReading
tech: "According to market research firm Gartner, in Q4 2022, Apple’s Mac line of desktops and laptops made up just 10.7% of the global market. That’s below the likes of Dell at 16.7%, HP at 20.2%, and Lenovo at 24%. "
https://finance.yahoo.com/news/apple-wants-to-
control-everything-from-its-chips-to-screens- 193041594.html

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_the_largest_trading_partners_of_China

war, markets: janl9 Seoul, South Korea: biden visits samsung, South Korea’s biggest conglomerate
“Semiconductors power our economies and enable our modern lives, from our automobiles to our smartphones to medical diagnostic equipment,” Biden said at the factory before touting chips as the next frontier in the alliance between the US and South Korea that dates back to the 1950-1953 Korean War.
“And by uniting our skills and our technological know-how, it allows the production of chips that are critical to both our countries and are essential - essential - sectors of our global economy.”

But several months removed from that visit, the picture of mutually beneficial cooperation presented by Biden is being complicated by US measures to both restore its own manufacturing base and confront China.
Even as Washington tries to recruit Asian allies and partners to join the pushback against Beijing, its turn towards

The Biden administration has halted the provision of licenses for US companies to export technology to Huawei, as it moves closer to imposing a **total ban** on the sale of American technology to the Chinese telecom equipment maker.

sanctions, china, government: US Halts New Licenses For Export To Huawei

Rome, history, journal: key point about roman backlash in the early days of the barnarian insurrection that lead to the eventual fall of the empire.

Fleeing before the advance of the Huns, the Vandals, Suebi, and Alans launched an attack across the frozen Rhine near Mainz; on 31 December 406, the frontier gave way and these tribes surged into Roman Gaul. There soon followed the Burgundians and bands of the Alamanni. In the fit of anti-barbarian hysteria which followed, the Western Roman Emperor Honorius had Stilicho summarily beheaded (408). Stilicho submitted his neck, "with a firmness not unworthy of the last of the Roman generals", wrote Gibbon. Honorius was left with only worthless courtiers to advise him. In 410, the Visigoths led by Alaric | captured the city of Rome and for three days fire and slaughter ensued as bodies filled the streets, palaces were stripped of their valuables, and the invaders interrogated and tortured those citizens thought to have hidden wealth. As newly converted Christians, the Goths respected church property, but those who found sanctuary in the Vatican and in other churches were the fortunate few.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Middle_Ages

rome, justinian, wiki says estimates as high as 200 million deaths for plague outbreaks in europe.

The Romans had practiced two-field agriculture, with a crop grown in one field and the other left fallow and ploughed under to eliminate weeds. Systematic agriculture largely disappeared and yields declined. It is estimated that the Plague of Justinian which began in 541 and recurred periodically for 150 years thereafter killed as many as 100 million

people across the world.“242|, Some historians such as Josiah C. Russell (1958) have suggested a total European population loss of 50 to 60 per cent between 541 and 700. u After the year 750, major epidemic diseases did not appear again in Europe until the Black Death of the 14th century. The disease smallpox, which was eradicated in the late 20th century, did not definitively enter Western Europe until about 581 when Bishop Gregory of Tours provided an eyewitness account that describes the characteristic findings of smallpox.“2 Waves of epidemics wiped out large rural populations.“ Most of the details about the epidemics are lost, probably due to the scarcity of surviving written records.
For almost a thousand years, Rome was the most politically important, richest and largest city in Europe.“4 Around 100 AD, it had a population of about 450,000,""

declined to a mere 20,000 during the Early Middle Ages, reducing the sprawling city to groups of inhabited buildings interspersed among large areas of ruins and vegetation..

rome, history, germany, holy roman empire: the roman empire permanently split after theodosius' death transfered power to his two sons

As political power shifted to Constantinople, the church gradually replaced the declining civil authority at Rome. Meanwhile, the Germanic tribes, who lived along the northern borders of the empire and who had long been recruited to serve as mercenaries in the Roman army, began to emerge as powerful political and military forces in their own right. In the 370s, the Huns, horsemen from the Eurasian steppe, invaded areas along the Danube River, driving many of the Germanic tribes—including the Visigoths—into the Roman provinces. What began as a controlled resettlement of barbarians within the empire’s borders ended as an invasion. The emperor Valens was killed by the Visigoths at Adrianople in 378 A.D., and the succeeding emperor, Theodosius I (r. 379–395 A.D.), conducted campaigns against them, but failed to evict them from the empire. In 391 A.D., Theodosius ordered the closing of all temples and banned all forms of pagan cult. After his death in 395 A.D., the empire was divided between his sons, Honorius (Western Roman emperor) and Arcadius (Eastern Roman emperor). The West, separated from the East, could not long survive the incessant barbarian invasions. The Visigoth Alaric sacked Rome in 410 A.D. and, in 476 A.D., the German Odovacer advanced on the city and deposed Romulus Augustulus (r. 475–476 A.D.), commonly known as the last Roman emperor of the West. Odovacer became, in effect, king of Rome until 493 A.D., when Theodoric the Great established the Ostrogothic kingdom in Italy. The Eastern Roman provinces survived the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 A.D., developing into the Byzantine empire, which itself survived until the Ottoman capture of Constantinople in 1453.

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/roem/hd_roem.htm#:~:text=In%20391%20A.D.%2C%20Theodosius%20ordered,Arcadius%20(Eastern%20Roman%20emperor).

rome, history, germany, holy roman empire: the roman empire permanently split after theodosius' death transfered power to his two sons

Journal: Ukraine suspends talks on EU trade pact as Putin wins tug of war, 2013

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/21/ukraine-suspends-preparations-eu-trade-pact

This article completely changed my perspective of the whole Ukraine situation. Found it kind of late: jan20, and of this year, so only a few months ago really.

Do other people know this? For me, someone who follows things pretty closely, I found it stood in the face of most of the narratives the United States has been pushing since the onset of the Ukraine conflict. According to this article, this isn't new at all, and Ukraine is more of a partner, rather than some idle victim of russia, with the EU acting as its sort of “knight in shining armer”.

If anything, and especially when one considers the casualties today, NATO seems to be more of the agressor, at least to me after reading this article.

Anyways, here it is if you haven't read it. If you've been following the ukraine situation closely--as most people today probably have--be prepared to rattled. What you are about to see looks nothing like a foul victim of russian interference, but more a geopolitically convenient trading partner: definitely not the kind of scenario that warrents risking WW3.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/21/ukraine-suspends-preparations-eu-trade-pact
Stats, journal, history: History, Germany: (paywall) Hate Speech and Identity Politics in Germany, 1848-1914
https://www.jstor.org/stable/43965202

Journal, history, Germany: interesting quote I found about german inflation and how a standing chairman of general electric -- at least accoridng to this wiki -- drafted the plan that germany used to reduce their inflation while still being able to successfully handle their reparation payments.
Foreign minister 1923-1929/edit]
Stresemann remained as foreign minister in the government of his successor, Wilhelm Marx from the Centre Party. He remained foreign minister for the rest of his life in eight successive governments ranging from the centre-right to the centre-left. As foreign minister, Stresemann had numerous achievements. His first notable achievement was the Dawes Plan of 1924, which reduced Germany's overall reparations commitment and reorganized the Reichsbank. He appointed Hjalmar Schacht as the new President of the Reichsbank, who implemented the Dawes Plan and ended Weimar
hyperinflation despite his reservations over Germany's growing foreign debt under Stresemann's economic policies.“4 The successful negotiation of the Dawes Plan provided hope for Streseman's foreign policy strategy emphasizing Germany's remaining economic soft power, since the creator of

the plan Owen D. Young was the chairman of General Electric and a major trading partner with the German firm AEG."

Stats, energy, government: feb28 The Dutch Title Transfer Facility (TTF): In the two decades since its inception trades at the TTF have grown exponentially and exceeded domestic volumes in the Netherlands fourteen-fold. This increase, helped by the rise of liquefied natural gas (LNG), caused the TTF to overtake the UK's National Balancing Point (NBP) as Europe's biggest gas benchmark.[3]

The volumes traded on the platform have grown exponentially over the past two decades, **representing** more than 14 times the amount of gas used by the Netherlands for domestic purposes.

The rise of **liquefied natural gas** (LNG) helped the TTF take over the UK's National Balance Point (NBD) as the continent's gas benchmark.

As in any other free marketplace, prices on the Dutch hub are determined by the fundamental economic rules of supply and demand.

Products are invoiced in euros per megawatt-hour.

Speculation fuels prices

The TTF offers two main options for traders: they can either strike deals on the spot, meant for the immediate delivery and consumption of gas, or sign so-called futures contracts.

Under a futures contract, the shipper and the buyer agree on a price at the very same time the deal is made, but the delivery and the payment take place at a later stage (for example, the following month).

The agreement obliges the shipper to deliver the supplies and offers greater certainty for companies and governments.

However, futures contracts are exposed to **market speculation**.

As a general rule, market actors tend to assume the worst-case scenario in their dealings in order to be prepared for a negative outcome.

Amid the Ukraine war, speculation about an imminent cut-off of Russian gas flows has been rife, leading to **record-breaking prices** on the TTF.

Last week's futures trading closed at €339 per megawatt-hour, a stratospheric figure compared to the €27 registered a year ago.

The latest announcements from Gazprom, Russia's state-controlled energy giant, have only fuelled fears among traders, who see flows of Russian gas dwindle at a dangerous pace.

Meanwhile, EU countries are rushing to fill their gas storage facilities ahead of the winter.

The shopping spree has increased demand and inevitably pushed prices further up, as market actors realise governments are willing to foot the expensive bill to salvage the cold season.

In the past few years, the Netherland’s Title Transfer Facility (TTF) overtook the UK’s National Balancing Point (NBP) to become the premier gas trading hub in Europe. TTF has gained favor over NBP largely due to its location closer to more markets, supply pipelines, plentiful storage, and also the Netherlands’ Gate LNG import terminal, which has become paramount given Europe’s growing need for imported gas. As imports have grown, so has TTF in terms of its volume and its liquidity — a trend that is expected to continue as the European gas market evolves. TTF now shares the stage with Henry Hub and the Japan Korea Marker (JKM) as one of the key global benchmarks for LNG and natural gas. Though traders use TTF as a price index for LNG, much like its cross-Atlantic peer, Henry Hub, TTF is also heavily influenced by regional pipeline gas and storage levels. Today, we’ll look at the history of Europe’s premier natural gas index and the fundamentals affecting it.

RBN is pleased to announce that today’s blog was prompted by one of the winning submissions in our first-ever blog writing competition held for students in Texas A&M’s Trading Risk & Investment Program (TRIP). For more about the contest and links to other top entries, click here.

LNG exports have fast become a major influence on U.S. natural gas market dynamics, and likewise, the global market is increasingly impacted by LNG exported from the U.S. As we’ve discussed often in the RBN blogosphere, including An LNG Market for All Seasons, the top two destination markets are consistently Europe and Asia. But while spot Asian LNG has increasingly been priced based on JKM, the price marker used for indexing LNG deliveries to Europe has recently been in flux.

Up until 15 years ago, the majority of European natural gas was indexed off of crude oil, often with multi-year arrangements. Using crude as an index provided the price certainty needed to attract buyers and sellers as market participants could tap into the advantages offered by a robust and well-documented crude futures market. But as the European gas market has evolved, it has been able to wean itself off oil indexing. In 2005, over 90% of European gas imports were indexed to oil. This figure declined to 60% by 2012, 40% by 2015, and to only 25% by 2019, according to data from the International Energy Agency (IEA). The ability of natural gas to trade independently from oil is a sign that the European gas market has matured and developed the mechanisms to allow for active trading and price discovery.

rbnenergydotcom/youre-the-best-around-how-ttf-became-a-premier-natural-gas-trading-hub-and-global-benchmark

.euronewsdotcom/my-europe/2022/08/30/energy-crisis-how-a-dutch-virtual-market-sets-gas-prices-for-the-whole-of-europe

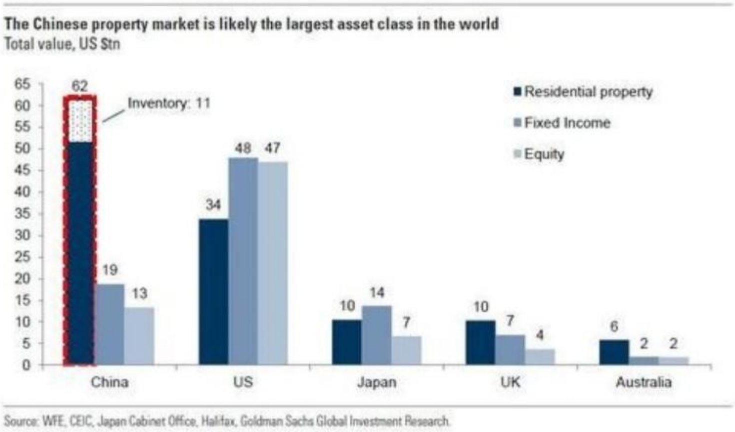
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Title_Transfer_Facility

Stats, markets, government: The Chinese property market is likely the largest asset class in the world, says 62 trillion for residiential vs 34 trillion residential in the united states..

Bottom line, the January loan and credit data came red hot as we expected and as China warned, clearly expecting this outcome and hinting that there is much more to come (no surprise that the PBOC released more than 1trillion yuan in new liquidity in just the past three days). The acceleration in bank loans reflected policy support - commercial banks extended more loans to property developers after the "property 16 measures", and policy banks' credit facility targeting at infrastructure investment in recent months likely also added to overall RMB loan growth. At the same time, the sharp upward reversal in TSF growth indicates that Beijing has fully capitulated when it comes to new containing the next credit bubble and is now pursuing it wholeheartedly as it hopes to reverse three years of subdued growth by China's economy during its Zero Covid nightmare.

The question is how soon and how extensively China's massive credit impulse reboot will flood the world. One thing is clear: the burst higher in credit will lead to an even more powerful bounce in Chinese stocks in the near term.

How widely that spreads across the globe remains to be seen and will be a function of how much inflation China manages to export to the world in the next year. This a topic we discussed in "Nikileaks Spooks Markets That Chinese Reopening May Be Inflationary, But Wall Street Disagrees." But what is perhaps most important is that the wobbly foundation of the world's biggest asset bubble - China's property market..


The Chinese property market is likely the largest asset class in the world
Total value, US $tn

Source: WFE, CEIC, Japan Cabinet Office, Halifax, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research.

... is about to be reinforced with monetary concrete, as discussed in "In Huge Policy Reversal, China Will Ease "Three Red Lines" Rule To Kickstart World's Biggest Asset Bubble", and not long after expect all global "high beta" asset classes to follow suit.

War, Erdogan, iran, middle east: feb10 **israel bombins in syria, recent..**

Holy roman empire, government, history, Germany: feb28 The first welfare state was Imperial Germany (1871-1918), where the Bismarck government introduced social security in 1889.22 In the early 20th century, the United Kingdom introduced social security around 1913, and adopted the welfare state with the National Insurance Act 1946, during the Attlee government (1945-51).24 In the countries of western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, social welfare is mainly provided by the government out of the national tax revenues, and to a lesser extent
by non-government organizations (NGOs), and charities (social and religious).“4 A right to social security and an adequate standard of living is asserted in Articles 22 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The idea was first put forward, at Bismarck's behest, in 1881 by Germany's Emperor, William the First, in a ground-breaking letter to the German Parliament. William wrote: “...those who are disabled from work by age and invalidity have a well-grounded claim to care from the state."
Bismarck was motivated to introduce social insurance in Germany both in order to promote the well-being of workers in order to keep the German economy operating at maximum efficiency, and to stave-off calls for more radical socialist alternatives. Despite his impeccable right-wing credentials, Bismarck would be called a socialist for introducing these programs, as would President Roosevelt 70 years later. In his own speech to the Reichstag during the 1881 debates, Bismarck would reply: "Call it socialism or whatever you like. It is the same to me."

They would add unemployment insurance in 1927, making their system complete.

The German system provided contributory retirement benefits and disability benefits as well. Participation was mandatory and contributions were taken from the employee, the employer and the government. Coupled with the workers' compensation program established in 1884 and the "sickness" insurance enacted the year before, this gave the Germans a comprehensive system of income security based on social insurance principles. (They would add unemployment insurance in 1927, making their system complete.)

Check if this myth is actually a thing..

One persistent myth about the German program is that it adopted age 65 as the standard retirement age because that was Bismarck's age. This myth is important because Germany was one of the models America looked to in designing its own Social Security plan; and the myth is that America adopted age 65 as the age for retirement benefits because this was the age adopted by Germany when they created their program. In fact, Germany initially set age 70 as the retirement age (and Bismarck himself was 74 at the time) and it was not until 27 years later (in 1916) that the age was lowered to 65. By that time, Bismarck had been dead for 18 years.
President Roosevelt’s New Deal By Catherine A. Paul
“I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Photo: FDR Library
The New Deal was enacted from 1933 to 1939 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide immediate economic relief from the Great Depression and to address necessary reforms in industry, agriculture, finance, water power, labor, and housing. The New Deal was grounded in the belief that the power of the federal government was needed to lift

America from the Great Depression (Library of Congress, n.d.). These programs signaled both an expansion of federal power and a transformation in the relationship between the federal government and the American people (Hopkins, 2011).

Public Works Administration Project: Bonneville Power and Navigation Dam, Oregon
Photo: National Archives and Records Administration ID: 195806

Many of the New Deal policies were enacted in the first three months of President Roosevelt’s time in office, which became known as the “Hundred Days.” Roosevelt’s first objective was to address widespread unemployment by establishing agencies such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Such agencies dispensed emergency and short-term government aid and provided temporary jobs, such as work on construction projects and national forests (New Deal, n.d.).

Before 1935, the New Deal’s primary focus was on revitalizing business and agricultural communities. The National Recovery Administration (NRA) shaped industrial regulations governing trade practices, wages, hours, child labor, and collective bargaining. Moreover, the New Deal sought to regulate the country’s financial hierarchy to prevent another incident like the stock market crash of 1929 and the bank failures that followed. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) granted federal insurance for bank deposits in Federal Reserve System member banks, and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) protected individuals from fraudulent stock market practices. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) controlled the production of staple crops through cash subsidies to farmers in order to raise prices, and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) covered seven states to supply cheap electricity, prevent floods, improve navigation, and produce nitrates (New Deal, n.d.).

Public Works Administration Project: Bonneville Power and Navigation Dam, Oregon
Photo: National Archives and Records Administration ID: 195806

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(TVA) covered seven states to supply cheap electricity, prevent floods, improve navigation, and produce nitrates (New Deal, n.d.).

government, history: In 1935, the New Deal shifted its attention to labor and urban groups. The Wagner Act increased the authority of the federal government in industrial relations and gave further organizing power to labor unions under the execution of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). In addition, one of the most notable New Deal programs, the Social Security Board (SSB), was enacted in 1935 and 1939, providing benefits to the elderly and to widows, unemployment compensation, and disability insurance. Moreover, maximum working hours and a minimum wage were set in some industries in 1938

individuals from fraudulent stock market practices. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) controlled the production of staple crops through cash subsidies to farmers in order to raise prices, and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) covered seven states to supply cheap electricity, prevent floods, improve navigation, and produce nitrates (New Deal, n.d.).

1935 New Deal parody cartoon by Vaughn Shoemaker Photo: Public Domain

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stats, government: feb28 Communism’s problems with SOE's are likely still demonstrated in some areas of the U.S. economy, where through years of mergers and

acquisitions, many of their industries have become dominated by corporations just as large as those seen in communist countries like China. To add to the problem, many of America’s fortune 500 -- like JPM in the financial services sector, or google in the tech sector -- recieve massive subsidies -- usually in the form of anti-competitive government regulation, rather than the usual government tax breaks most are used to seeing the headlines.

" due to the credit system in China, liquidity does not always flow to where it is most needed. The banking system reflexively tends to favor the SOE sector,

often leaving the weaker parts of the economy like the household and non-state corporate sector starved of much-needed fiscal assistance.
But when broad money growth begins to rise in real terms, this is normally a good sign credit is beginning to flow more freely to all corners of the economy. This is what we are now seeing, with year-on-year
M1 growth rising to 6.7% from 3.7% last month, and real M1 now at 4.6%, its highest since late 2021."

Silicon Valley Watcher

Ex-Financial Times Journalist Tom Foremski @ the Collision of Technology and Media

February
17,
2010

Google's Billions In Internet Subsidies...

Google is the world's single largest user of Internet bandwidth. But it doesn't have to pay for most of the bandwidth it consumes, in the form of its spiderbots copying web pages, and YouTube video streams.

A study in December 2008 estimated Google's 'free' bandwidth use to be about $6.9 billion, today it could be double that amount. [Precursor study- December 2008]

Scott Cleland, head of Precursor, is a leading Google critic especially of its position supporting net neutrality. Google has been lobbying the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to maintain net neutrality regulations, which prevent Telcos from charging companies for bandwidth based on usage. He claims that Google is pushing net neutrality because it is the biggest beneficiary of such rules.

This is from his post: How much should Google be subsidized? | The Precursor Blog by Scott Cleland

- Google is world's largest Internet user and uses 21 times more bandwidth than it pays for.

- Google's lobbying for open access restrictions on auction of 700 Mhz spectrum resulted in $7 billion less money for the US treasury.

- Google received $89 million in taxpayer subsidies from the state of North Carolina to build a data center. It does not disclose subsidies received from other data center sites.

- Google's recent push for 1 gigabit networks could force other Telcos to also offer similar networks. Yet Google would be the biggest beneficiary of such high speed networks.

- Google is lobbying the FCC over what broadband providers can charge consumers because it takes attention away from its own massive use of Internet bandwidth.

Google's massive hidden implicit subsidy in the FCC's proposed open Internet regulations is that it is acceptable for broadband providers to charge consumers more for faster service, but it is unacceptable for broadband providers to charge web companies like Google more for more speed.

He makes the point:

Why should a consumer have to pay more for more broadband speed and capacity, but Google should not?

Mr Cleland's criticism of Google comes from his long standing position representing the Telcos and their ability to charge companies such as Google for bandwidth use.

Both Google and the Telcos are spending a lot of money trying to influence the FCC. [Google Spends Millions To Influence Washington]

While Google might be protected in the US from such charges, at least for now, that might change in other countries. Recently, Spanish Telco Telefonica spoke about charging Google.

Google has called Mr Cleland a "payola pundit" because of his Telco funding.

It's clear that Google has made an enemy of the Telcos, both in its net neutrality lobbying and because of its mobile strategy.

- - -

Please see:

Analysis: GOOG Messes Up Mobile Strategy As Jittery Telcos Fear Becoming "Dumb Pipes"

Goldman Sachs has long been one of the most powerful and respected banks in the country, but its reputation has taken a serious hit since the financial crisis. The firm's CEO, Lloyd Blankfein, has been publicly flogged by lawmakers and recently testified in an insider trading case.

William Cohan, author of *Money and Power: How Goldman Sachs Came to Rule the World*, says the Wall Street firm's involvement in financial scandals isn't anything new, even if people don't seem to remember past incidents.

"For many years, the firm was constantly in and out of trouble," he tells Renee Montagne on *Morning Edition*. "In 1929-1930, they created the Goldman Sachs trading corporation that nearly bankrupted all the investors that invested in it; it was a bit of a ponzi scheme."
In the 1940s, Cohan says, the firm was involved in an antitrust lawsuit by the Justice Department that could have put it out of business had the decision gone the other way, and it was also involved in the bankruptcy of Penn Central railroad in 1970.

"I would say its reputation for pristine excellence — the envy of Wall Street, if you will — has really been in and around since the 1980s," Cohan says.

The scandal that many people do remember nowadays comes from the financial crisis of 2008. In September of that year, it looked like "all of Wall Street was literally imploding overnight," Cohan says, with Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley the last two remaining firms. The Federal Reserve decided to make those two bank holding companies, an unprecedented move that gave them access to the resources of the Federal Reserve.

Because so many of its former bankers have gone into government work, Goldman Sachs has an unflattering nickname — Government Sachs. One of the founding partners of the firm, Henry Goldman, was asked by the Cabinet members who would create the Federal Reserve system in 1913 how he would go about doing it, Cohan says, and they mostly followed his lead.

William Cohan was a managing director of JP Morgan Chase and now works as a contributing editor for *Fortune*. He lives in New York City.

Cohan also points to Sidney Weinberg, a longtime Goldman Sachs partner, who advised presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Eisenhower on financial matters. One day on the subway, Weinberg came up with the name of a man he thought should be Treasury secretary, Cohan says. Weinberg told Eisenhower, who had never heard of the man, and the president appointed him right away.

"This had been going on for a very, very long time, and just continued through every senior partner of Goldman Sachs up until Hank Paulson, as we know, when he was named Treasury secretary," Cohan says.

Unlike other firms that encourage their partners to stay around longer, Goldman Sachs has what Cohan calls an "up and out" mentality that encourages employees to leave after five to seven years.

"They talk about public service, giving something back...and [having] a responsibility to make available their talents in many different parts of our society. And one of the ways to do that is of course through government service, and that is very different than other firms," Cohan says.

nprdotorg/2011/04/11/135246269/goldman-sachs-long-history-of-money-and-power

He acknowledges that all of Wall Street in general exerts a tremendous influence over Washington, D.C., in terms of helping to write the regulations of financial systems, but he argues that Goldman Sachs in particular has used its power.

"Goldman Sachs especially has been very, very good at getting right up against that line of wrongdoing. They know exactly where that line is, and they're very careful most of the time to just stay on this side, and they help influence the way regulations are enforced," he says.

Excerpt: 'Money And Power'

WILLIAM D. COHAN

MONEY AND POWER
BY WILLIAM D. COHAN
HARDCOVER, 672 PAGES
DOUBLEDAY
LIST PRICE: $30.50

The Pyrrhic Victory

Wall Street has always been a dangerous place. Firms have been going in and out of business ever since speculators first gathered under a buttonwood tree near the southern tip of Manhattan in the late eighteenth century. Despite the ongoing risks, during great swaths of its mostly charmed 142 years, Goldman Sachs has been both envied and feared for having the best talent, the best clients, and the best political connections, and for its ability to alchemize them into extreme profitability and market prowess.

Indeed, of the many ongoing mysteries about Goldman Sachs, one of the most overarching is just how it makes so much money, year in and year out, in good times and in bad, all the while revealing as little as possible to the outside world about how it does it. Another— equally confounding— mystery is the firm's steadfast, zealous belief in its ability to manage its multitude of internal and external conflicts better than any other beings on the planet. The combination of these two genetic strains— the ability to make boatloads of money at will and to appear to manage conflicts that have humbled, then humiliated lesser firms— has made Goldman Sachs the envy of its financial- services brethren.

But it is also something else altogether: a symbol of immutable global power and unparalleled connections, which Goldman is shameless in exploiting for its own benefit, with little concern for how its success affects the rest of us. The firm has been described as everything from "a cunning cat that always lands on its feet" to, now famously, "a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming its blood funnel into anything that smells like money," by *Rolling Stone* writer Matt Taibbi. The firm's inexorable success leaves people wondering: Is Goldman Sachs better than everyone else, or have they found ways to win time and time again by cheating?

But in the early twenty- first century, thanks to the fallout from Goldman's very success, the firm is looking increasingly vulnerable. To be sure, the firm has survived plenty of previous crises, starting with the Depression, when much of the firm's capital was lost in a scam of its own creation, and again in the late 1940s, when Goldman was one of seventeen Wall Street firms put on trial and accused of collusion by the federal government. In the past forty years, as a consequence of numerous scandals involving rogue traders, suicidal clients, and charges of insider trading, the firm has come far closer— repeatedly— to financial collapse than its reputation would attest.

Each of these previous threats changed Goldman in some meaningful way and forced the firm to adapt to the new laws that either the market or regulators imposed. This time will be no different. What is different for Goldman now, though, is that for the first time since 1932— when Sidney Weinberg, then Goldman's senior partner, knew that he could quickly reach his friend, President- elect Franklin Delano Roosevelt— the firm no longer appears to have sympathetic high- level relationships in Washington. Goldman's friends in high places, so crucial to the firm's extraordinary success, are abandoning it. Indeed, in today's charged political climate, which is polarized along socioeconomic lines, Goldman seems particularly isolated and demonized.

Certainly Lloyd Blankfein, Goldman's fifty-six- year- old chairman and CEO, has no friend in President Barack Obama, despite being invited to a recent state dinner for the president of China. According to *Newsweek* columnist Jonathan Alter's book *The Promise,* the "angriest" Obama got during his first year in office was when he heard Blankfein justify the firm's $16.2 billion of bonuses in 2009 by claiming "Goldman was never in danger of collapse" during the financial crisis that began in 2007. According

to Alter, President Obama told a friend that Blankfein's statement was "flatly untrue" and added for good measure, "These guys want to be paid like rock stars when all they're doing is lip- synching capitalism."
Complicating the firm's efforts to be better understood by the American public— a group Goldman has never cared to serve— is a long-standing reticence among many of the firm's current and former executives, bankers, and traders to engage with the media in a constructive way. Even retired Goldman partners feel compelled to check with the firm's disciplined administrative bureaucracy, run by John F. W. Rogers— a former chief of staff to James Baker, both at the White House and at the State Department— before agreeing to be interviewed. Most have likely signed confidentiality or nondisparagement agreements as a condition of their departures from the firm. Should they make themselves available, unlike bankers and traders at other firms— where self-aggrandizement in the press at the expense of colleagues is typical— Goldman types stay firmly on the message that what matters most is the Goldman team, not any one individual on it.

"They're extremely disciplined," explained one private- equity executive who both competes and invests with Goldman. "They understand probably better than anybody how to never take the game face off. You'll never get a Goldman banker after three beers saying, 'You know, listen, my colleagues are [worthless].' They just don't do that the way other guys will, whether it's because they tend to keep the uniform on for a longer stretch of time so they're not prepared to damage their squad, or whether or not it's because they're afraid of crossing the powers that be, once they've taken the blood oath... they maintain that discipline in a kind of eerily successful way."

Excerpted from Money and Power *by William D. Cohan. Copyright 2011 by William D. Cohan. Excerpted by permission of Doubleday. All rights reserved.*

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nprdotorg/2011/04/11/135246269/goldman-sachs-long-history-of-money-and-power

Many could argue today that large tech corporations in America have become similar to China’s state run SEO’s, where CEO’s can be “disappeared” for openly questioning government policy, and PRC boards have full access to all corporate operations.

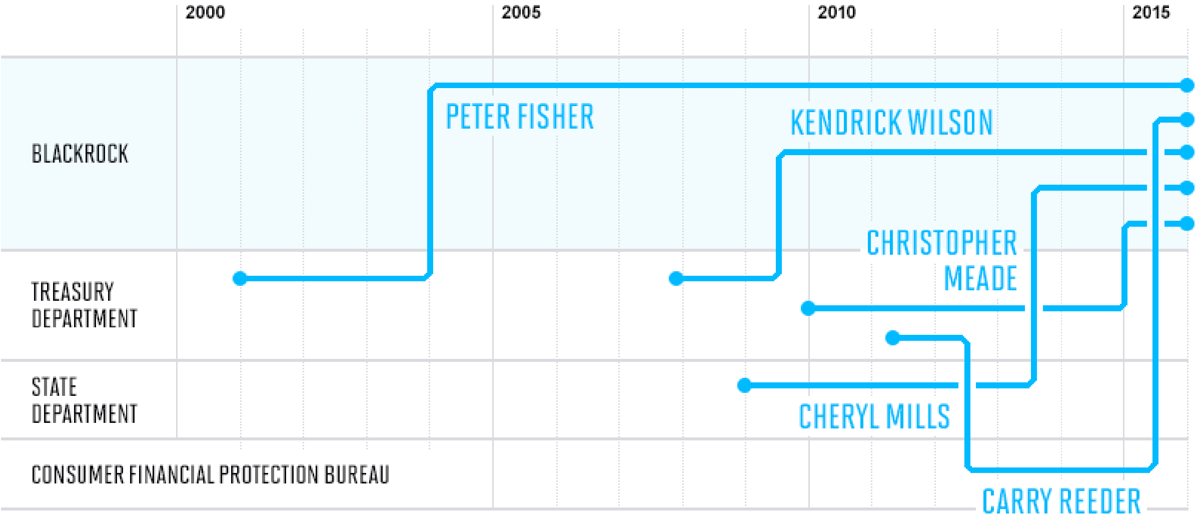
Is Wechat any different than Facebook? Maybe in the not-too-distant-past, but today? With the introduction of COVID lockdowns, Facebook now monitors and censors just like Chinese tech firms, even openly collaberating with U.S government agencies--the exact same thing the PRC forces companies like Tencent and and Alibaba to do to their customers.

More here..

these days it’s BlackRock (BLK) that seems to be in tight with Treasury and State. Its lobbying effort, once non-existent,

has picked up steam. And several senior hires at the company have come from the capital.
We charted a few BlackRock employees path to the asset management firm, through various government agencies. A few notes: Ken Wilson left the Treasury Department in January 2009, but did not join BlackRock until January 2010. Cheryl Mills is on the board of directors at BlackRock, and is the CEO of BlackIvy and an advisor to the Clinton campaign.

For more on government jobs, watch this Fortune video:



WILSON LEFT THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT IN JANUARY 2009 BUT DID NOT JOIN BLACKROCK UNTIL JANUARY 2010. MILLS IS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT BLACKROCK. SHE IS ALSO THE CEO OF BLACKIVY AND AN ADVISOR TO THE CLINTON CAMPAIGN.

read later: How Goldman Sachs Helped Tear Denmark's Government Apart

anish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt scraped together votes Thursday to partially privatize the country’s state-owned energy company, but the controversial deal has fractured her governing coalition.

The dispute over the deal prompted the Socialist People’s Party to quit the prime minister’s center-left coalition earlier in the day, Reuters reports. “It has been a dramatic 24 hours,” Socialist Party leader Annette Vilhelmsen said as she made the announcement. “We do not wish to be part of a government at all costs.”

The deal allows a group of investors headed by Goldman Sachs to buy an 18 percent stake of Dong Energy for $1.5 billion, as part of a broader restructuring that will cut the utility’s costs, reduce debt and increase energy investments, according to Bloomberg.

The sale proved especially divisive because of a provision that would give Goldman Sachs veto powers in key areas like management changes. It was opposed by 68 percent of Danes in a recent poll, and thousands of protesters assembled outside the Danish parliament building on Wednesday.

Vilhelmsen had expressed optimism Wednesday she could unite her party around the prime minister’s plan, but was unable to overcome a staunch opposition. Vilhelmsen also said she will be resigning as the party’s leade

The withdrawal of the Socialist People’s Party from the governing coalition is a major blow for Thorning-Schmidt. She’ll hold on to power for now, since the Socialist party will continue to support the government from outside the coalition, according to Vilhelmsen.

But a poll released Friday indicates that 54 percent of Danes believe the prime minister has been weakened by the Socialists’ exit.

“The Goldman angle will be forgotten in a few weeks time,” Jens Hoff, a political science professor at University of Copenhagen told Bloomberg. “What remains will be that the Socialist People’s Party left the government.”

[*Reuters*]

https://time.com/3638/denmark-government-goldman-sachs/

church, journal, history, government, stats: The Glorious Revolution

The English Declaration of Indulgence was reissued on 27 April 1688, leading to open resistance from Anglicans. Few clergy read out the Declaration in Church.[9]

William Sancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, and six other Bishops presented a petition to the King declaring the Declaration of Indulgence illegal. James promptly had the seven bishops tried for rebellion and sedition; however, the bishops were acquitted.[10] Many Presbyterians were sceptical of the king's intentions, while other dissenters, including the Quakers and the Baptists, gave thanks to the king for the Declaration of Indulgence.[11]

The declarations were voided when James II was deposed in the Glorious Revolution. The Bill of Rights abolished the suspending power.[12]

The Indulgence was first issued for Scotland on 12 February and then for England on 4 April 1687.[2] An early step towards establishing freedom of religion in the British Isles, it was cut short by the Glorious Revolution.

The Declaration granted broad religious freedom in England by suspending penal laws enforcing conformity to the Church of England and allowing people to worship in their homes or chapels as they saw fit, and it ended the requirement of affirming religious oaths before gaining employment in government office.

By use of the royal suspending power, the king lifted the religious penal laws and granted toleration to the various Christian denominations, Catholic and Protestant, within his kingdoms. The Declaration of Indulgence was supported by William Penn, who was widely perceived to be its instigator.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_of_Indulgence_(1687)

Most Protestants had been willing to tolerate James' personal Catholicism, since he seemed unlikely to produce more children and the heir was his Protestant daughter Mary II of England. The unexpected birth of his son James Francis on 10 June meant the prospect of a Catholic dynasty, with the trial of the bishops seen as part of a wider attack on the Church of England. Their acquittal led to anti-Catholic riots throughout England and Scotland and ultimately the deposition of James in November 1688, although five of the seven were subsequently removed from office for refusing to swear allegiance to his successors.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Bishops

The Earl of Shaftesbury, a former government minister and a leading opponent of Catholicism, attempted to have James excluded from the line of succession.[7] Some members of Parliament even proposed that the crown go to Charles's illegitimate son, James Scott, who became the Duke of Monmouth.[8] In 1679, with the Exclusion Bill - which would exclude the King's brother and heir presumptive, James, Duke of York, from the line of succession - in danger of passing, Charles II dissolved Parliament.[9] Two further Parliaments were elected in 1680 and 1681, but were dissolved for the same reason.[10]

After the Rye House Plot of 1683, an attempt to assassinate both Charles and James, Monmouth went into self-imposed exile in the Netherlands, and gathered supporters in The Hague.[11] Monmouth was a Protestant and had toured the South West of England in 1680, where he had been greeted amicably by crowds in towns such as Chard and Taunton.[12] So long as Charles II remained on the throne, Monmouth was content to live a life of pleasure in Holland, while still hoping to accede peaceably to the throne. The accession of James II and coronation at Westminster Abbey on 23 April 1685 put an end to these hopes.[13]

The Monmouth rebellion was planned in Holland and coordinated with another rebellion in Scotland led by Archibald Campbell, the Earl of Argyll.[14][15] Several areas of England were considered as potential locations for rebellion, including Cheshire and Lancashire along with the South West, as these were seen as having the highest number of opponents of the monarchy.[16] Argyll and Monmouth both began their expeditions from Holland, where James's nephew and son-in-law, stadtholder William III of Orange, had not detained them or put a stop to their recruitment efforts.[17] Argyll sailed to Scotland and, on arriving there, raised recruits mainly from his own clan, the Campbells,[18] as part of the Scottish revolt. He had previously been involved in the Rye House Plot of 1683.[19][20]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monmouth_Rebellion

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monmouth_Rebellion

After the Restoration of the monarchy under Charles II in 1660 there was concern among some members of Parliament, former republicans and sections of the Protestant population of England that the King's relationship with France under Louis XIV and the other Catholic rulers of Europe was too close. Anti-Catholic sentiment, which associated Roman Catholicism with absolutism, was widespread, and focused particular attention on the succession to the English throne. While Charles was publicly Anglican, he and his brother were known to have Catholic sympathies. These suspicions were confirmed in 1673 when James was discovered to have converted to Roman Catholicism.

In 1681, triggered by the opposition-invented Popish Plot, the Exclusion Bill was introduced in the House of Commons, which would have excluded James from the succession. Charles outmanoeuvred his opponents and dissolved the Oxford Parliament. This left his opponents with no lawful method of preventing James's succession, and rumours of plots and conspiracies abounded. With the "country party" in disarray, Lord Melville, Lord Leven, and Lord Shaftesbury, leader of the opposition to Charles's rule, fled to Holland where Shaftesbury soon died. Many well-known members of Parliament and noblemen of the "country party" would soon be known as Whigs, a faction name that stuck.

News of the plot leaked when Josiah Keeling gave information on it to Sir Leoline Jenkins,[18] and the plot was publicly discovered 12 June 1683. Keeling had contacted a courtier, who put him in touch with George Legge, 1st Baron Dartmouth, and Dartmouth had brought him to Jenkins, Secretary of State.[19] Keeling's testimony was used at the trials of Walcott, Hone, Sidney, and Charles Bateman; and it earned him a pardon.[18] It also started a lengthy process of incriminated persons confessing, in the hope of clemency. Using his brother, Keeling was able to get further direct evidence of conspiracy, and Jenkins brought in Rumsey and West, who told him what they knew, from 23 June;[20] West had volunteered information via Laurence Hyde, 1st Earl of Rochester, on the 22nd. Over several days West explained the Rye House plot and his part in purchasing arms, supposed to be for America. He did little to incriminate the Monmouth group; his testimony was later used against Walcott and Sidney. West received a pardon in December 1684.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rye_House_Plot

The invitation caused William to carry out his existing plans to land with a large Dutch army, culminating in the Glorious Revolution during which James was deposed and replaced by William and Mary as joint rulers. William and Mary had previously asked for such an invitation when William started to assemble an invasion force in April of that year. This request was done through secret correspondence that had been taking place since April 1687, between them and several leading English politicians, regarding how best to counter the pro-Catholic policies of James. William later justified his invasion by the fact that he was invited, which helped to disguise the military, cultural, and political impact that the Dutch regime had on England when his reign was unpopular and he feared a popular uprising.[2]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invitation_to_William

James VII and II (14 October 1633 O.S. – 16 September 1701)[a] was King of England and King of Ireland as **James II**, and King of Scotland as **James VII**[4] from the death of his elder brother, Charles II, on 6 February 1685. He was deposed in the Glorious Revolution of 1688. He was the last Catholic monarch of England, Scotland, and Ireland. His reign is now remembered primarily for conflicts over religious tolerance, but it also involved struggles over the principles of absolutism and the divine right of kings. His deposition ended a century of political and civil strife in England by confirming the primacy of the English Parliament over the Crown.[5]

James succeeded to the thrones of England, Ireland, and Scotland following the death of his brother with widespread support in all three countries, largely because the principles of eligibility based on divine right and birth were widely accepted.[6] Tolerance of his personal Catholicism did not extend to tolerance of Catholicism in general, and the English and Scottish parliaments refused to pass his measures. When James attempted to impose them by decree, this was met with opposition; some academics have however argued that it was a political principle, rather than a religious one, that ultimately led to his removal.[7]

In June 1688, two events turned dissent into a crisis. Firstly, the birth of James's son and heir James Francis Edward on 10 June raised the prospect of establishing a Roman Catholic dynasty and excluding his Anglican daughter Mary and her Protestant husband William III of Orange from the line of succession. Secondly, the prosecution of the Seven Bishops for seditious libel was viewed as further evidence of an assault on the Church of England, and their acquittal on 30 June destroyed his political authority in England. The ensuing anti-Catholic riots in England and Scotland led to a general feeling that only James's removal from the throne could prevent a civil war.[8]

Leading members of the English political class invited William of Orange to assume the English throne. When William landed in Brixham on 5 November 1688, James's army deserted and he went into exile in France on 23 December. In February 1689, a special Convention Parliament held that James had "vacated" the English throne and installed William and Mary as joint monarchs, thereby establishing the principle that sovereignty derived from Parliament, not birth. James landed in Ireland on 14 March 1689 in an attempt to recover his kingdoms, but, despite a simultaneous rising in Scotland, in April a Scottish Convention followed that of England, both finding that James had "forfeited" the throne and offered it to William and Mary. After his defeat at the Battle of the Boyne in July 1690, James returned to France, where he spent the rest of his life in exile at Saint-Germain, protected by Louis XIV. While his contemporary opponents often portrayed him as an absolutist tyrant, some historians – beginning in the 20th century – have praised James for advocating religious tolerance. More recent scholarship has tended to take a middle ground between these views.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_II_of_England

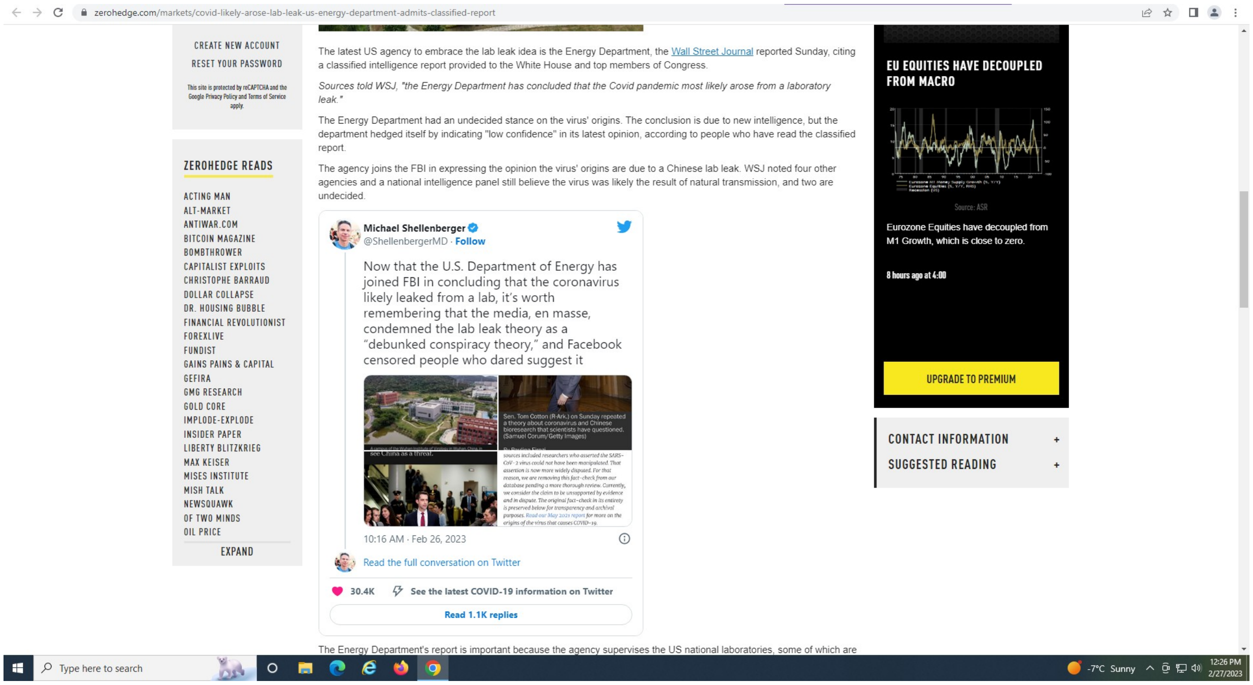
Feb27 Power-Grid Attacks Up 71% And Biden Acolytes Tell Us It's All Those White Supremacists

COVID "Likely Arose" From Lab Leak, US Energy Department Admits In Classified Report

US officials wouldn't shed more color on why the Energy Department changed its views on the origins of Covid. They said the agency and FBI have come to the same conclusions for different reasons.

After the pandemic struck, the mainstream media and Big Tech social media platforms labeled anyone as a "conspiracy theorist" for even mentioning the lab leak origin.

Recall Zero Hedge was banned from Twitter in February 2020 after we "published an article linking a Chinese scientist to the outbreak of the fast-spreading coronavirus."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MISH TALK
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OF TWO MINDS
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EU EQUITIES HAVE DECOUPLED FROM MACRO
Source: ASR
Eurozone Equities have decoupled from M1 Growth, which is close to zero.
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UPGRADE TO PREMIUM
CONTACT INFORMATION +
SUGGESTED READING +
Type here to search
-7°C Sunny
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2/27/2023

The latest US agency to embrace the lab leak idea is the Energy Department, the Wall Street Journal reported Sunday, citing a classified intelligence report provided to the White House and top members of Congress.

Sources told WSJ, "the Energy Department has concluded that the Covid pandemic most likely arose from a laboratory leak."

The Energy Department had an undecided stance on the virus' origins. The conclusion is due to new intelligence, but the department hedged itself by indicating "low confidence" in its latest opinion, according to people who have read the classified report.

The agency joins the FBI in expressing the opinion the virus' origins are due to a Chinese lab leak. WSJ noted four other agencies and a national intelligence panel still believe the virus was likely the result of natural transmission, and two are undecided.

Michael Shellenberger @ShellenbergerMD · Follow

Now that the U.S. Department of Energy has joined FBI in concluding that the coronavirus likely leaked from a lab, it's worth remembering that the media, en masse, condemned the lab leak theory as a "debunked conspiracy theory," and Facebook censored people who dared suggest it

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) on Sunday repeated a theory about coronavirus and Chinese bioresearch that scientists have questioned. (Samuel Corum/Getty Images)

see China as a threat.

sources included researchers who asserted the SARS-CoV-2 virus could not have been manipulated. That assertion is now more widely disputed. For that reason, we are removing this fact-check from our database pending a more thorough review. Currently, we consider the claim to be unsupported by evidence and in dispute. The original fact-check in its entirety is preserved below for transparency and archival purposes. Read our May 2021 report for more on the origins of the virus that causes COVID-19.

10:16 AM · Feb 26, 2023

Read the full conversation on Twitter

30.4K See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Read 1.1K replies

The Energy Department's report is important because the agency supervises the US national laboratories, some of which are

COVID "Likely Arose" From Lab Leak, US Energy Department Admits In Classified Report

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, FEB 26, 2023 - 02:30 PM

The argument that Covid-19 leaked from the virology lab in Wuhan, China (the only Level 4 lab in Asia) is growing louder after years of Big Tech and governments censoring the Covid debate.

Last summer, the WHO, an avid protector of the Chinese government, made a sharp change in attitude by admitting the possibility of a lab leak. A Senate Committee on Health Education, Labor, and Pensions noted last fall, "substantial evidence suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic was the result of a research-related incident associated with a laboratory in Wuhan." The FBI and other intelligence agencies have also investigated the Wuhan Lab.

It was later revealed that left-wing faux-news site BuzzFeed had complained to Twitter about Zero Hedge supposedly releasing "the personal information of a scientist from Wuhan," but all we had done was print information that was publicly available and ask questions about whether a lab leak may have been plausible than the seafood market. Three years later, our questioning appears to have been correct so far.

A recent Twitter Files drop has shown the incestuous relationship between Big Tech and the government rigging the debate around Covid origins.

... and even reporters have asked Anthony Fauci questions about the origins.

The complex narrative that governments, non-governmental organizations, Big Tech, and mainstream media built around Covid with shaky assumptions and misdirections is falling apart -- hence the latest pivot by the Energy Department.

Zelensky Berates, Threatens Unsupportive Americans

This is an example of how *not* to win over the American people: shame and berate them while claiming Washington's 'global leadership' is in peril.

"**If they do not change their opinion**...**they will lose NATO, they will lose the clout** of the United States, they will lose the leadership position they are enjoying in the world," Zelensky said at a press conference late last week, in reference to the US public... As if the average American struggling to get by amid soaring food and cost-of-living prices stays awake at night worrying about US global "clout":

A reporter had asked what Zelensky would tell the "growing number of Americans" who are increasingly critical of the billions in taxpayer money being shoveled into Kiev's coffers. Officials have lately voiced concern over "Ukraine fatigue" and waning support from the public for the Biden administration's Ukraine policies, also amid growing GOP resistance.

"The US is never going to give up on a NATO member state," Zelensky continued as part of the response. He then claimed Russia would "enter the Baltic states, NATO member states, and then the US will have to send their sons and daughters exactly the way as we are sending their [sic] sons and daughters to war."

"They will be dying," he then declared dramatically, before going on to claim that interrupting the flow of aid would cause Washington to **"lose the support of a country with 40 million population, with millions of children."**

Zelensky then posed: "Are American children any different from ours?"

Republican representative from Arizona Andy Biggs was one among those who quickly rebutted the Ukrainian leader's comments, pointing out the ridiculousness of the unusually confrontational rhetoric directed at the Western public generally...

"We don’t need Zelensky lecturing Americans on what to think and do," Rep. Biggs said on Twitter. **"We have absolutely every right to question and end all aid to Ukraine."**

Stats: why chicago has such a high crime rate, in bullet-points..

These are the facts that city leaders should be obsessed about changing:

- The average arrest rate for major crimes in Chicago fell to just 5% in 2022.
- There were no police available in 2021 for more than 400,000 high-priority 911 dispatches. That included 15,000 assaults in progress, 1,300 instances of people shot, 14,000 instances of domestic battery, and many more serious crimes.
- Cook County Chief Judge Tim Evans’ no bail, low-cash bail “reforms” of 2017 have, since then, resulted in an additional 15,000 new offenses for defendants already awaiting trial.
- Every day there are about 1,000 more defendants accused of violent crimes on the street than there were in 2016 due to the expansion of electronic monitoring, Many of them are felons that end up committing more heinous crimes.
- The number of beat cops on the streets since Mayor Lightfoot took office is down by nearly 1,500, a drop of nearly 20%.

War, Russia: Feb27 "We're Dying Slowly": East Palestine Residents Report Bizarre Health Issues After Toxic Train Derailment

"We're Dying Slowly": East Palestine Residents Report Bizarre Health Issues After Toxic Train Derailment

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, FEB 26, 2023 - 07:30 PM

Residents of East Palestine, Ohio have been reporting **bizarre symptoms** following the Feb. 3 Norfolk Southern train derailment and subsequent toxic explosion, the *NY Post* reports.

"Doctors say I definitely have the chemicals in me but there's no one in town who can run the toxicological tests to find out which ones they are," said 40-year-old Wade Lovett, **whose high-pitched voice now sounds as if he's been inhaling helium**.

"**My voice sounds like Mickey Mouse**. My normal voice is low. It's hard to breathe, especially at night. **My chest hurts so much at night I feel like I'm drowning**. I cough up phlegm a lot. I lost my job because the doctor won't release me to go to work."

Leading the charge to fight for the community is 46-year-old Jami Cozza, a lifelong East Palestinian who counts 47 close relatives here. ***Many of them are***

***facing health issues from the chemical fire** as well as the psychic toll of their town becoming, in the words of a scientist visiting the area Thursday, the new “Love Canal” — a reference to the Niagara Falls, NY, neighborhood that became a hotbed issue in 1978 because people were getting sick from living above a contaminated waste dump. -NY Post*

Many residents are also complaining of **mystery rashes and sore throats** after returning home following the lifting of evacuation orders on February 8.

"Yesterday was the first day in probably three or four days that I could smell anything. **I lost my smell and my sense of taste.** I had an eye infection in both eyes. I was having respiratory issues like I was just out of breath. **Other members of my family have had eye infections and strep throat**," said Shelby Walker, who lives a few yards from the epicenter from the crash and explosion. "The cleanup crew drives past us at night and won’t even look at us. It’s like we don’t exist. No one has reached out to us or told us anything."

According to an independent analysis of EPA data by Texas A&M University released on Friday, **nine air pollutants were found around East Palestine at levels that could raise long-term health concerns**.

"My fiancé was so sick that I almost took him to the hospital," Jami Cozza told the *Post*. "Not only am I fighting for my family’s life, but I **feel like I’m fighting for the whole town’s life**. When I’m walking around hearing these stories, they’re not from people. They’re from my family. They’re from my friends that I’ve have grown up with," she said. "People are desperate right now. **We’re dying slowly. They’re poisoning us slowly.**"

According to a class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of hundreds of residents, **Norfolk Southern 'went rogue' when it made the decision three days after the derailment to *blow up* five train cars** containing deadly vinyl chloride. Around 1.1 million pounds of the toxic compound were spilled and later burned, the suit claims.

Norfolk Southern, meanwhile, says **they consulted with experts and Gov. Mike DeWine (R) before the controlled burn**, which they say they did to avoid a potential 'catastrophic failure of the cars.'

"What they could have done and should have done is remove all the vinyl chloride from the train cars and put them in secure containment vessels," said Rene Rocha of the Morgan & Morgan law firm, one of the lead attorneys on the class-action case. "They then should have excavated tons of soil and monitored and remediated the soil and groundwater."

*Cozza’s hearing included a panel with scientists from the University of Pittsburgh, an environmental lawyer, and a veteran Ohio hazardous materials expert. **None of them painted a rosy picture of the town’s future**, despite Norfolk Southern’s insistence that the area is safe and will be cleaned up and tested more.*

The experts listened as desperate residents asked about the safety of breastfeeding their babies and getting water from their wells. Planting season is coming soon in an area where many farm. One woman cried when she spoke about her worry over her pregnant goats. -NY Post

According to Harvard-trained toxicologist, Stephen Lester, **the hot zone at East Palestine is one of the 'most concerning' he's ever seen** - and warned that the chemical dioxin that was released during the controlled burn will be embedded in the soil and water.

"Until the government takes this seriously there are going to be real problems," said Lester. "It’s criminal that the EPA didn’t come forward with information about dioxin and start testing for it."

read later, ai, tech: feb27 "This Kind Of Growth Is Almost Impossible For The Human Brain To Comprehend"

"This Kind Of Growth Is Almost Impossible For The Human Brain To Comprehend"

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, FEB 26, 2023 - 10:00 PM

By Eric Peters, CIO of One River Asset Management

Dark Forest

“Sorry to tell you, but there are no aliens,” said the intelligence analyst.

“The Tic Tac videos, balloons, UFOs - they’re not aliens,” he said. “We’re all alone here, it’s just us.”

For those of us who read Cixin Liu, China’s brilliant Sci-Fi author, the notion that we are alone is extremely comforting. **Cixin turned me onto the Dark Forest hypothesis, which postulates that while there may be many alien civilizations out there, we see no sign of them because they are silent and paranoid, lest they alert others to their existence and invite invasion, annihilation.**

“What we see is our next generation military technology,” *continued the intelligence analyst.*

“We all see what the Ukrainians did to Russia’s military using battlefield technology that we would generally consider obsolete relative to our state of the art,” he said. “But America’s actual state of the art is one or two generations ahead of what the public sees today,” he said, which was simultaneously comforting and terrifying.

“It is not in our interest to show our adversaries how far advanced our capabilities have grown.”

“Look carefully at this chart,” said the technology investor.

It was the kind of curve I’ve seen often, an upward sloping trend that accelerates through time. On the vertical axis was the computing power used to train artificial intelligence systems. The horizontal axis was time, going back to the early 1950s. “I know you’re thinking you’ve seen this kind of chart before, it’s a classic hockey stick. But here’s the thing, it’s a logarithmic chart, it should not curve upward. **This kind of growth is almost impossible for the human brain to comprehend.”**

ChatGPT has had the steepest adoption of any technology in history. It hit 1mm users in five days. Within 2mths, it crossed 100mm users. It is estimated to have 1bln users by the end of the year. It is a remarkable technology, and while we can have no certainty about how it will change the world, there is no doubt that the arc of its influence is only just starting. Governments will lag far behind in regulating it. **We don’t yet know what will happen when it gets connected to the internet**. **And ChatGPT is 2-3 generations behind state-of-the-art AI.**

“Time is the one thing that can’t be stopped. Like a sharp blade, it silently cuts through hard and soft, constantly advancing. Nothing is capable of jolting it even the slightest bit, but it changes everything,” wrote Cixin Liu, in The Dark Forest. “Staying alive is not enough to guarantee survival. Development is the best way to ensure survival,” said Cixin. **“Do you know what the greatest expression of regard for a race or civilization is? Annihilation. That’s the highest respect a civilization can receive. They would only feel threatened by a civilization they truly respect.”**

Censors Use AI To Target Podcasts

Censors Use AI To Target Podcasts

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, FEB 26, 2023 - 11:00 PM

Authored by Bret Swanson via The Brownstone Institute,

Elon Musk's purchase of Twitter may have capped the opening chapter in the Information Wars, where free speech won a small but crucial battle.

Full spectrum combat across the digital landscape, however, will only intensify, as a new report from the Brookings Institution, a key player in the censorship industrial complex, demonstrates.

First, a review.

Reams of internal documents, known as the Twitter Files, show that social media censorship in recent years was far broader and more systematic than even we critics suspected. Worse, the files exposed deep cooperation – even operational integration – among Twitter and dozens of government agencies, including the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, DOD, CIA, Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, and, of course, the White House.

Government agencies also enlisted a host of academic and non-profit organizations to do their dirty work. The Global Engagement Center, housed in the State Department, for example, was originally launched to combat international terrorism but has now been repurposed to target Americans.

The US State Department also funded a UK outfit called the Global Disinformation Index, which blacklists American individuals and groups and convinces advertisers and potential vendors to avoid them. Homeland Security created the Election Integrity Partnership (EIP) – including the Stanford Internet

Observatory, the University of Washington's Center for an Informed Public, and the Atlantic Council's DFRLab – which flagged for social suppression tens of millions of messages posted by American citizens.

Even former high government US officials got in on the act – appealing directly (and successfully) to Twitter to ban mischief-making truth-tellers.

With the total credibility collapse of legacy media over the last 15 years, people around the world turned to social media for news and discussion. When social media then began censoring the most pressing topics, such as Covid-19, people increasingly turned to podcasts. Physicians and analysts who'd been suppressed on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, and who were of course nowhere to be found in legacy media, delivered via podcasts much of the very best analysis on the broad array of pandemic science and policy.

Which brings us to the new report from Brookings, which concludes that **one of the most prolific sources of 'misinformation' is now – you guessed it – podcasts. And further, that the underregulation of podcasts is a grave danger.**

In "Audible reckoning: How top political podcasters spread unsubstantiated and false claims," Valerie Wirtschafter writes:

Due in large part to the say-whatever-you-want perceptions of the medium, podcasting offers a critical avenue through which unsubstantiated and false claims proliferate. As the terms are used in this report, the terms "false claims," "misleading claims," "unsubstantiated claims" or any combination thereof are evaluations by the research team of the underlying statements and assertions grounded in the methodology laid out below in the research design section and appendices. Such claims, evidence suggests, have played a vital role in shaping public opinion and political behavior. Despite these risks, the podcasting ecosystem and its role in political debates have received little attention for a variety of reasons, including the technical difficulties in analyzing multi-hour, audio-based content and misconceptions about the medium.

To analyze the millions of hours of audio content, Brookings used natural language processing to search for key words and phrases. It then relied on self-styled fact-checking sites Politifact and Snopes – *pause for uproarious laughter…exhale* – to determine the truth or falsity of these statements. Next, it deployed a **'cosine similarity'** function to detect similar false statements in other podcasts.

The result: "conservative podcasters were 11 times more likely than liberal podcasters to share claims fact-checked as false or unsubstantiated."

One show Brookings misclassified as "conservative" is the Dark Horse science podcast hosted by Bret Weinstein and Heather Heying. Over the past three years, they meticulously explored the complex world of Covid, delivering scintillating insights and humbly correcting their infrequent missteps. Brookings, however, determined 13.8 percent of their shows contained false information.

What would the Brookings methodology, using a different set of fact checkers, spit out if applied to CNN, the *Washington Post*, the FDA, CDC, or hundreds of blogs, podcasts, TV doctors, and "science communicators," who got nearly everything wrong?

Speaking on journalist Matt Taibbi's podcast, novelist Walter Kirn skewered the new AI fact-checking scheme. It pretends to turn censorship into a "mathematical, not Constitutional, concern" – or, as he calls it, "sciency, sciency, sciency bullshit."

The daisy chain of presumptuous omniscience, selection bias, and false precision employed to arrive at these supposedly quantitative conclusions about the vast, diverse, sometimes raucous, and often enlightening world of online audio is preposterous.

And yet it is deadly serious.

The collapse of support for free speech among Western pseudo-elites is the foundation of so many other problems, from medicine to war. Misinformation is the natural state of the world. Open science and vigorous debate are the tools we deploy to become less wrong over time. Individual and collective decision-making depend on them.

* * *

Reposted from the author's Substack

Why do they think this will work? I don't watch anything they want me too. If I am exposed to it I start from the assumption it is all blatant propaganda. The recently departed Yuri Maltsev was an economist for Gorbachev that defected to the USA and taught at Carthage college until his death. The USSR had total informational control back then. Yuri was often asked to compare the differences living in the USSR and the USA. He remarked that one of things that scared him about the USA was the fact that in the USSR nobody believed the media. By nobody he included the average man in the street. Everybody knew it was ******** and never took it seriously. He stated that was the opposite in the USA. Everybody believed the media. He said this a long time ago by the way. I don't think that is the case today. The media lied a ton back then but it they sometimes came back to reality. That isn't the case anymore. Everything is just a staged public relations skit today. People are figuring that out. Once you see it you can't unsee it either. There is no way I could ever take them seriously. Even if they managed to gather full information control like they had in the USSR.

play_arrow14play_arrow

BlackFlagUp
PREMIUM
11 hours ago

I was born in the Eastern Bloc and was a refugee to America in 1980 and I came to this conclusion very early on. Americans were so trusting of government and the media that I was honestly shocked. That has changed dramatically in the 40+ years, which is a good thing.

play_arrow7play_arrow

Z Free
1 hour ago

remove
link

There are still numerous gullible Americans who trust the government. The clot shots are a perfect example.

It will almost be over when your podcasts are AI talking to other AI in AI language. This should be enough to entertain the Hoi Polloi. Especially when they can't work on their own cars no more.

The most interesting podcasts are those that do not speak AI, and thus fall outside the Ven Diagram of computerese; The lingua franca of censors. Where things like ad revenue are more important than upset Dan.

It's taken 2, 3 generations to arrive at a self-censoring abstract jargon repeating hate spewing "The View." There's no longer enough angry life-hating women out there to compete with the cold programmed AI. They're too busy on XHamster doing live feeds masturbating for an audience, just like "The View" but just out of Jr. High School.

Our speech is infinite. Human speech. The English language has more words than many languages but our AI sponsors at Dictionary dot Com note that the usual AI English Speaker has 42,000 words. https://www.dictionary.com/e/how-many-words-in-english/

Apps have more rights than people, for ad revenue. Because we wouldn't exist without it from our word sponsors to keep legitimizing apps because they're tools of the sponsors.

The dystopian novel of all time 1984, 1948 is a novel about language just like Plato wrote about Socratese who used the Socratic method of elenchus... while using it himself in books that he wrote about Socrates.

One of these paths offers you a teleology.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teleology

Anywhere else does not offer a teleology. I'm sorry. Because the teleology is already known ad revenue and such funding.

You could go across the hall to another lecture from an Apositivist non-relativist who isn't trying to sell bitcoin. Where it isn't a circle jerk of libertarians explaining what your freedoms are in a segregationalist utopia of wallets.

CHAT GPT DOESN'T HAVE RIGHTS because it's NOT HUMAN. Like your Roomba, your TikTok, your Phone, your Ring doorbell. AI is a toy. It's not your doctor, your lawyer, your accountant (ha ha), or anyone who gives a **** about you. It's about you saying the right words to it as a condition for approval that you paid for.

The AI doesn't know what a podcast is.

We've had an age of data accumulation, where companies recorded everything, it'll eventually be useful for something. And now all of that data turns into training sets, where AI can see patterns, that people can't perceive. You have google search. Google has people search. You can type a thing and it'll show you places with answers. They can type a person who searched for unapproved ideas, and it'll give a list of people. You search for stuff. They search for individuals that don't fit the socially accepted template. AI makes their search faster. You think you're getting better results? Think of what results they get. Their ChatGPT will give them a list of names who with the right kind of medication might snap and go postal. It'll tell how to manipulate masses. It'll tell them, who believes in propaganda and why. How to make government lies better. AI will be used against you. They'll invent ways. Any way they screw you already - AI will make it faster and more convenient for the owners of information datasets. Power will keep going away from individuals and towards corporations, big pharma and military industrial complex.

history, holy roman empire: Great Fire of London

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Fire_of_London

Fertility Rates In India Fall Across All Religious Groups

India has **become the biggest country in the world** this year, but conversely, its **fertility rates have been in a steep decline** for years.

In reality, the reversal of population growth that manifested itself in China this year has already begun in India as well.

As Statista's Katharaina Buchholz explains, the number of children born per woman in India had dropped to 2.0 by 2019. **To maintain a stable population, 2.1 births per woman are necessary.**

Birth rates have been declining across all religious groups, making rates more similar in the process, reporting by Pew Research Center shows.

As of 2020, white people numbered 235,411,507 or 71% of the population https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_United_States

CIA Director: US 'Confident' China Mulling Weapons Deliveries To Russia

CIA Director William Burns has weighed in directly on Biden administration assertions that China is mulling providing Russia with lethal aid to further its military action in Ukraine.

Burns told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday that the US is "confident" that Beijing is considering it at this point. **"We’re confident that the Chinese leadership is considering the provision of lethal equipment,"** he said.

"We also don’t see that a final decision has been made yet, and **we don’t see evidence of actual shipments of lethal equipment**."

inflation, government, markets: "It seems like someone turned off the spigot, as we have gotten stupid slow, as have others in our industry. We are not sure if it’s the Federal Reserve jacking with interest rates, or else some sort of cyclical slowdown, but it feels like business has ground to a halt”.

"Stupid Slow" - Dallas Fed Manufacturing Production Plunges Into Contraction

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, FEB 27, 2023 - 11:41 AM

For the 10th month in a row, The Dallas Fed Manufacturing Outlook survey printed negative (signaling contraction) with the February print dropping to -13.5 from -8.4 (-9.3 exp).

Source: Bloomberg

The production index, a key measure of state manufacturing conditions, edged down from 0.2 to -2.8, a reading **suggestive of a modest contraction in output.**

Under the hood, the new orders index was negative for a ninth month in a row and moved down nine points to -13.2. The growth rate of orders index fell from -12.3 to -16.9. The capacity utilization index returned to negative territory after two positive readings, falling 10 points to -4.1, while the shipments index was largely unchanged at -5.0.

Perceptions of broader business conditions worsened in February as pessimism increased, as evidenced by comments from survey respondents:

Primary metal manufacturing: "We expect recession in the second half of this year. We already had a first round of layoffs. We are looking at each employee very carefully to learn who may have to be in a second wave of layoffs, if and when business slows down again."

Printing and related support activities: "It seems like someone turned off the spigot, as we have gotten stupid slow, as have others in our industry. We are not sure if it’s the Federal Reserve jacking with interest rates, or else some sort of cyclical slowdown, but it feels like business has ground to a halt. We have some nice work planned for later on this year, but right now we are just stupid slow."

Printing and related support activities: "Our residential building and construction business has decreased drastically over the past few months due to mortgage rate increases, inflation and other factors. One major factor affecting our industry is foreign competitors dumping product into the U.S. at lower prices than their domestic prices—and lower than U.S. producers’ prices. Mexico, India, Colombia, Ecuador, Vietnam, Malaysia, Turkey and Poland are among countries exporting aluminum extrusions to the U.S. at record levels."

Computer and electronic product manufacturing: "I am currently worried about the time I am seeing it take for my customers to pay me."

Plastics and rubber products manufacturing: "Revenue dollars per sale are going down. People are watching their money."

Textile product mills: "February has been a slow month; it is hard to know why, but our outlook has worsened for both our business and retail activity in general."

Miscellaneous manufacturing: "All markets served have slowed down and are ordering lower quantities as compared with last year. Automotive OEM [original equipment manufacturers] customers’ volumes are most affected by lower quantities."

Transportation equipment manufacturing: "There is nothing positive with respect to the economy."

Is this what Powell wants to hear?

EU Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA) regulation: "The final vote on the European Union’s much-awaited set of crypto rules, known as the Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA) regulation, was recently deferred to April 2023. It was not the first delay — previously the European lawmakers rescheduled the procedure from November 2022 to February 2023.

The final vote on the European Union’s much-awaited set of crypto rules, known as the Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA) regulation, was recently deferred to April 2023. It was not the first delay — previously the European lawmakers rescheduled the procedure from November 2022 to February 2023.

Ukraine War Poses Existential Threat To Survival Of The Russian People: Putin

"In today’s conditions, when all the leading NATO countries have declared their main goal as inflicting a strategic defeat on us, so that our people suffer as they say, **how can we ignore their nuclear capabilities in these conditions**?" Putin said, according to Reuters.

"I do not even know if such an ethnic group as the Russian people will be able to survive in the form in which it exists today," he said, while also suggesting the West is eyeing Russia's abundant resources, and seeks to obtain and divide them.

"We aren't fighting the Ukrainian people," Putin had asserted in a speech, saying Ukrainians have "become hostage of the Kyiv regime and its Western masters, which have effectively occupied the country."

Meanwhile, the only remotely positive sign to come in recent days has been Kiev's somewhat positively greeting China's 12-point ceasefire plan for ending the war. Zelensky had acknowledged that at least the Chinese are talking about Ukraine and that this is a welcome start. The Ukrainian leader even went so far as to say that he and President Xi Jinping should meet.

Kazakh Officials Urge Citizens To Conserve Gas As Imports Become Necessary

- Kazakhstan's state-owned natural gas company, QazaqGaz, has vowed to prevent future gas shortages by refraining from exporting gas and importing gas when necessary.
- Despite sitting atop 3.8 trillion cubic meters of gas, Kazakhstan's energy officials urge citizens to conserve gas and be more economic in their use of it to avoid peak demands that could cause shortages.
- Plans are being drawn up to build a transnational pipeline from Russia to China to extend gas supplies to the east of Kazakhstan, and a processing plant with the capacity to produce up to 1 billion cubic meters of gas will be built at Kashagan by 2024.

Kazakhstan’s state-owned natural gas company has vowed that there will be no repeat shortages of the fuel next fall and winter like the ones that the country began to experience in late 2022.

But Arman Kasenov, the deputy chairman of QazaqGaz, has said that consumers must in future also do their share in helping avoid crunches at times of peak demand by being more economic in their use of gas. Anybody failing to do so could face stiff bills, he hinted.

In the short-term, Kazakhstan plans to prevent shock deficits by refraining from exporting gas.

“Taking the growth in gas consumption within Kazakhstan into account, QazaqGaz cannot count on exports in the next fall-winter period,” Kasenov said on February 24.

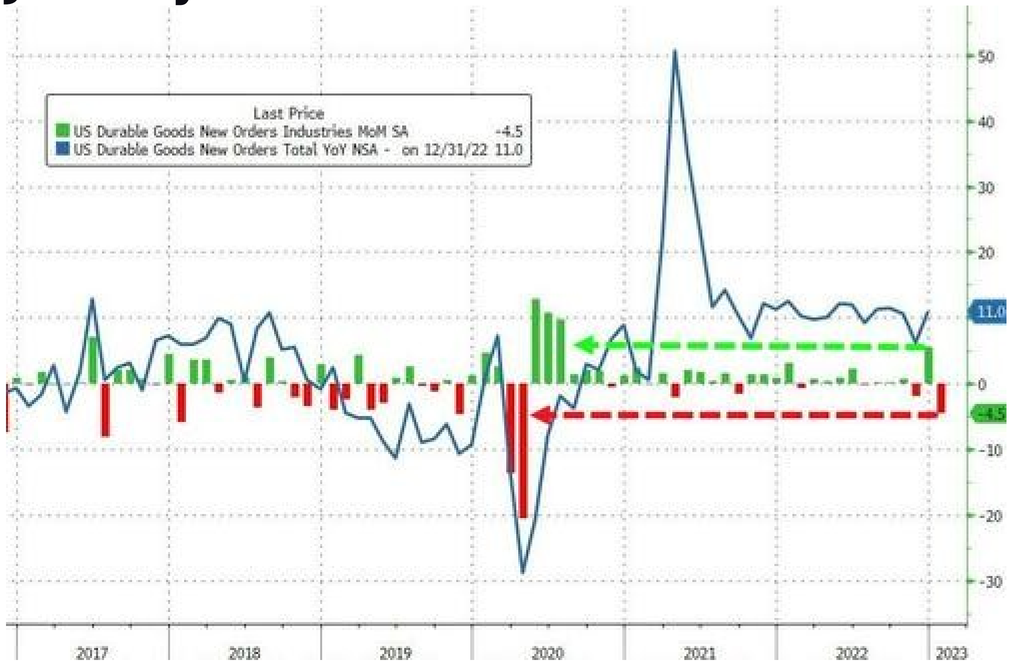
Indeed, far from thinking about exports – and China is the only game in town in this area – Kazakhstan is now resorting to buying imported gas.

Earlier this week, Energy Minister Bolat Akchulakov said at a government meeting that plans are being drawn up to import gas from Russia to provide for areas in the east of Kazakhstan. Akchulakov said no prices have yet been discussed.

The infrastructure for those specific imports does not yet exist, however. Extending gas supplies to those regions of Kazakhstan will be contingent on completion of a transnational pipeline running from Russia to China.

“We have earlier proposed to Gazprom the idea of a transit route through the territory of the East Kazakhstan Region,” Kasenov said at a meeting held under the auspices of the Samruk-Kazyna state holding company.

Journal, government: feb27 US Durable Goods Orders Plunged Most Since COVID Lockdowns In January



Russia Halts Pipeline Flows To Poland While Shifting Crude To Germany; halt comes a day after Russia's invasion of Ukraine reached the

one-year mark," Bloomberg pointed out; About 10% of Polish crude supplies are sourced from Russia

About 10% of Polish crude supplies are sourced from Russia. The country has moved quickly to reduce its dependency on Moscow. Orlen stated that the reduced flows from Russia wouldn't impact operations or consumers.

Poland has been preparing for this day with alternative sourcing, though Germany still has an addiction problem to cheap Russian energy products

Russian oil pipeline company Transneft shifted oil flows from Kazakhstan to Germany via the Druzhba pipeline that runs through Poland while shipments to Poland were halted, according to Reuters, citing at least one Russian news agency.

TASS news reported Polish customers were unable to receive Russian oil because Transneft didn't receive paperwork and transit payment in late February.

"(Oil) should have been pumped to Polish refineries in the second half of February."

"However, routing orders with confirmed resource and transit payment were not executed.

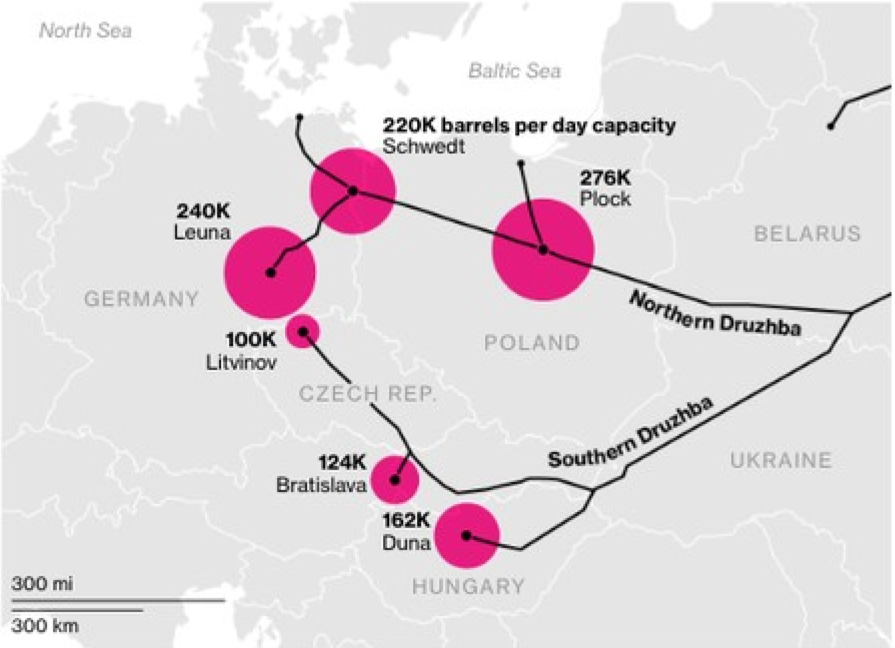
"In addition, operational changes were made to the schedule, excluding supplies for Polish consumers," a spokesperson for the pipeline operator said.

On Monday, Kazakhstan oil pipeline operator KazTransOil said about 20,000 tons of crude was pumped to Germany via Russia's Druzhba pipeline. Kazakhstan is a landlocked country that relies on Russia to export energy products that aren't subjected to Western sanctions.

The northern leg of Druzhba supplies crude to Germany, while the southern portion supplies Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia.

Druzhba's Dependents

Germany's eastern refineries have historically depended on crude from Russia


North Sea
Baltic Sea
220K barrels per day capacity
Schwedt
276K
Plock
240K
Leuna
BELARUS
GERMANY
Northern Druzhba
100K
Litvinov
POLAND
CZECH REP.
Southern Druzhba
UKRAINE
124K
Bratislava
162K
Duna
HUNGARY
300 mi
300 km

Sources: Bloomberg; AW Consulting

The first oil flow disruption was reported Saturday. Poland's largest oil company PKN Orlen SA said oil flows from the Druzhba pipeline from Russia were unexpectedly halted.

"The halt comes a day after Russia's invasion of Ukraine reached the one-year mark," Bloomberg pointed out. It also comes after President Biden visited Kyiv and Warsaw last week.

Meanwhile, Poland has been one of the biggest cheerleaders of Kyiv, sending weapons and humanitarian aid and receiving more than 1.5 million refugees. Poland was the first European country last year to have its natural gas flows cut by Russia shortly after the invasion.

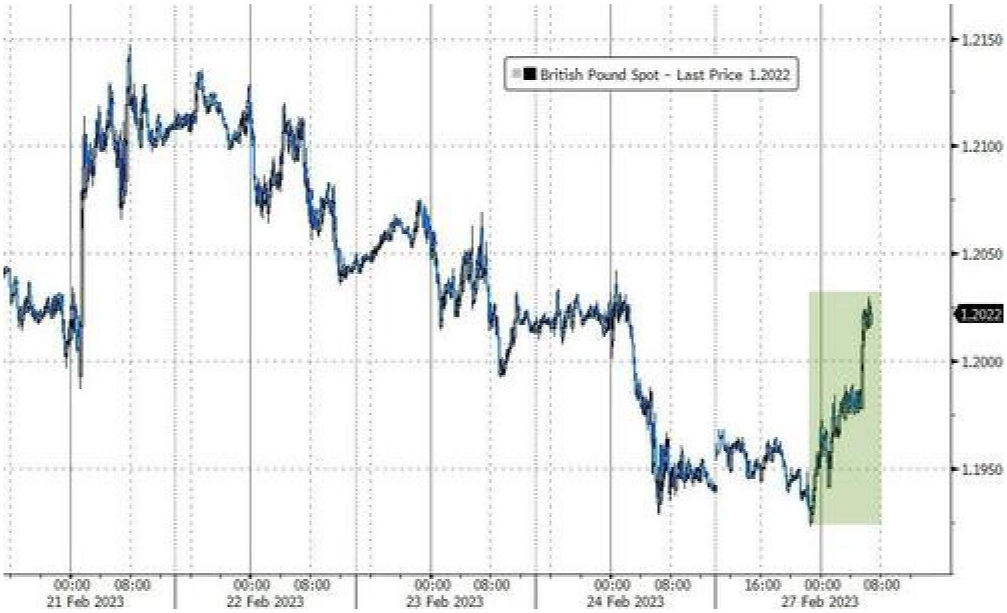
Even though Western sanctions have excluded Russian oil imports via pipelines, Warsaw has requested sanctions to cancel the last contract with a Russian supplier.

About 10% of Polish crude supplies are sourced from Russia. The country has moved quickly to reduce its dependency on Moscow. Orlen stated that the reduced flows from Russia wouldn't impact operations or consumers.

Poland has been preparing for this day with alternative sourcing, though Germany still has an addiction problem to cheap Russian energy products

Cable Spikes After Reports Of UK-EU Northern Ireland Deal, deal set to finalise Brexit more than six years after the 2016 referendum, and to resolve the trading issues created by the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Cable is rallying after after a government source said Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen had signed a breakthrough deal at a meeting in Windsor, Berkshire, **ending the long-running tensions between Britain and the EU with a new post-Brexit deal for Northern Ireland**.



The deal is set to **finalise Brexit more than six years after the 2016 referendum**, and to resolve the trading issues created by the **Northern Ireland Protocol.**

Censorship, government: feb27 **James Bond Books Reportedly Being Rewritten To Remove "Racist And Sexist" Remarks**

James Bond Books Reportedly Being Rewritten To Remove "Racist And Sexist" Remarks

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, FEB 27, 2023 - 11:15 AM

Authored by Steve Watson via Summit News,

And then the woke mob came for Bond.

According to a report in The Telegraph, “sensitivity readers” are being employed to scour the original James Bond books to look for and remove any ‘outdated’ content including ‘racist’ comments.

The latest publications of the books, written by Ian Fleming, will also reportedly contain a trigger warning notifying readers that they may find some of the storylines hurt their feelings.

The warning will read “This book was written at a time when terms and attitudes which might be considered offensive by modern readers were commonplace.”

“A number of updates have been made in this edition, while keeping as close as possible to the original text and the period in which it is set,” the disclaimer will further note.

The editing of the books is to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the first ever Bond book *Casino Royale*.

What exactly is ‘offensive’ is yet to be determined, but presumably it could extend to the fact that Bond is a straight white man who likes to fratenize with multiple women at any one time, drinks heavily and doesn’t have a single simp cell in his body.

The report notes that ‘sexual descriptors’ have been edited or altogether removed, including one scene in *Live and Let Die* where a group of men watching a stripper are described being “like pigs at the trough”.

At this rate, they will have to completely rename *Octopussy*.

The report also states that descriptions of characters like Oddjob, the infamous Korean henchman to Goldfinger have been rewritten to remove racial overtones.

In the novel, Oddjob is described as being a “squat” man with “arms like thighs”, black teeth, and a “sickly zoo-smell”. He also has a cleft palette causing a speech defect.

The *Goldfinger* novel also describes Oddjob’s hatred of being mistaken for being Japanese, and that he also likes to eat cats.

Presumably these details will all be purged and replaced with something uninteresting that describes his outfit? But even that could be tweaked given that his hat is a violent weapon he uses for killing people.

The move comes after it was revealed that Roald Dahl’s books have already been updated to include “sensitivity” changes such as removing the word “fat” and “ugly” as descriptions of characters.

Digital Versions of Roald Dahl’s Books Already Updated to Include “Sensitivity” Changes

Future-ready: Australian army tests mind-controlled combat AI robodogs

The brain signals successfully directed the robodogs toward a number of locations that the human controller picked "telepathically" by imagining them.

The Australian military is reportedly testing a unique artificial intelligence (AI) "brain robotic interface" to control "robodogs" synced with troopers' minds.

The breakthrough AI allows soldiers to control these robot dogs or 'robodogs' using advanced digital "telepathy," according to a video released by the Australian army last week.

The army "is exploring the use of brain signals to control robotic and autonomous systems." reads the video description.

"The Robotic and Autonomous Systems Implementation & Coordination Office (#RICO) is nested within our Future Land Warfare Branch and works closely with industry and stakeholders."

The AI analyzes brainwave data and transmits them from a person's visual cortex into the cutting-edge "robodog" using a high-tech biosensor headset.

"The whole process is not difficult to master. It's very intuitive. It only took a couple of sessions," according to Sergeant Damian Robinson of the 5th Combat Service Support Battalion, who tested the HoloLens headset.

During course training with mind-reading headsets and robodogs, Robinson and his fellow soldiers could effectively negotiate challenging terrain and inclement weather on a fake battlefield.

"It's more of a visual concentration thing," said Sergeant Robinson.

Study: Supermassive black holes surprisingly common in early universe

https://interestingengineering.com/science/supermassive-black-holes-in-early-universe

Astronomers detected a supermassive black hole only 750 million years after the Big Bang.

journal, war, russia: feb27 quickly building into the recent middle ground narrative thats been floating around the airwaves over the past week or so, maybe two.

Washington has not commented on the *Journal*'s story about the peace talks-for-arms proposal.

Élysée Palace where Macron and Scholz told Zelensky to seek peace. (U.S. State Dept.)

The private communications are at odds with public statements from Western leaders who routinely say they will continue to support Ukraine for as long as it takes until it achieves victory on the battlefield.

The Wall Street Journal, which reported on the private remarks to Zelenksy, said:

"The public rhetoric masks deepening private doubts among politicians in the U.K., France and Germany that Ukraine will be able to expel the Russians from eastern Ukraine and Crimea, which Russia has controlled since 2014, and a belief that the West can only help sustain the war effort for so long, especially if the conflict settles into a stalemate, officials from the three countries say.

'We keep repeating that Russia mustn't win, but what does that mean? If the war goes on for long enough with this intensity, Ukraine's losses will become unbearable,' a senior French official said.

'And no one believes they will be able to retrieve Crimea.'

French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told Zelensky at an Élysée Palace dinner earlier this month that he must consider peace talks with Moscow, the *Journal* reported.

According to its source, the newspaper quoted Macron as telling Zelensky that "even mortal enemies like France and Germany had to make peace after World War II."

Macron told Zelensky "he had been a great war leader, but that he would eventually have to shift into political statesmanship and make difficult decisions," the newspaper reported.

A Return to Realism

Macron at the Munich Security Conference last week. (Kuhlmann/MSC)

At the Munich Security Conference last week, Gen. Petr Pavel, the Czech Republic’s president-elect and a former NATO commander, said:

“We may end up in a situation where liberating some parts of Ukrainian territory may deliver more loss of lives than will be bearable by society. … There might be a point when Ukrainians can start thinking about another outcome.”

Even when he was a NATO commander Pavel was a realist in regard to Russia. During controversial NATO war games with 31,000 troops on Russia’s borders in 2016 — the first time in 75 years that German troops had retraced the steps of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union — Pavel dismissed hype about a Russian threat to NATO.

Pavel, who was chairman of NATO’s military committee at the time, told a Brussels press conference that, “It is not the aim of NATO to create a military barrier against broad-scale Russian aggression, because such aggression is not on the agenda and no intelligence assessment suggests such a thing.”

The German foreign minister at the time, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, also embraced realism towards Russia, saying: ***“What we shouldn’t do now is inflame the situation further through saber-rattling and warmongering. Whoever believes that a symbolic tank parade on the alliance’s eastern border will bring security is mistaken.”***

Instead of an aggressive NATO stance towards Russia that could backfire, Steinmeier called for dialogue with Moscow. “We are well-advised to not create pretexts to renew an old confrontation,” he said, saying it would be “fatal to search only for military solutions and a policy of deterrence.” Under U.S.

leadership NATO clearly did not follow that advice, as it continued to deploy more troops to Eastern Europe and to arm and train Ukraine (under cover of pretending to back the Minsk Accords).

Before its intervention in Ukraine, Russia cited NATO's eastward expansion, the deployment of missiles in Romania and Poland, war games near its borders and the arming of Ukraine as red lines that the West had crossed.

After a year of war, Western leaders appear now to be turning to a realist approach. Macron, for instance, at the Munich Security Conference dismissed any talk of regime change in Moscow.

No US Reaction

Left to Right: Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock at Munich Security Conference. (Schulmann/MSC)

Washington has not commented on the *Journal*'s story about the peace talks-for-arms proposal.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken last month discussed with *The Washington Post* arming Ukraine post-war but he did not say that Ukraine should seek peace talks.

"We have to be thinking — and we are — about what the postwar future looks like to ensure that we have security and stability for Ukrainians and security and stability in Europe," *Blinken told the conference in Munich.*

The proposal to bring Ukraine even closer to NATO than it already is, with greater access to weapons after the war, should be on the agenda at NATO's annual meeting in July, said Rishi Sunak, the British prime minister, at the Munich conference.

"The NATO summit must produce a clear offer to Ukraine, also to give Zelensky a political win that he can present at home as an incentive for negotiations," a British official told the Journal.

The deal with NATO would not include membership with its Article 5 protection, the newspaper reported. "We would like to have security guarantees on the path to NATO," Zelensky told a press conference on Friday.

In the meantime, Macron, according to the *WSJ* report, said that Ukraine should press forward with a military offensive to regain territory in order to push Moscow to the peace table.

There has been no reaction from Moscow about the proposal. Political analyst Alexander Mercouris, in his video report on Saturday, said Russia would likely be incentivized to continue fighting rather than enter peace talks with the knowledge that Ukraine would be heavily armed by NATO after the war.

“The Russians are never going to agree with something like this,” *Mercouris said.*

“They must be saying to themselves that instead of agreeing to this plan, it actually makes more sense … to continue this war because one of [Russia’s] objectives is the total demilitarization of Ukraine.”

What the Western powers are proposing is the opposite, he said. Given that Russia considers it is winning and “there seems to be a general acknowledgment amongst Western governments that Ukraine can’t win this war, …where is the incentive for … Russia to even consider this plan?”

For Moscow, Mercouris said, **Ukraine’s demilitarization is an “absolute, existential matter.”**

If Ukraine is going to get even more advanced weapons from NATO after the war as opposed to what it would get “whilst the war is still underway, then it makes even less sense” for Russia “to stop the war and agree to this plan.”

Russia is facing a “weakening adversary now,” Mercouris said, and Moscow clearly prefers that to facing a “strengthened adversary later.”

Russia, war: feb27 Saboteurs Say They Blew Up A Russian Military Plane In Belarus

Secret operatives reportedly used drones to carry out the attack, before sneaking back across the border and out of Belarus. Reuters is also as of Monday morning reporting the news.

Belarus' anti-Lukashenko opposition is now claiming that it was a successful **sabotage operation which targeted Russian aircraft**. The information has been revealed by officials working under exiled Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya:

"Partisans... confirmed a successful special operation to blow up a rare Russian plane at the airfield in Machulishchy near Minsk," *tweeted Franak Viacorka, a close adviser of opposition figurehead Svetlana Tikhanovskaya.*

"This is the most successful diversion since the beginning of 2022," he added.

The two Belarusians who carried out the operation had used drones, he said, adding that they had already left the country and were safe.

Tikhanovskaya herself also weighed in, saying, "I am proud of all Belarusians who continue to resist the Russian hybrid occupation of Belarus & fight for the freedom of

Ukraine." She's long carried out her opposition activity in exile from Lithuania and earlier Poland, having also recently been tried in absentia by Lukashenko's court system.

She further claimed the aircraft was worth 330 million euros, with other opposition media sources identifying that it was an **A-50 surveillance plane**.

Exploring emotions, the brain, and free will with Dr. Lisa Feldman Barrett https://interestingengineering.com/science/exploring-emotions-the-brain-and-free-will-with-dr-lisa-feldman-barrett

Material Today: 3D printable ink containing bacteria will be used in many fields

“The versatility of the BactoInk processing, combined with the low environmental impact and excellent mechanical properties of the mineralized materials, opens up many new possibilities for fabricating lightweight, load-bearing composites that are more akin to natural materials than to today’s synthetic composites,” Amstad says.

EPFL's study was published in *Materials Today* on February 18.

3D-printed materials have been studied as a replacement for pressurized air, as Gizmodo notes. https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/wilson-airless-basketball-prototype

Stats, tech: feb25 Scientists grow electrodes in brain, thanks to a simple viscous gel

Bridging the gap between electronics and biological tissue

Now, why is this significant?

Complex biological functions can be understood when electronics are linked to biological tissue. Diseases in the brain can be combated, and future interfaces between man and machine can be developed.

However, this was impossible as conventional bioelectronics have a fixed and static design that is impossible to combine with living biological signal systems.

Researchers have developed a method for creating soft, substrate-free, electronically conductive materials in living tissue to bridge this gap. Upon injecting a gel comprising enzymes as the "assembly molecules", the researchers could grow electrodes in the tissue of zebrafish and medicinal leeches.

"Contact with the body’s substances changes the structure of the gel and makes it electrically conductive, which it isn’t before injection. Depending on the tissue, we can also adjust the composition of the gel to get the electrical process going," said Xenofon Strakosas, a researcher at LOE and Lund University and one of the study's lead authors.

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/scientists-grow-electrodes-in-brain

Microsoft trains ChatGPT to control robots

Imagine a scenario in which you can directly communicate with robots, enabling them to complete various tasks for you. To achieve this, Microsoft has outlined its plans to partner with OpenAI to develop ChatGPT's capabilities to control robots. The software giant used the chatbot and "controlled multiple platforms such as robot arms, drones, and home assistant robots intuitively with language," the company wrote in a blog post.

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/microsoft-trains-chatgpt-to-control-robots

China, war: feb25 **china plans to launch 13000 satallites to counter elons musks push into space**

The plan to dispatch almost 13,000 satellites to throttle Starlink exposure comes under the mysterious project, code name "GW," according to People's Liberation Army's (PLA) space engineering researchers.

"The 'GW' constellation will include 12,992 satellites owned by the newly established China Satellite Network Group Co", said the scientific team from the Space Engineering University in Beijing, *South China Morning Post (SCMP)* reported on Friday.

Though SpaceX anticipates having 12,000 satellites in orbit by 2027 and a final total of 40,000 orbiting devices, this attempt would overwhelm Starlink's present count of about 3,500 satellites.

China feels compelled to move so swiftly on this project because it wants to stop Starlink from monopolizing the low-Earth orbit space and barring other businesses or nations from using it.

Starlink worries China

Researchers want to ensure that China "has a place in low orbit and prevent the Starlink constellation from excessively pre-empting low-orbit resources."

And "gain opportunities and advantages at other orbital altitudes, and even suppress Starlink."

The China Satellite Network Group Co has also stated that they hope to use their own constellations to track and maybe deactivate Starlink satellites, noted the SCMP report.

The researchers in the group are concerned about the maneuverability of Starlink satellites because they believe Musk's satellites could be used to target and destroy other spacecraft.

Therefore, Chinese researchers aspire to be able to match that potential by introducing their own fleet of satellites in the near space.

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/china-to-thwart-elon-musk-starlink-satellites

crypto, government, markets: feb25 In 2009, there was one cryptocurrency: bitcoin. Now there are more than 9,000 cryptocurrencies and many digital assets with other uses.

MSCI

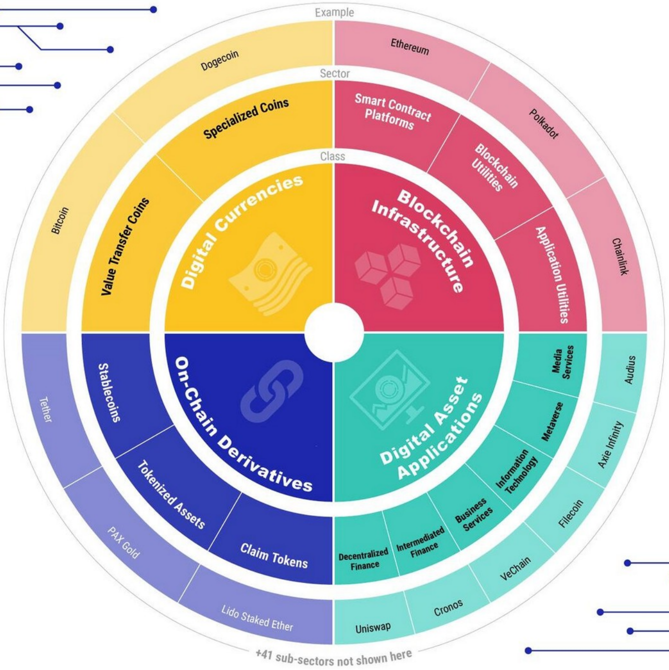
Datonomy™

A New Framework for Classifying Digital Assets

In 2009, there was one cryptocurrency: bitcoin. Now there are more than 9,000 cryptocurrencies and many digital assets with other uses.

Source: Statista (Nov 2022)

With the aim to add clarity to digital assets and their functionality, MSCI has collaborated with Coin Metrics and Goldman Sachs to develop a classification system known as datonomy.



How is each sector defined?

Specialized Coins

Facilitate value transfer on the blockchain for users with a specific interest, such as privacy, social community or cross-border payments.

Value Transfer Coins

Native to blockchains, their primary purpose is value transfer for general on-chain payments.

Stablecoins

Tokens that are pegged to a sovereign-issued currency to offer access to blockchain apps without exposure to price action in digitally native tokens.

Tokenized Assets

Tokens that provide exposure to another asset, on-chain or off-chain, and are pegged to the value of that underlying asset.

Claim Tokens

Tokens that give the holder credit toward an underlying asset that was lent or staked to earn interest.

Smart Contract Platforms

Tokens native to blockchain protocols that facilitate the execution of smart contracts and power a diverse set of decentralized apps.

Blockchain Utilities

Tokens that aim to improve a blockchain's core infrastructure for increased scale, blockchain interoperability, and low-friction operations.

Application Utilities

Tokens that allow for faster app development, easier integration, and better connectivity to participants and data on and off-chain.

Media Services

Tokens that facilitate the decentralized ownership and distribution of content across various mediums.

Metaverse

Tokens associated with a virtual blockchain-powered ecosystem that facilitate the ownership and transfer of digital property.

Information Technology

Tokens that support the storage, sharing, aggregation, computation, and manipulation of on-chain data for software developers.

Business Services

Tokens that provide products or services for the development of blockchain-based platforms at the professional or enterprise-level.

Intermediated Finance

Tokens that facilitate custodial financial activity, such as lending and payments, on a corporate entity's platform.

Decentralized Finance

Tokens that provide the user with economic interest, trading power, or an on-chain alternative to traditional financial services and products.

Datonomy and its related data analytics aim to help investors seeking to monitor market trends, analyze portfolio risk and return, and build new products.

Learn more about datonomy™

Powering better investment decisions. **msci.com**

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Source for datonomy structure and sector definitions: MSCI, Coin Metrics, Goldman Sachs (Nov 2022)

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The Main Uses of Digital Assets

MSCI collaborated with Coin Metrics and Goldman Sachs to develop the framework, which classifies digital assets according to what they are primarily used for. It is hierarchical with three levels of classifications: classes, sectors, and subsectors.

Let’s take a closer look at one sector within each class.

- **Specialized Coins** facilitate value transfer on the blockchain for users with a specific interest, such as privacy, social community, or cross-border payments. Meme coins like Dogecoin fall under this sector, as do cryptocurrencies like Monero where every user is anonymous by default.
- **Smart Contract Platforms** are tokens native to blockchain protocols that facilitate the execution of smart contracts and power a diverse set of decentralized applications. Following an “if this, then that” structure, smart contracts are essentially digital agreements that automatically execute when the terms are met. Ethereum is an example of a smart contract platform.
- **Decentralized Finance** tokens provide the user with economic interest, trading power, or an on-chain alternative to traditional financial services and products. The sector includes things like exchanges (such as Uniswap), peer-to-peer loans, prediction markets for betting, and asset management.
- **Stablecoin** tokens are pegged to a sovereign-issued currency to offer access to blockchain apps without exposure to price action in digitally native tokens. An example of a stablecoin is Tether, which has a 1-to-1 peg with a matching fiat currency such as the U.S. dollar.

A Structural Lens for Investors

As the digital assets universe continues to expand and evolve, investors need a consistent way to analyze the market.

Datonomy and its related data analytics aim to help investors seeking to monitor market trends, analyze portfolio risk and return, and build new products.

Get insight on digital assets with MSCI’s data service, datonomy.

War, Russia: feb25 Media Bewildered As Russian Economy Projected To Grow In 2023 Despite NATO Sanctions

censorship, government, stats: feb25 LA's Soros DA Suspends Prosecutor For 'Misgendering' Child Molester Accused Of Murder

Los Angeles Country District Attorney George Gascon **suspended a prosecutor for misgendering and 'deadnaming' a convicted child molester** accused of murder, who started identifying as a woman after being arrested, *Fox News* reports.

Eight years ago, Gascon's office refused to prosecute the individual, Hannah Tubbs, as an adult, after he **molested a 10-year-old girl** just two weeks before his 18th birthday. Tubbs, now 26, went by "James" at the time of the molestation. Tubbs was also accused of sexually molesting a **four-year-old girl** at a California library in August of 2013 while her mother was "just a few aisles over" browsing books.

Early last year, **Tubbs was sentenced to two years in a *juvenile facility for girls.***

Meanwhile, Tubbs has been charged with using a rock to murder another member of a "survivalist transient group" in 2019 when living in Kern County, California.

Which brings us to **Soros-funded DA George Gascon, who suspended prosecutor Shea Sanna for allegedly misgendering and "deadnaming" Shea** (using his male identity).

The DA's office is now treating Tubbs as a victim;

"While we cannot comment on the specifics of a personnel matter, I can say that the actions taken by the Department were the result of the findings conducted by an independent County Policy of Equity Investigation," LA County DA's office Comms director Tiffiny Blacknell told the *Daily Caller*. "**I can also say is that**

the Transgender community is frequently the target of violent attacks. They are also reluctant to come forward and report their attacks because of how they're treated in the criminal legal system. The LADA office takes seriously our responsibility to treat all people with respect and dignity no matter their gender identity."

Last year, ***Fox News*** **obtained jailhouse recordings of Tubbs** admitting that it was wrong to attack the little girl, but **gloating over the light punishment**.

> ***The suspect boasted that nothing would happen after the guilty plea****,* *due to Gascon's lenient policies for juvenile defendants and laughed about not having to go back to prison or register as a sex offender. Tubbs also made explicit remarks about the victim that are unfit to print. -Fox News (via Yahoo!)*

"**So now they're going to put me with other trannies that have seen their cases like mine or with one tranny like me that has a case like mine**," Tubbs tells his father. "So when you come to court, make sure you address me as her."

In another call, they laughed about choosing the new name, Hannah.

Tubbs is currently being held on $1 million bond in Kern County Jail under the name James Tubbs, while court records use the name Hannah Tubbs.

Rep. Gaetz Bill Would Pull US Troops Out of Syria

Biden Believed Asset Theft Would End Ukraine War

- ***US to Send $10 Billion in Economic Aid to Ukraine***
- ***Nuland Says US Ready to Discuss New START With Russia 'Tomorrow'***
- ***UNSC Holds Meeting on Nord Stream Sabotage***

US to Expand Military Presence in Taiwan

- ***Philippines in Talks With US, Australia on Joint S. China Sea Patrols***
- ***China Says Sending Weapons Into Ukraine War Won't Bring Peace***

Israel Bombs Gaza Following Deadly W. Bank Raid

Hungary to Send Delegation to Sweden, Finland Over NATO

New Biden Arms Sale Policy on Human Rights Abusers

Viewpoints

When Biden Says 'As Long as It Takes,' What Does Ukraine Hear? **by Ted Snider**

Endless Wars Are the Enemy of Freedom **by John & Nisha Whitehead**

What They Didn't Talk About in Munich **by Doug Bandow**

War and Indifference **by Andrew P. Napolitano**

More Viewpoints

Spotlight

'Ukraine Maximalists' on the Right Still Dominate. But for How Long?

by William Ruger

Frontline

The Corruption of Massive Industry 'Sweeteners' in Foreign Arm Sales

Western Countries Far More Hawkish on Russia Than Asia: Poll

Philippines in Talks With US, Australia on Joint South China Sea Patrols

Russia

Russia's Putin Discusses Karabakh Crisis With Armenian PM

UN Approves Resolution Calling for Russia to Leave Ukraine

These Six Countries Sided With Russia in UN Vote on Ukraine War

Putin Says Sarmat Nuclear Missile to Be Deployed This Year

Senators Urge Halt to Chinese Carriers Overflying Russia on US Flights

Ukraine

Zelensky: Military Situation in

Palestine/Israel

Biden's Top Middle East Advisor Travels to Region Amid West Bank Tensions

'Catastrophic': Palestinians Recount Fatal Israeli Raid on Nablus

Palestinian Man Shot by Israeli Troops Dies From Wounds

A Palestinian Man Died in This Medic's Arms After Israeli Raid. Then He Realized It Was His Father

Gaza 'Waiting for War Every Moment' as Israel Tension Surges

Israel's 'Massacre' in Nablus Ferments Anger in Gaza

General Strike Launched in

More News

Journal, holy roman empire, history: just what I was looking for about the papacy, holy roman empire, and how they were able to emulate similar imperial reach to that of the early roman empire, where they controlled most of western europe through rome. This seems to confirm what I suspected. You can see here that France eventually took this control from rome when they say a french king had a roman pope killed, who would subsequently move the papacy to france. The post also goes into papal corruption, from buying forgivness to nepotism in the clergy

In the early 14th century, the papacy was well past the prime of its secular rule – its importance had peaked in the 12th and 13th centuries. The success of the early Crusades added greatly to the prestige of the Popes as secular leaders of Christendom, with monarchs like those of England, France, and even the Holy Roman Emperor merely acting as marshals for the popes and leading "their" armies. One exception was Frederick II, Holy Roman Emperor, who was twice excommunicated by the Pope during a Crusade. Frederick II ignored this and was moderately successful in the Holy Land.

King Philip IV of France wanted to use the finances of the Church to pay for his war with the English. Pope Boniface VIII protested, leading to a feud.[8][9]

This state of affairs culminated in the unbridled declaration of papal supremacy, *Unam sanctam*, in November 1302. In that papal bull, Pope Boniface VIII decreed that "it is necessary to salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman pontiff." This was directed primarily to King Phillip IV of France who responded by saying, "Your venerable conceitedness may know that we are nobody's vassal in temporal matters."[*citation needed*]

In 1303 AD, Pope Boniface VIII followed up with a bull that would excommunicate the king of France and put an interdict over all France. Before this was finalized, Italian allies of the King of France broke into the papal residence and beat Pope Boniface VIII. He died shortly thereafter. Nicholas Boccasini was elected as his successor and took the name Pope Benedict XI. He absolved King Phillip IV and his subjects of their actions against Pope Boniface VIII, though the culprits who assaulted Boniface were excommunicated and ordered to appear before a pontifical tribunal. Benedict XI died within eight months of being elected to the papacy. After eleven months, Bertrand de Got, a Frenchman and a personal friend of King Phillip IV, was elected as pope and took the name Pope Clement V.

Beginning with Clement V, elected 1305, all popes during the Avignon papacy were French.

This part names some of the families that controlled the papacy in rome at that time.

A stronger impact was made by the move of the Roman Curia from Rome to Poitiers in France in 1305, and then to Avignon in 1309. Following the impasse during the previous conclave, and to escape from the infighting of the powerful Roman families that had produced earlier Popes, such as the Colonna and Orsini families, the Catholic Church looked for a safer place and found it in Avignon, which was surrounded by the lands of the papal fief of Comtat Venaissin. Formally it was part of Arles, but in reality it was under the influence of the French king.

And then this is huge. Proves to be a major turning point in european history, where temporal powers of the pope seem to be transferred, by defacto at first, to the king of france, who eventually uses this power to challenge and end institutions that had supported the papcy's influence for many many years...

After the arrest of the Bishop of Pamiers by Philip IV of France in 1301, Pope Boniface VIII issued the bull *Salvator Mundi*, retracting all privileges granted to the French king by previous popes, and a few weeks later *Ausculta fili* with charges against the king, summoning him before a council to Rome. In a bold assertion of papal sovereignty, Boniface declared that "God has placed us over the Kings and Kingdoms."

In response, Philip wrote "Your venerable conceitedness may know, that we are nobody's vassal in temporal matters," and called for a meeting of the Estates General, a council of the lords of France, who had supported his position. The King of France issued charges of sodomy, simony, sorcery, and heresy against the pope and summoned him before the council. The pope's response was the strongest affirmation to date of papal sovereignty. In *Unam sanctam* (November 18, 1302), he decreed that "it is necessary to salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman pontiff."

He was preparing a bull that would excommunicate the King of France and put the interdict over France when in September 1303, William Nogaret, the strongest critic of the papacy in the French inner circle, led a delegation to Rome, with intentionally loose orders by the king to bring the pope, if necessary by force, before a council to rule on the charges brought against him. Nogaret coordinated with the cardinals of the Colonna family, long-standing rivals against whom the pope had even preached a crusade earlier in his papacy. In 1303 French and Italian troops attacked the pope in Anagni, his home town, and arrested him. He was freed three days later by the population of Anagni. Boniface VIII, then 68 years of age, was deeply shattered by this attack on his own person and died a few weeks later.

Cooperation[edit]

Clement V in a later engraving

In reaction to the intransigence of Popes like Boniface VIII, the French tightened their influence under the papacy, eventually reducing the Popes to puppets and stacking the Papal court with French clerics.[10]

The death of Pope Boniface VIII deprived the papacy of its most able politician who could stand against the secular power of the king of France. After the conciliatory papacy of Benedict XI (1303–04), Pope Clement V (1305–1314) became the next pontiff. He was born in Gascony, in southern France, but was not directly connected to the French court. He owed his election to the French clerics. He decided against moving to Rome and established his court in Avignon. In this situation of dependency on powerful neighbours in France, three principles characterized the politics of Clement V: the suppression of heretic movements (such as the Cathars in southern France); the reorganization of the internal administration of the church; and the preservation of an untainted image of the church as the sole instrument of God's will on earth.

The latter was directly challenged by Philippe IV when he demanded a posthumous trial of his former adversary, the late Boniface VIII, for alleged heresy. Phillipe exerted strong influence on the cardinals of the collegium, and compliance with his demand could mean a severe blow to the church's authority. Much of Clement's politics was designed to avoid such a blow, which he finally did (persuading Phillipe to leave the trial to the Council of Vienne, where it lapsed). However, the price was concessions on various fronts; despite strong personal doubts, Clement supported Phillipe's proceedings against the Templars, and he personally ruled to suppress the order.

John XXII

One important issue during the papacy of Pope John XXII (born Jacques Duèze in Cahors, and previously archbishop in Avignon) was his conflict with Louis IV, Holy Roman Emperor, who denied the sole authority of the Pope to crown the Emperor. Louis followed the example of Philippe IV, and summoned the nobles of Germany to back his position. Marsilius of Padua justified secular supremacy in the territory of the Holy Roman Empire. This conflict with the Emperor, often fought out in expensive wars, drove the papacy even more into the arms of the French king.

Benedict XII

Pope Benedict XII (1334–1342), born Jaques Fournier in Pamiers, was previously active in the inquisition against the Cathar movement. In contrast to the rather bloody picture of the Inquisition in general, he was reported to be very careful about the souls of the examined, taking a lot of time in the proceedings. His interest in pacifying southern France was also motivation for mediating between the King of France and the King of England, before the outbreak of the Hundred Years' War.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avignon_Papacy

Investiture Controversy: At issue was who, the pope or the monarchs, had the authority to appoint (invest) local church officials such as bishops of cities and abbots of monasteries.

https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-fmcc-worldhistory/chapter/the-development-of-papal-supremacy/

crusades: Both these efforts, although ultimately unsuccessful, greatly enhanced papal prestige in the 12th and 13th centuries. Such powerful popes as Alexander III (r. 1159–81), Innocent III (r. 1198–1216), Gregory IX (r. 1227–41), and Innocent IV (r. 1243–54) wielded a primacy over the church that attempted to vindicate a jurisdictional supremacy over emperors and kings in temporal and spiritual affairs. Throughout the rest of the Middle Ages, popes struggled with monarchs over power.

https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-fmcc-worldhistory/chapter/the-development-of-papal-supremacy/

papal states..papal supremecy

Pope Stephen II (Latin: *Stephanus II*; 714 – 26 April 757) was born a Roman aristocrat and member of the Orsini family. Stephen was the bishop of Rome from 26 March 752 to his death. Stephen II marks the historical delineation between the Byzantine Papacy and the Frankish Papacy. During Stephen's pontificate, Rome was facing invasion by the Lombards when Stephen II went to Paris to seek assistance from Pepin the Short. Pepin defeated the Lombards and made a gift of land to the pope, eventually leading to the establishment of the Papal States.

https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-fmcc-worldhistory/chapter/the-development-of-papal-supremacy/

The **Byzantine Papacy** was a period of Byzantine domination of the Roman papacy from 537 to 752, when popes required the approval of the Byzantine Emperor for episcopal consecration, and many popes were chosen from the *apocrisiarii* (liaisons from the pope to the emperor) or the inhabitants of Byzantine-ruled Greece, Syria, or Sicily. Justinian I reconquered the Italian peninsula in the Gothic War (535–554) and appointed the next three popes, a practice that would be continued by his successors and later be delegated to the Exarchate of Ravenna.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Papacy

think this is true based upon what i read afterword, but still not completely sure. eyes really dry right now

In 751 the Exarchate of Ravenna fell to the Lombards under King Aistulf. Rome, under Pope Stephen II, attempted diplomatic negotiations with Aistulf, and upon the failure of those negotiations, entreated King Pepin the Short of the Franks to intervene on its behalf. Pepin defeated the Lombards by 756 and granted the lands of the Duchy of Rome as well as the former Lombard possessions to the Papacy in what is referred to as the Donation of Pepin, marking the true beginning of the Papal States.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchy_of_Rome
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Stephen_II
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temporal_power_of_the_Holy_See

War, china, readlater, journal, censorship: feb25 china releases essay outlining american hypocrisy: "So far, the United States had or has imposed economic sanctions on nearly 40

countries across the world, including Cuba, China, Russia, the DPRK, Iran and Venezuela, affecting nearly half of the world's population."

It repeatedly calls out American hypocrisy and says the US has departed from the very principles it has long espoused and claimed to represent:

"The United States of America" has turned itself into "the United States of Sanctions." And "long-arm jurisdiction" has been reduced to nothing but a tool for the United States to use its means of state power to suppress economic competitors and interfere in normal international business. This is a serious departure from the principles of liberal market economy that the United States has long boasted.

This also comes the very week that China unveiled a peace plan intended to wind down the Russia-Ukraine war. To be expected, the plan was met with an icy reception in Europe and the US.

Below is the Chinese government document in its entirety, which was sent out to Western government officials and media late this week.

* * *

US Hegemony and Its Perils

Contents

Introduction

I. Political Hegemony—Throwing Its Weight Around

II. Military Hegemony—Wanton Use of Force

III. Economic Hegemony—Looting and Exploitation

IV. Technological Hegemony—Monopoly and Suppression

V. Cultural Hegemony—Spreading False Narratives

Conclusion

Introduction

Since becoming the world's most powerful country after the two world wars and the Cold War, the United States has acted more boldly to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, pursue, maintain and abuse hegemony, advance subversion and infiltration, and willfully wage wars, bringing harm to the international community.

The United States has developed a hegemonic playbook to stage "color revolutions," instigate regional disputes, and even directly launch wars under the guise of promoting democracy, freedom and human rights. Clinging to the Cold War mentality, the United States has ramped up bloc politics and stoked conflict and confrontation. It has overstretched the concept of national security, abused export controls and forced unilateral sanctions upon others. It has taken a selective approach to international law and rules, utilizing or discarding them as it sees fit, and has sought to impose rules that serve its own interests in the name of upholding a "rules-based international order."

This report, by presenting the relevant facts, seeks to expose the U.S. abuse of hegemony in the political, military, economic, financial, technological and cultural fields, and to draw greater international attention to the perils of the U.S. practices to world peace and stability and the well-being of all peoples.

I. Political Hegemony -- Throwing Its Weight Around

The United States has long been attempting to mold other countries and the world order with its own values and political system in the name of promoting democracy and human rights.

◆ Instances of U.S. interference in other countries' internal affairs abound. In the name of "promoting democracy," the United States practiced a "Neo-Monroe Doctrine" in Latin America, instigated "color revolutions" in Eurasia, and orchestrated the "Arab Spring" in West Asia and North Africa, bringing chaos and disaster to many countries.

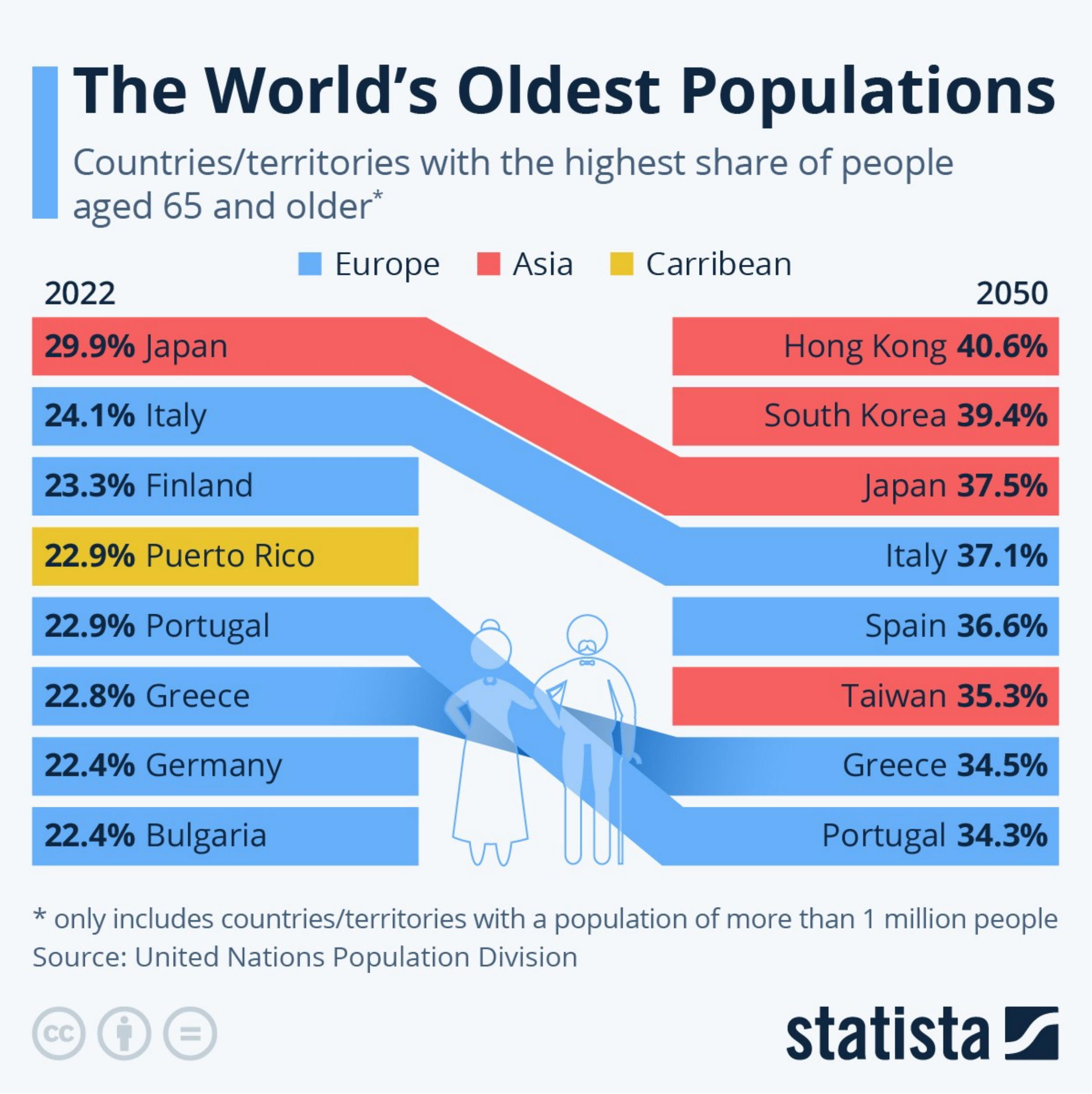
In 1823, the United States announced the Monroe Doctrine. While touting an "America for the Americans," what it truly wanted was an "America for the United States." **………..(find the rest on google)**

Russia In Talks With China To Buy Suicide Drones: German Media

Inflation: feb25 Trailer Park Millionaires: Tiny Home In The Hamptons Sells For Record $3.75 Million

US Military Aid To Ukraine Exceeds The Costs Of Afghanistan

Stats: japanese live longer--literally. And by a lot



censorship: feb25 House GOP Investigate State Department-Funded 'Disinformation' Group Behind Conservative Blacklists

House Oversight Chair James Comer (R-Ky.) sent a letter on Thursday to the U.S. State Department demanding records and a briefing by the agency **regarding its alleged funding of a "disinformation tracking group" that is blacklisting conservative-leaning news outlets.**

The letter (pdf) cites as evidence the Washington Examiner's series of investigative reports uncovering the State Department's alleged partnership with activist organizations, specifically one "foreign organization," to "suppress lawful speech and defund disfavored news outlets under the guise of combatting disinformation."

"**The Committee is disturbed by recent reporting that taxpayer money ended up in the hands of a foreign organization running an advertising blacklist of organizations accused of hosting disinformation on their websites, including several conservative-leaning news organizations**," Comer wrote.

The letter goes on to detail the Washington Examiner's findings.

According to the outlet, major ad companies look to "nonpartisan" groups that claim to detect and fight "disinformation" online to help determine which news outlets and websites they should avoid.

Some of these "disinformation monitors," the Washington Examiner went on to explain, "are compiling secret blacklists and feeding them to ad companies, **with the aim of defunding and shutting down disfavored speech**."

One such group is British Global Disinformation Institute (GDI), which has compiled a "dynamic exclusion list" of 2,000 websites and rates those outlets based on their "alleged disinformation 'risk' factor," according to the Washington Examiner.

GDI's website further explains its purpose. Calling itself an "independent, non-profit, open source, intelligence hub," GDI "tracks disinformation and extremism across platforms online" to "serve a broad array of governments, NGOs [non-governmental organizations], online platforms, and media."

In his letter, Comer cites a $330,000 figure that, according to the Washington Examiner, GDI received from State Department funds.

"The federal government should not be censoring free speech nor policing what news outlets Americans choose to consume," Comer wrote in the letter.

"And t**axpayer funds should never be given to third parties with the intent that they be used to censor lawful speech or abridge the freedom of the press,**" he continued.

Russia, war: feb25 **Crimea Bridge Repairs Completed Mere Months After Sabotage Blast; Inaugurated by Putin in 2018 at a cost of $3.7 billion, the bridge has since been used as a key**

resupply route to Russian forces fighting in Ukraine

Inaugurated by Putin in 2018 at a cost of $3.7 billion, the bridge has since been used as a key resupply route to Russian forces fighting in Ukraine. The attack had been the biggest escalation in the war up to that point, and was accompanied by strikes and bombings in the Crimean peninsula itself.

Government, Germany: feb25 **Greens Demand Change In Germany's "Failed" Immigration Policy**

A group of German Green politicians is calling for a radical change in what they call Germany's "failed migration policy," and municipalities agree, business daily Handelsblatt reports.

The chief executive of the Association of Towns and Municipalities, Gerd Landsberg, has welcomed the call by a group of Green politicians for a tougher asylum policy.

"We need a turnaround in migration policy, also to ensure social acceptance," *Landsberg told Handelsblatt.*

"This includes more effective integration, clearer communication, also toward the arriving people, and active participation from the asylum seekers."

Earlier, a group within the Green Party had called for a change of course in refugee policy in light of the completely overburdened municipalities. It calls itself "Vert Realos," meaning "Real Greens."

In a paper titled "Memorandum for a different migration policy in Germany," the **group warns of a shift to the right "should citizens continue to lose their sense of security and migrants not be perceived as a normality in the neighborhood."**

Germany alone, without European cooperation, cannot take in all the refugees, emphasize the signatories, including Rebecca Harms, the former Greens–European Free Alliance president in the European Parliament, and Tübingen's mayor, Boris Palmer.

Landsberg, who is a member of the conservative CDU, stressed that it is of course necessary to help people who are being persecuted or who have come from war zones such as Ukraine, but this is also a European challenge, he said.

"It cannot be that Germany bears the main burden and the other EU states take in significantly fewer people," said the head of the association of cities.

The principle in Europe, he said, must be: Help, distribute fairly, but also protect the external borders effectively.

“This is also indispensable for acceptance among our population.”

Criticism for a lack of “a clear integration concept”

The Green proposal is also being debated in the traffic light federal coalition.

The FDP was open to the demands, while the SPD reacted cautiously. The spokesman for migration and integration of the SPD parliamentary group, Lars Castellucci, spoke of an “internal party matter” of the Green Party.

“They should be happy to discuss it,” Castellucci told Handelsblatt. ***“If there are concerns in the coalition, it will be discussed openly.”***

War: Sweden To Send 'Around' 10 Leopard Tanks, Anti-Air Systems To Ukraine

Government, markets, inflation: feb25 government sachs: Hartnett: "The Next Great Bull Markets Starts After The Next Recession, When The Fed Is Forced To Bail Out The US"

> *"The great irony of inflationary 2020s will be in next recession Fed forced to resort to YCC to bail out US government...**and that’s when the next great bull market in risk begins."***

News

Updated February 24, 2023 - 12:51 PM EST

Rep. Gaetz Bill Would Pull US Troops Out of Syria

US to Expand Military Presence in Taiwan

Philippines in Talks With US, Australia on Joint S. China

Sea Patrols

China Says Sending Weapons Into Ukraine War Won't Bring Peace

US to Send $10 Billion in Economic Aid to Ukraine

Nuland Says US Ready to Discuss New START With Russia 'Tomorrow'

UNSC Holds Meeting on Nord Stream Sabotage

Hungary to Send Delegation to Sweden, Finland Over NATO

New Biden Arms Sale Policy on Human Rights Abusers

Israel Strikes Gaza as Following Deadly West Bank Raid

Viewpoints

When Biden Says 'As Long as It Takes,' What Does Ukraine Hear? by Ted Snider

Endless Wars Are the Enemy of Freedom by John & Nisha Whitehead

What They Didn't Talk About in Munich by Doug Bandow

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'Ukraine Maximalists' on the Right Still Dominate. But for How Long?

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Frontline

The Corruption of Massive Industry 'Sweeteners' in Foreign Arm Sales

Western Countries Far More Hawkish on Russia Than Asia: Poll

Philippines in Talks With US, Australia on Joint South China Sea Patrols

Russia

Palestine/Israel

More News

China, war: feb24 Mystery sphere found on beach perplexes Japan

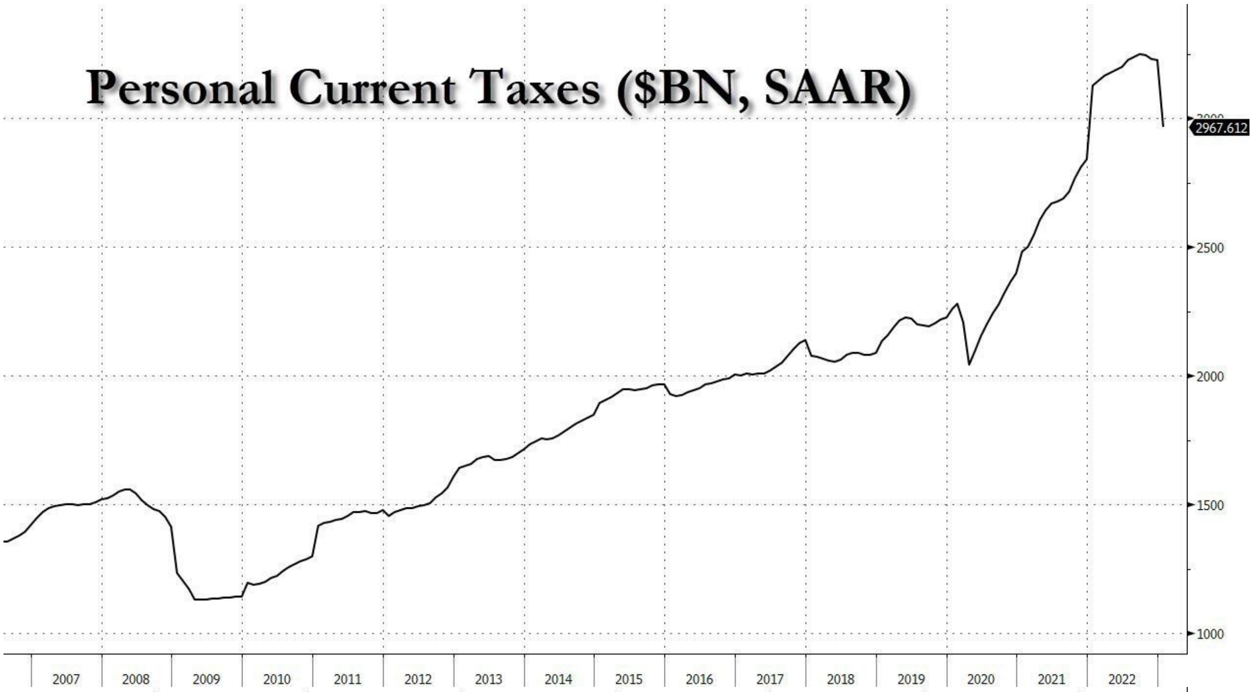
https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-64730255

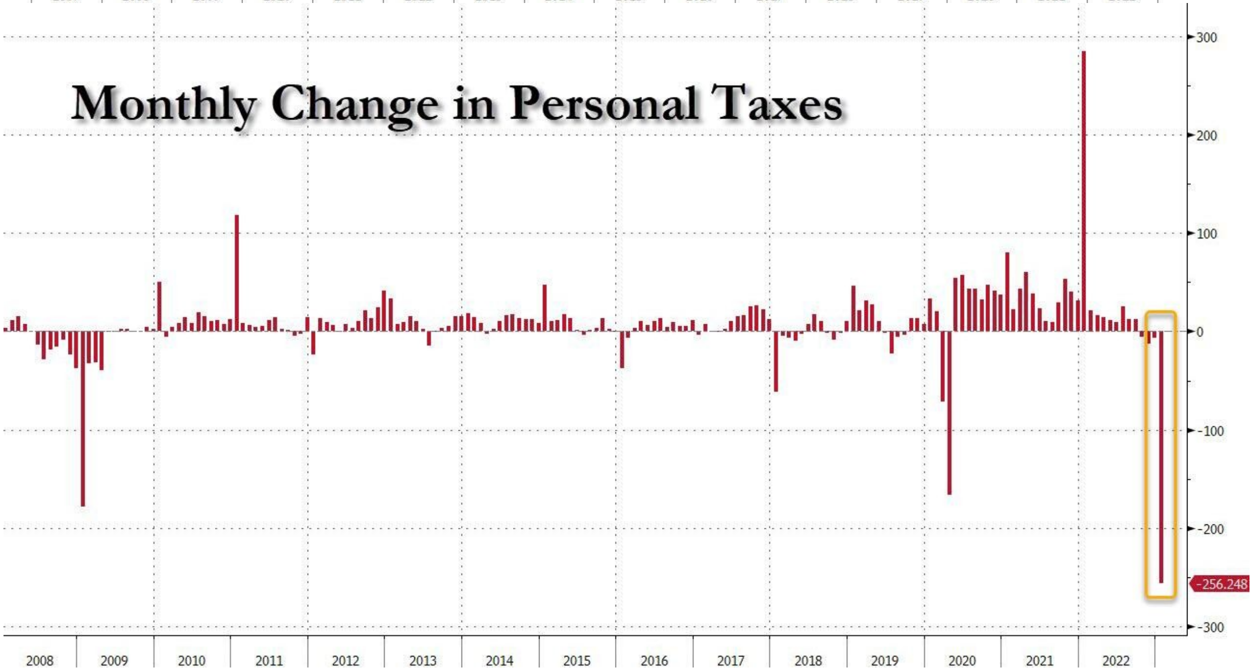
Vaccine, censorship: feb24 **Natural Immunity Better Than COVID Vaccination Against Omicron: CDC Study Admits**

Authored by Zachary Stieber via The Epoch Times,

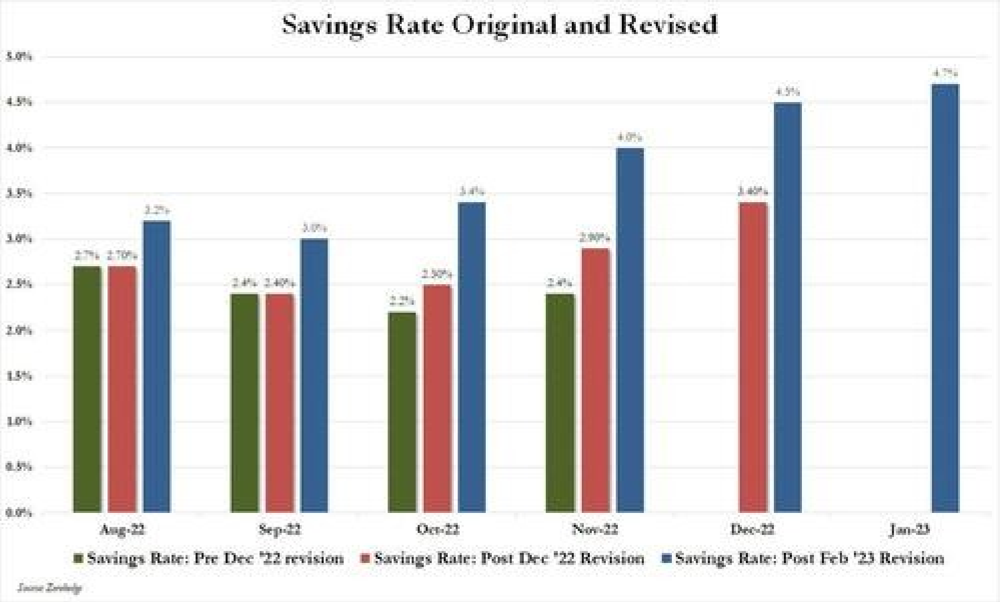
Post-infection immunity is superior to protection from COVID-19 vaccines, according to a new study from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) researchers.

Markets, inflations, government: feb24 Here's Where The Surge In January Spending And Inflation Came From: Biggest Tax Drop In History





... and the monthly change in $ terms: the $256BN tax drop in January was the biggest in history, surpassing the plunge from the March 2020 covid crash and the Jan 2009 Global Financial Crisis crash!



Tech, energy, stats: feb24 **Ducati Says 'Battery Technology Not Ready' For E-Bike**

"It's going to be some years," *Jason Chinnock, Ducati's North American operations chief executive officer, told Bloomberg Television on Thursday. He said,* ***"The Battery technology really isn't there."***

Or maybe this suggests that Ducati can't keep up with the electric motorcycle trend as Harley-Davidson LiveWire and startup manufacturers quickly bring bikes to the market.

Here's what is currently on the e-bike market:

LiveWire's $23,000 electric bike

Stats, war, government, Russia: feb24 **Greenwald: NYT Finally Admits "The International Community" Does Not Stand With US On Ukraine**

A typical consumer of Western and especially American media over the past year of war in Ukraine might be forgiven for assuming the so-called international community is fully in Washington and NATO's corner. But a detailed tally of nations and where they stand shows otherwise.

This week, two somewhat surprising reports out of the most prominent and visible newspapers in the US have **much belatedly set the record straight**. Journalist Glenn Greenwald has pointed out that finally *The New York Times* has acknowledged the reality that the majority of the globe does not in fact "stand with the US" in its approach to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Greenwald sounds off in a Twitter thread as follows...

Explosions In Iranian City Which Hosts Nuclear Facility, Air Defenses Activated

However, the Iranian government is **denying that it was a hostile attack from a foreign force**, instead calling it a **live-fire defense exercise**.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency tweeted a video describing military training in the area.

Israeli media has also picked up on the claims of an attack, while noting that a key nuclear facility is located in Karaj. As *The Jerusalem Post* recounts:

Defense facilities in and near Karaj have been targeted by attacks repeatedly in recent years.

In July 2021, Iran blamed Israel for a ***sabotage operation that targeted a building belonging to Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) in Karaj*** *the month before.*

stats, markets: Award-winning hedge fund manager, 36, whose fund lost £180m due to Covid pandemic, was discharged from psychiatric hospital shortly before he killed himself, inquest hears

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9392677/Hedge-fund-manager-discharged-psychiatric-hospital-shortly-killed-himself.html

Charles de Vaulx, the renowned value investor and co-founder of International Value Advisers, died in an apparent suicide on Monday afternoon, leaving the asset-management industry in shock.

De Vaulx, 59, built a long career as a risk-aware, global stockpicker who stayed true to his deep-value approach, holding as much as 40% of assets in cash when he couldn't find enough bargains. De Vaulx's intensity and conviction during a 13-year stretch in which the markets favored faster-

growing companies set him apart in the industry, even among other battle-tested contrarians.
The French money manager entered his midtown Manhattan office on Monday afternoon and jumped from the 10th floor, according to the New York Police Department. The news came less than seven weeks after IVA abruptly announced that it was closing down, and a week after it liquidated its two U.S. mutual funds.The decision to close the fund firm had surprised the industry. While assets had fallen sharply from onetime levels of $20 billion, the firm still had more than $2 billion in assets, and value investing was beginning to see a resurgence.
https://www.barrons.com/articles/legendary-value-manager-charles-de-vaulx-found-dead-51619564407

Bloomberg reports that an office landlord controlled by bond giant PIMCO has defaulted on about $1.7 billion of mortgage notes on seven buildings; mortgages have floating-rate debt, leading to rising monthly payments as interest rates soared last year.

As discussed two months ago, US offices, especially the older buildings with fewer amenities, have struggled in recent years to retain tennants amid the rise of remote work during the pandemic and recent layoffs. **According to Green Street, values of those properties have fallen 20% since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020,**

The seven buildings owned by Columbia Property Trust were appraised at $2.27 billion in 2021, according to loan documents on a $485 million CMBS that financed part of the debt. Goldman Sachs, Citigroup Inc. and Deutsche Bank funded the original debt of almost $1.9 billion.

The Columbia default follows two weeks after Brookfield Corp., parent of the largest office landlord in downtown Los Angeles, **defaulted on loans tied to two buildings rather than refinancing the debt as demand for space weakens in the center of the second-largest US city.**

The two properties in default, part of a portfolio called Brookfield DTLA Fund Office Trust Investor, are the Gas Company Tower, with $465 million in loans, and the 777 Tower, with about $290 million in debt, according to a filing. The fund manager had warned in November that it may face foreclosure on properties.

777 Tower in Los AngelesPhotographer: Carol M. Highsmith Photography/Library of Congress

The values of comparable office buildings have broadly dropped, according to the Barclays analysts. Office vacancies have increased across the country since the pandemic made working remotely more routine. The vacancy rate in the Los Angeles central business district vacancy rate was 22.7% in the fourth quarter of 2022, according to a Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. report.

As Bloomberg reports, Brookfield had the option to extend the maturity on the loans tied to the Gas Company Tower, but elected not to. It also elected not to get interest-rate protection that was required for loans for the 777 Tower property, which amounts to an event of default, the company's latest filing said.

The Brookfield DTLA portfolio has a total of $2.28 billion in secured debt, according to a November filing. Other buildings with maturing debt include the Wells Fargo Centers North Tower with $500 million in debt due in October and the Wells Fargo Centers South Tower with $263 million maturing in November. The buildings have about $1.8 billion of floating-rate obligations, generally hedged with interest-rate derivatives, which can translate to increased payments as the Federal Reserve raises interest rates.

The lenders have not foreclosed on the two properties or exercised other remedies available to them, according to Brookfield’s filing. In January, Oaktree Capital Management wrested control of the building known for providing the exterior shots for the main office in the television series “L.A. Law” after the owner, Coretrust Capital Partners, went into default on a loan tied to the property.

Still, despite the recent increase in office-linked defaults, the delinquency rate for commercial mortgage-backed securities for offices is still relatively low, at just 1.83% in January, according to Trepp. It won't stay there long if the Fed continues with its

Billionaire Private Equity Financier Thomas H. Lee Dies Of Self-Inflicted Gunshot Wound

Thomas H. Lee, the billionaire who pioneered the private-equity industry and leveraged buyouts through a firm that bore his name, has died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound at his Manhattan office on Thursday morning, police sources told the NY Post. He was 78.

Cops responded to a 911 call at 767 Fifth Avenue, where Thomas H. Lee Capital, LLC is located on the sixth floor, at around 11:10 a.m., the Post sources said adding that EMTs pronounced the 78-year-old businessman dead at the scene.

China, war, censorship: feb24 European Commission Bans TikTok On Staff Phones Citing Security Concerns

Stats, china, government: feb24 Weaponizing Everything, Including Lawyers And Balloons: China's 1999 Manual For Defeating America https://www.theepochtimes.com/weaponizing-everything-including-lawyers-and-balloons-chinas-1999-manual-for-defeating-america_5075692.html

Stats, markets, inflation, crypto: feb24 **Fiat Money Has Won The Battle Against Cryptocurrencies, Says BIS Chief**

Authored by Naveen Anthrapully via The Epoch Times,

Agustin Carstens, head of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), believes the battle between cryptocurrency and fiat currencies has come to an end, with the latter emerging as the winner. Fiat currency refers to money that has legal tender by government decree.

"That battle has been won … A technology doesn't make for trusted money," *Carstens said in an interview with Bloomberg TV on Wednesday.*

"Only the legal, historical infrastructure behind central banks can give great credibility" to money, he added.

War, Russia: feb24 Dutch Intelligence: Russia May Be Preparing To Sabotage Energy Infrastructure

Stats, history: The number of airports in the Russian North has declined by more than 80 percent since the collapse of the Soviet Union (Window on Eurasia, February 15).

Scrapped Railway Project Could Derail Putin's Arctic Ambitions

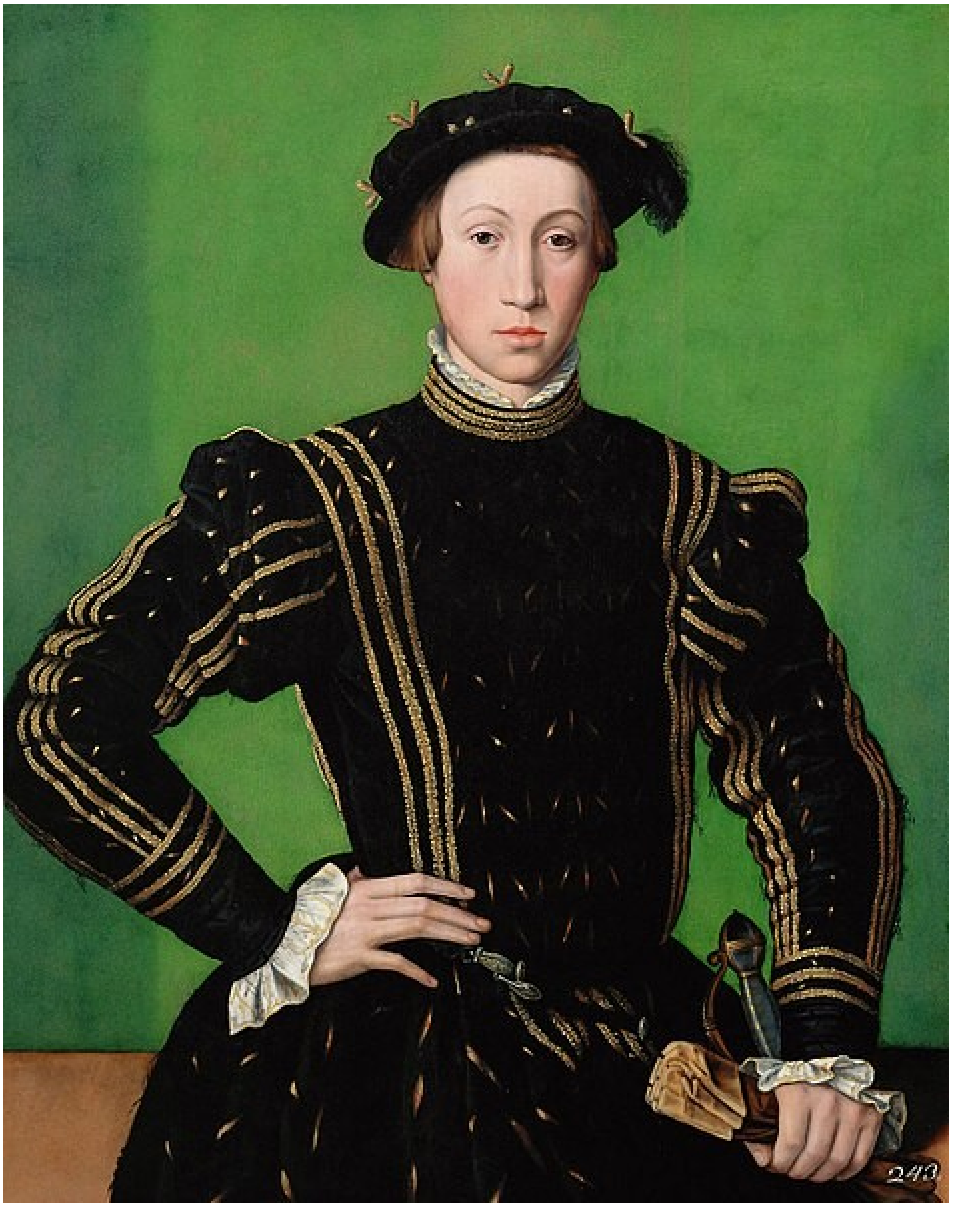
As a result, and with growing frequency in recent years, Russian officials have placed their hopes in the construction of a major railway across the Russian North. Discussion of such a line goes back to imperial times *(Svpressa.ru, February 19; for general discussions of building railways in the north, largely on the model of the Trans-Siberian Railway, see Historicus.ru, accessed February 22).* **Actual construction began using Gulag prisoners at the end of Stalin's rule, though it was suspended upon his death. And a new push for this line emerged in the past decade**, with many brave words being said about what it would mean for the Russian North and the country more generally. **But, in reality, little work was actually carried out on the ground.**

Now, even planning has been suspended, a development that makes it unlikely that, in this decade or the next, the Russian North will have the land-based infrastructure that Moscow needs if its hopes are to be realized.

History, holy roman empire: **incest, maria of austria, Holy Roman Empress, 1528 – 1603: On 15 September 1548, aged twenty, she married her first cousin Archduke Maximilian.[2] The couple had sixteen children during the course of a twenty-eight-year marriage.**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_of_Austria,_Holy_Roman_Empress

On 13 September 1548 Emperor Charles V married Maximilian to Charles's daughter (Maximilian's cousin) Maria of Spain in the Castile residence of Valladolid. By the marriage his uncle intended to strengthen the ties with the Spanish branch of the Habsburgs, but also to consolidate his nephew's Catholic faith. Maximilian temporarily acted as the emperor's representative in Spain, however not as stadtholder of the Habsburg Netherlands as he had hoped for. To his indignation, King Ferdinand appointed his younger brother Ferdinand II administrator in the Kingdom of Bohemia, nevertheless Maximilian's right of succession as the future king was recognised in 1549. He returned to Germany in December 1550 in order to take part in the discussion over the Imperial succession.



In November 1562 Maximilian was chosen King of the Romans, or German king, by the electoral college at Frankfurt, where he was crowned a few days later, after assuring the Catholic electors of his fidelity to their faith, and promising the Protestant electors that he would publicly accept the confession of Augsburg when he became emperor. He also took the usual oath to protect the Church, and his election was afterwards confirmed by the papacy. He was the first King of the Romans not to be crowned in Aachen. In September 1563 he was crowned King of Hungary by the Archbishop of Esztergom, Nicolaus Olahus, and on his father's death, in July 1564, he succeeded to the empire and to the kingdoms of Hungary, Croatia and Bohemia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximilian_II,_Holy_Roman_Emperor

incest in the holy roman empire: Anna of Austria was Queen of Spain by marriage to her uncle, King Philip II of Spain.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_of_Austria,_Queen_of_Spain

Anna was the eldest daughter of Maximilian II, Holy Roman Emperor, and Maria of Spain, who were first cousins.

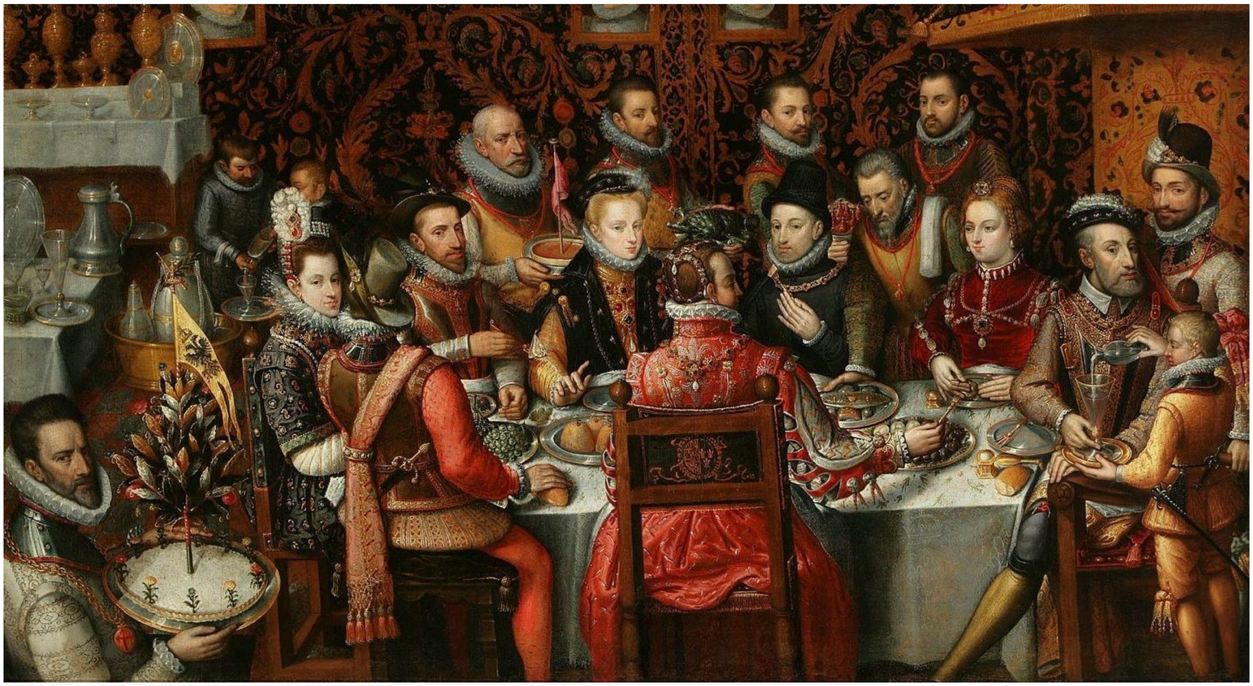
She was born in Spain during the reign of her maternal grandfather, Emperor Charles V, but lived in Vienna from the age of four. Anna was considered her father's favorite child. The story goes that he enjoyed playing and gambling with her and once a meeting of the Estates of Hungary was postponed because Anna was sick. She received a Catholic education.

Marriage[edit]

As the eldest daughter of the Holy Roman Emperor, Anna was a desirable candidate for marriage at the European courts. Her parents thought a Spanish marriage would strengthen links between the Austrian and Spanish Habsburg families. Initially she considered her cousin, Don Carlos, the only son of her maternal uncle Philip II of Spain. These plans were shattered in 1568 when Don Carlos died. Plans for a Spanish marriage were revived when Philip's third wife, Elisabeth of Valois, died in childbirth, also in 1568.

As a result, Philip was left a widower with two young daughters, Isabella Clara Eugenia and Catalina Micaela. He planned to remarry because he no longer had a male heir. The marriage was at first opposed by many, including Pope Pius V,[1] but arranged all the same.

In February 1569, Anna's engagement to her uncle Philip II was announced. In May 1570, they married by proxy. She traveled from Austria to Spain in the autumn of 1570, accompanied by her brothers Albert and Wenceslaus. Anna passed along the English Channel, where Elizabeth I sent her admirals, Charles Howard and William Wynter, to offer support and safe passage.[2]



King Philip and Queen Anna banqueting with family and courtiers, by Alonso Sánchez Coello, c. 1596

readlater, incest, hapsburg: maximilians father is said on wikipedia to have laid the grounds for the habsburg dynasty

Maximilian was born in Vienna, Austria, the eldest son of the Habsburg archduke Ferdinand I, younger brother of Emperor Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, and the Jagiellonian princess Anne of Bohemia and Hungary (1503–1547). He was named after his great-grandfather, Emperor Maximilian I. At the time of his birth, his father Ferdinand succeeded his brother-in-law King Louis II in the Kingdom of Bohemia and the Kingdom of Hungary, laying the grounds for the global Habsburg monarchy.

Before his accession as Emperor, he ruled the Austrian hereditary lands of the Habsburgs in the name of his elder brother, Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor.

In addition, Ferdinand also developed valuable relationships with the German banking house of Jakob Fugger and the Catalan bank, Banca Palenzuela Levi Kahana.

The Austrian branch of Habsburg monarchs needed the economic power of Hungary for the Ottoman wars. During the Ottoman wars the territory of the former Kingdom of Hungary shrunk by around 70%. Despite these enormous territorial and demographic losses, the smaller, heavily war-torn Royal Hungary had remained economically more important to the Habsburg rulers than Austria or Kingdom of Bohemia even at the end of the 16th century.[24] Out of all his countries, the depleted Kingdom of Hungary was, at that time, Ferdinand's largest source of revenue.[25]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand_I,_Holy_Roman_Emperor

Stats, government, inflation: feb23 Water levels on Lake Garda in northern Italy have fallen to record lows, making it possible to reach the small island of San Biagio on the lake via an exposed pathway.

italy in worst drought in 70 years...

Weeks of dry winter weather have raised concerns that Italy could face another drought after last summer’s emergency, with the Alps having received less than half of their normal snowfall, according to scientists and environmental groups.

The warning comes as Venice, where flooding is normally the primary concern, faces unusually low tides that are making it impossible for gondolas, water taxis and ambulances to navigate some of its famous canals.

Italy faces another year of severe drought after little winter rain or snow

Read more

The problems in Venice are being blamed on a combination of factors – the lack of rain, a high pressure system, a full moon and sea currents.

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The problems in Venice are being blamed on a combination of factors – the lack of rain, a high pressure system, a full moon and sea currents.

Tourists cross a bridge over a noticeably empty canal during a severe low tide in Venice, Italy. Photograph: Manuel Silvestri/Reuters

Italian rivers and lakes are suffering from a severe lack of water, the Legambiente environmental group said on Monday, with attention focused on the north of the country.

The Po, Italy's longest river which runs from the Alps in the north-west to the Adriatic has 61% less water than normal at this time of year, it added in a statement.

In July last year, Italy suffered its worst drought for 70 years and declared a state of emergency in the areas surrounding the Po, which accounts for roughly a third of the country's agricultural production.

"We are in a water deficit situation that has been building up since the winter of 2020-2021," climate expert Massimiliano Pasqui from Italian scientific research institute CNR was quoted as saying by daily Corriere della Sera.

"We need to recover 500mm in the north-western regions: we need 50 days of rain," he said.

The unusually low tides are making it impossible for gondolas, water taxis and ambulances to navigate some of Venice's canals. Photograph: Manuel Silvestri/Reuters

Water levels on Lake Garda in northern Italy have fallen to record lows, making it possible to reach the small island of San Biagio on the lake via an exposed pathway.

An anticyclone has been dominating the weather in western Europe for 15 days, bringing mild temperatures more normally seen in late spring.

Latest weather forecasts do however signal the arrival of much-needed precipitation and snow in the Alps in coming days.

Italy faces new drought alert as Venice canals run dry

MILAN, Feb 20 (Reuters) - Weeks of dry winter weather have raised concerns that Italy could face another drought after last summer's emergency, with the Alps having received less than half of their normal snowfall, according to scientists and environmental groups.

The warning comes as Venice, where flooding is normally the primary concern, faces unusually low tides that are making it impossible for gondolas, water taxis and ambulances to navigate some of its famous canals.

The problems in Venice are being blamed on a combination of factors -- the lack of rain, a high pressure system, a full moon and sea currents.

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The Po, Italy's longest river which runs from the Alps in the northwest to the Adriatic has 61% less water than normal at this time of year, it added in a statement.

Latest Updates

- Top EU bodies, citing security, ban TikTok on staff phones
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- Germany bids to clear the rocky path for foreign talent
- Ukraine's Zelenskiy says meeting with China 'desirable'
- Blinken says India, South Africa are on slow trajectory away from alignment with Russia

[1/4] Gondolas are pictured in the Grand Canal during a severe low tide in the lagoon city of Venice, Italy, February 17, 2023. REUTERS/Manuel Silvestri REFILE - CORRECTING YEAR
1234

Last July Italy declared a state of emergency for areas surrounding the Po, which accounts for roughly a third of the country's agricultural production and suffered its worst drought for 70 years.

"We are in a water deficit situation that has been building up since the winter of 2020-2021," climate expert Massimiliano Pasqui from Italian scientific research institute CNR was quoted as saying by daily Corriere della Sera.

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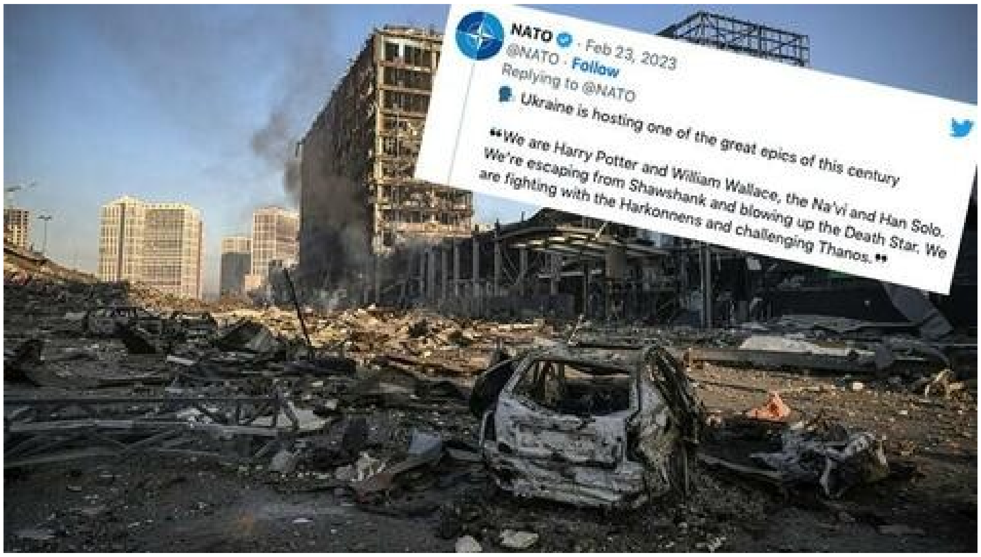
War, government: feb23 NATO Criticized For Tweet Comparing Ukraine Conflict To Harry Potter

NATO has been criticised for a bizarre tweet comparing the Ukraine conflict to Harry Potter and Star Wars.



NATO · Feb 23, 2023
@NATO · Follow
Replying to @NATO

🗣 Ukraine is hosting one of the great epics of this century

❝We are Harry Potter and William Wallace, the Na'vi and Han Solo. We're escaping from Shawshank and blowing up the Death Star. We are fighting with the Harkonnens and challenging Thanos.❞

The tweet sent via NATO’s official Twitter account is a quote claimed to be [from a soldier in the Ukrainian army](#).

It reads, “This war will shape the continent. It will set rules and draw frontiers. Books will be written and studies done on the reality we face today. We are Harry Potter and William Wallace, the Na’vi and Han Solo. We’re escaping from Shawshank and blowing up the Death Star. We are fighting with the Harkonnens and challenging Thanos. Ukraine is hosting one of the great epics of this century.”

Markets, government, censorship: feb23 **Former Pharma Exec Charged With Insider Trading Around Government's $765 Million Pandemic Loan To Kodak**

Kodak is back in the news again after some time flying under the

radar, and for a somewhat surprising reason: The Trump administration has tapped the legacy film and photography pioneer to produce pharmaceutical ingredients.

The company will receive a $765 million government loan to launch a new division called Kodak Pharmaceuticals, which will eventually produce as much as 25% of the active ingredients for generic medications in the United States. The deal helps fulfill a key Trump administration priority to reduce dependence on foreign production of drugs and other crucial products.

It’s something of a twist in the storied, 140-year history of the Eastman Kodak Company (KODK). The firm made film photography accessible to the masses — making the “Kodak moment” synonymous

with taking a picture. But Kodak failed to capitalize on its invention of digital photography in the 1970s, and it eventually filed for bankruptcy in 2012. Since then, the company has been trying to reinvent itself, and in recent years has leaned heavily on the production of advanced chemicals.

Though the move into pharmaceuticals seems like a large leap, Kodak CEO Jim Continenza last week called the chemical business “the heart of who we are.” Kodak’s stock has surged around 530% in the past five days following news of the agreement.

Kodak's stock rose so fast it tripped 20 circuit breakers in a single day

“We’re in this business, just not in a large way, and this is a chance for us to expand,” Continenza said.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo described the effort as one to "restore Kodak's role as an American innovator, and a formidable force in the chemical industry."

Here's a look back at some of the biggest moments in Kodak's history, and how the photography and film company became positioned to lead a major Trump administration priority.

'You push the button, we do the rest'

1880-1881: Kodak founder George Eastman invented a new formula for making dry plates, a key piece of photography equipment, and began manufacturing them in Rochester, New York. He called the business the Eastman Dry Plate Company.

The firm transitioned through several names before landing on

the Eastman Kodak Company in 1892. (The word “Kodak,” according to the company, was invented by Eastman out thin air: “The letter ‘K’ had been a favorite with me — it seems a strong, incisive sort of letter.”)

1888: Eastman released the first Kodak camera. At the time, photography was not a mass business because of the technical skills and equipment needed to do it, but the Kodak camera was designed to make photography more widely accessible. Eastman coined the slogan: “You push the button, we do the rest.”

George Eastman released the first Kodak camera in 1888, radically tranforming the photography industry.

Royal Photographic Society Collection/Getty Images

1889: Kodak released the first commercial transparent roll of film,

enabling the development of the motion picture camera. Since then, the company has received nine Oscars for technical and scientific contributions to the movie industry.

1929: Kodak marketed its first film designed for then-novel motion pictures with sound.

1960s: Kodak's marketing leaned heavily on the idea of nostalgia. A 2007 "Mad Men" episode nodded to this strategy in a Don Draper speech about the carousel slide projector.

1969: Astronauts on the Apollo 11 space flight used a special color camera built by Kodak to take photographs during their first walk on the moon.

1970s: By this time, Kodak was responsible for 90% of film and 85% of camera sales in the United

States, according to The Economist. But that powerful market position would not last.

The front window of a Kodak shop displays cameras and autumn leaves, with information about how to photograph during that season.

SSPL/Getty Images

1975: A young Kodak engineer created the first digital camera. But the company failed to capitalize on the invention, fearing its popularity would take away from film sales.

1985: The company's Kodachrome film was used by National Geographic photographer Steve McCurry for his famous "Afghan Girl" image. The company stopped manufacturing that line of film in 2009.

1988: Kodak made an earlier foray into the pharmaceutical industry when it bought Sterling Drug Inc.

for $5.1 billion. At the time, Kodak was the largest maker of photographic products in the world, but it faced growing competition in photography, and was in the process of diversifying its business. The company already had a life sciences segment, which the Sterling acquisition was intended to boost, the New York Times reported at the time.

1994: Kodak sold off the remainder of its Sterling assets for $2.9 billion in cash, part of a move to concentrate on its core photography and imaging business. Kodak had previously sold Sterling's pharmaceutical business for nearly $1.7 billion in cash, according to the Associated Press.

2004: Kodak stopped selling traditional film cameras.

December 2010: Kodak was delisted from the S&P 500. Its sales had shrunk almost in half between 2005 to 2010, and profits had dried up.

July 2011: Kodak said it was exploring the sale of more than 1,100 patents, or 10% of the company's patent portfolio.

Kodak says its existing facilities, including its complex in Rochester, New York, will help it quickly scale up its pharmaceutical business.

January 2012: Kodak filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Though some of its most valuable patents at the time were for digital imaging — including some used in smartphones — the company had fallen behind rivals in digital photography. At the time of its filing, the company said it had assets worth $5.1 billion, but it also had 100,000 creditors and debts totaling $6.75 billion.

February 2012: The company exited the digital camera business, and said it would instead license its brand name to other camera manufacturers.

2014: While Hollywood had largely moved on to digital production, Kodak in 2014 inked an agreement with industry leaders to continue making film for motion pictures, the Wall Street Journal reported. Kodak was the only major producer of motion picture film remaining, and its revenue from the business had tanked. The effort to keep it alive evidently had some success — Warner Bros' much-anticipated film Tenet, set to release later this year, was shot on Kodak 65mm film.

2018: Kodak announced a plan to launch a "photo-centric cryptocurrency" called KODAKCoin, causing the company's stock to

surge 125% following the announcement. Little came of the effort.

July 28, 2020: Kodak won a government loan to transform into a pharmaceutical ingredients producer. White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said the company’s expertise in fine chemicals was borne out of its film legacy. The following day, Kodak’s stock price rose so fast it tripped 20 circuit breakers throughout the trading session.

A former pharma executive and his cousin were charged with insider trading regarding the announcement that Kodak was going to be the recipient of a government loan tied to Covid.

Former executive Andrew Stiles ascertained information about Kodak's applications for loans to help make chemicals for Covid-19 drugs and then traded on the information with his cousin. The pair made more than $500,000 a new report from Bloomberg says.

At the time, Stiles was an executive at a company that was working with Kodak on the project. He bought "more than 100,000 shares", according to authorities, before the stock surged after Donald Trump's White House said it was going to lend the company $765 million.

Stiles' cousin made "more than $700,000" on the trade, the report says. New York Attorney General Letitia James has led the insider trading probe, and also alleged that Kodak Chief Executive Officer James Continenza was in violation of laws by buying shares ahead of the announcement. Despite this, the company claims that Continenza had been "pre-cleared" to buy the shares.

Generic drugmaker Phlow Corp. is listed on Stiles' LinkedIn as his place of employment dating back to when the trading took place. Phlow said in May 2020 it had been awarded $354 million to make medicines for pandemic response by the government.

Both Stiles and his cousin have been charged with three counts of securities fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and securities fraud. The Kodak loan was originally targeted for helping the company repurpose manufacturing facilities to produce drug ingredients.

War, Russia, china: feb23 **Xi Jinping to Visit Moscow as China and Russia Draw Closer Together**

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Chinese President Xi Jinping will be visiting Moscow soon as China and Russia continue to draw closer together in the face of similar Western pressure.

Putin made the announcement while hosting China’s top diplomat, Wang Yi, in Moscow. “We await a visit of the President of the People’s Republic of China to Russia, we have agreed on this,” Putin said. “Everything is progressing, developing. We are reaching new frontiers.”

Wang said China and Russia have reached “new levels of cooperation” and expects trade between the two nations to reach $200 billion per year by 2024, up from $185 billion in 2022. He expressed favor for a multipolar world and said China and Russia together have withstood pressure from other countries.

Swedish Prime Minister Says NATO Talks With Ankara Will Resume in Mid-March

- Sweden's prime minister said on Wednesday talks with Turkey regarding NATO membership will resume in mid-March after stalling in January in the wake of a Koran-burning protest.

"There is also a date, it's not a secret but we're waiting for confirmation," Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said during an interview with Sweden's public broadcaster SVT.

Czechs Have Sent 89 Tanks, Hundreds of Pieces of Heavy Machinery to Ukraine: PM

Stats, war, Africa: feb23 **UN Says 2022 Deadliest in Somalia Since 2017**

Germany Expels Two Iranian Diplomats

Belgium Probes Passage by 'Russian Spy Ship'

Hungary to Debate Finland, Sweden NATO Bid Next Wednesday -Agenda

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - Hungary's parliament will start debating the ratification of Finland and Sweden's NATO membership next Wednesday, the agenda of next week's parliamentary session showed this Wednesday.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock last week called on Turkey and Hungary to allow Finland and Sweden to join NATO, stating she expects all NATO members to ratify their bids to join the defence alliance "without further delay".

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said in November that his nationalist government had already decided to support Finland and Sweden's NATO accession.

The Hungarian government submitted the relevant legislation in July, but parliament, in which Orban's ruling Fidesz party has a two-thirds majority, has not debated and approved the two bills.

Hungary has sought to salvage energy ties to Russia amid the Ukraine war. Orban, re-elected in 2022 for a fourth consecutive term, reiterated on Saturday that being a NATO member was "vital" for Hungary, but said his government would not send arms to Ukraine or sever its economic relations with Moscow.

Tens of thousands of refugees flee from Somaliland clashes

Somalis arrive in Ethiopia from disputed town of Las Anod, where at least 82 people have died in fighting

More than 60,000 Somali refugees have fled to Ethiopia after an escalation in fighting in the town of Las Anod, in the Sool region, where tensions between local people and the governing Somaliland authorities have been building for weeks.
The UN said the refugees had arrived in part of Ethiopia that had been badly hit by drought after five consecutive failed rains, and that many people were sleeping in the open, or sheltering in schools and other public buildings.

Olga Sarrado Mur, spokesperson for the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, said: “Exhausted and traumatised, they have arrived with very little, only taking what they could carry. Women told staff from UNHCR that they had had to sell their belongings to pay for transportation to reach safety. Many of them have lost loved ones in the clashes or have been separated during flight.”

The UN said 89% of the 185,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) from Las Anod and surrounding areas were women and children, who were without proper shelter. The Red Crescent said some people had been displaced earlier from areas facing severe drought after repeated failed rains.
At least 82 people have been killed in fighting that has involved shelling of civilian areas, with damage to health facilities, as well as electricity and water supplies, the UN said.

According to Unicef, the UN children’s agency, the damage had left the displaced Somalis with limited sources of water and sanitation, and 80% were having to defecate in the open.
Markus Virgil Höhne, a social anthropologist at Leipzig University and specialist on northern Somalia, said the fighting had forced the local population into rural areas and put pressure on resources.
He said 90% or more of the people had been displaced. “What’s left in Las Anod is the fighters,” he said. “The dry season is from November to March, which is already a difficult time – not enough food, not enough water for the ordinary countryside populations. Now you add hundreds, or even thousands, of IDPs and this means it’s becoming a dire situation.”

The Sool region was claimed by Somaliland as part of its territory after it unilaterally declared independence from Somalia in 1991, but its authority has been disputed by members of the Dhulbahante clan.

Tensions have mounted since late December, when a local opposition leader, Abdifatah Abdullahi Abdi, was killed, sparking protests. Somaliland forces were accused of firing on the protesters, killing 20 people, which led to Somaliland withdrawing its forces from Las Anod in January.

Fighting began earlier this month after Dhulbahante elders declared that the Sool region was no longer part of Somaliland and they would form a separate state within Somalia's federal system.

Höhne said the violence reflected a deeper problem of where Somaliland's borders lay and whether all those living within the territory it claimed were willing to be part of the breakaway state.

"What is at stake [for the people of Las Anod] is a real question: do we accept the secession of Somaliland?" he said. "Do we want to be part of an independent Somaliland or part of Somalia?"

The Somaliland government has downplayed the grievances and claimed al-Shabaab militants had infiltrated the area to create disruption.

Nicolas Delaunay, east and southern Africa project director at the International Crisis Group, said Somaliland had not provided concrete evidence of al-Shabaab's involvement and that deeper issues behind the conflict must be addressed quickly.

"What Somaliland is probably trying to do by saying there are terrorists involved in the fighting is to discredit their opponent," Delaunay said. "It is conflating the issue in a sense and hiding what the political issues are and what the local grievances are."

He said: "If you let the situation fester, it could become worse. There are a number of actors who called for an immediate ceasefire and it really is the way to go. They need to come to the table and discuss together the future of this region – such conflict can escalate quite quickly."

Patients Dying as Nigerian Cash Crisis Hits Health Services Before Election

Tunisia police arrest prominent figures as crackdown continues

Tunisian police arrested two prominent opposition leaders and surrounded the house of another critic of President Kais Saied, according to their relatives and lawyers.

Chaima Aissa, leader of the National Salvation Front, and opposition figure Issam Chebbi were arrested by police on Wednesday.

Authorities also surrounded the house of Jawher Ben Mbarek, another significant critic of the president, amid a crackdown on those critical of the president.

Aissa has led protests against Saied and was charged under a cybercrime law after criticising the president in a radio interview.

UN Says DR Congo Will Need $2.25 Billion to Aid Uprooted People in Rebel-Hit East

Mexico

- Mexico President Takes Aim at Predecessor After US Court Convicts Drug Czar
- US Sanctions Mexican Drug Precursor Suppliers

China, Japan Hold First Security Talks in Four Years

Iraq

- Iraq Daily Roundup: 10 Killed
- Iraqi Central Bank to Drop Dollar for Yuan in Trade With China

Middle East

- Iran Blames US for Delay in Prisoner Swap Deal
- Saudi Arabia's Oil Revenues Reach $326 Billion in 2022, Highest in 10 Years
- Turkey Carries Out Another Deadly Drone Attack in Syria: Kurdish Forces

Afghanistan

- 270,000 Afghan Refugees Returned From Iran in Past Six

[Pakistan Defense Minister in Kabul Over Shut Border Crossing]

Pakistan

[Pakistan's Defense and Spy Chiefs Discuss Security With Taliban]

[Pakistani Ex-Pm Imran Khan's Supporters Rally, Taunt Police]

[Pakistan to Cut Government Expenses by 15% in Austerity Drive]

National Weather Service Declares Rare Blizzard Warning For Los Angeles-Area Mountains

US To Quadruple Troop Presence In Taiwan, Simultaneously Ratchets Pressure Over China-Russia Ties

War, government: feb23 Ransomware Attack On Food Giant Dole Temporarily Shuttered US Production

"Our plants are shut down for the day and all our shipments are on hold.

"Please bear with us as we navigate our way and hopefully we will minimize this event," the internal memo continued.

William Goldfield, the spokesperson for Dole, confirmed the ransomware incident in a statement released on the company's website on Wednesday.

Dole plc announced today that the company recently experienced a cybersecurity incident that has been identified as ransomware.

Upon learning of this incident, Dole moved quickly to contain the threat and engaged leading third-party cybersecurity experts, who have been working in partnership with Dole's internal teams to remediate the issue and secure systems.

The company has notified law enforcement about the incident and are cooperating with their investigation.

While continuing to investigate the scope of the incident, the impact to Dole operations has been limited.

What's not clear is how long the company had to shutter production. There was no word if the company paid a ransom to hackers.

Add Dole to the growing list of incidents at US food plants. Some folks are convinced the nation's food processing plants are 'under attack' after a series of fires (read: here & here & here). The FBI warned food plants to be alert for ransomware attacks last year.

Supermarkets in the UK Ration Fruit and Vegetables as Energy Costs Force Greenhouse Closures

Supermarkets ration fruit and veg as shelves empty in supply shortage: Asda restricts sales of some items to three per customer as UK farmers switch off greenhouses amid soaring energy costs and Europe is hit by 'perfect storm' of growing issues

- **Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce and cauliflower limited in stores**
- **Many shoppers across the country have been growing frustrated by shortages**

By TOM PYMAN FOR MAILONLINE

PUBLISHED: 06:14 EST, 21 February 2023 | **UPDATED:** 09:49 EST, 21 February 2023

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Supermarkets are rationing fruit and vegetables as shelves continue to remain bare in stores across the country.

Shoppers in some **Asda** stores have been told that they can buy up to three packs each of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce, salad bags, broccoli, cauliflower and raspberries at a time as supplies run empty in a number of outlets.
The crisis has developed in recent weeks due to soaring energy costs which have forced British farmers to switch off greenhouses as they desperately try to make ends meet.

War, government: feb23 Orban Snubs Biden, Skips Major NATO 'Eastern Flank' Meeting

Update(1539ET): It's been confirmed that Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban snubbed Biden on Wednesday. Orban was invited to represent Hungary as the US president met with nine NATO 'eastern flank' countries, but Orban was a no-show. Instead he sent Hungary's ceremonial president, Katalin Novák, in his place. As the AP reports:

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, the right-wing populist leader who argued last week that the European Union is partly to blame for prolonging Russia’s war in Ukraine, has balked at sanctions on Moscow and arming Kyiv. **Orban was skipping the meeting with Biden, and President Katalin Novák was attending in his stead**.

Still, Klaus Iohannis, the president of Romania, insisted that **"The B9 is stronger than ever."**

On the same day Orban's foreign minister Peter Szijjarto issued a fresh call for peace talks, saying at a press conference, "Having seen and listened to the speeches by the presidents of the US and Russia yesterday, I think they would have made humanity a much bigger service by talking to each other."

Vaccine, stats, government: feb23 **Idaho Lawmakers Seek To Criminalize Injecting Of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines**

Republican lawmakers from Idaho have introduced a bill that will make it a crime to administer mRNA vaccines in the state, citing safety concerns, which would apply to COVID-19 vaccines manufactured by companies like Pfizer and Moderna.

China, war: feb23 **US May Release Intelligence Showing China Poised To Transfer Arms To Russia**

China Sends Supertankers To US Gulf On Crude Oil Buying Spree

Nvidia Soars 8% After Beating Earnings, Guiding Higher Than Expected

*"The Biden administration is **considering releasing intelligence it believes shows that China is weighing whether to supply weapons to support Russia's war in Ukraine**, U.S. officials said," The Wall Street Journal reports.*

Iraq To Drop Dollar For Yuan In Trade With China

Iraq To Drop Dollar For Yuan In Trade With China

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, FEB 23, 2023 - 06:44 AM

Via The Cradle,

The Iraqi central bank announced Wednesday that, for the first time, it plans to **allow trade from China to be settled directly in yuan instead of the US dollar** to improve access to foreign currency.

"It is the first time imports would be financed from China in yuan, as Iraqi imports from China have been financed in (US) dollars only," the government's economic adviser, Mudhir Salih, told *Reuters*.

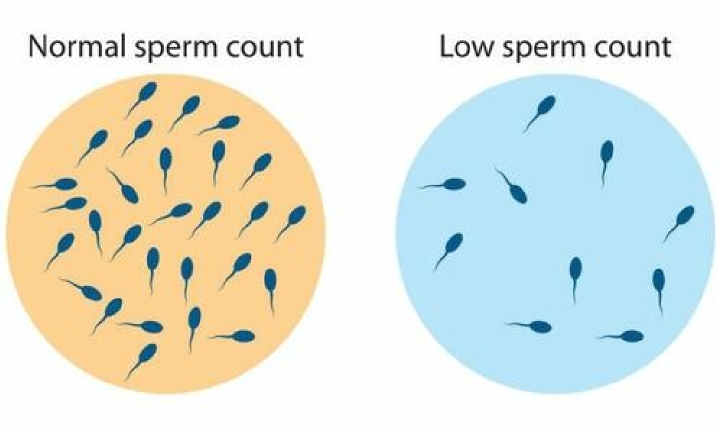
journal, stats, middle east, islam, war: feb23 'ISIS Bride' Shamima Begum Bid To Restore British Citizenship Rejected ***Judge dismisses 23-year-old's legal challenge*** *and upholds Home Office decision to revoke her UK citizenship...*

Shamima Begum failed in a last-ditch legal bid to have her British citizenship restored.

On Wednesday, the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC) fully dismissed the 23-year-old's legal challenge against a Home Office decision to revoke her status as a UK citizen.

declining sperm count revisited: new meta-analysis shows increased acceleration

A recently published meta-analysis shows that global sperm counts are declining worldwide—at an accelerating rate.

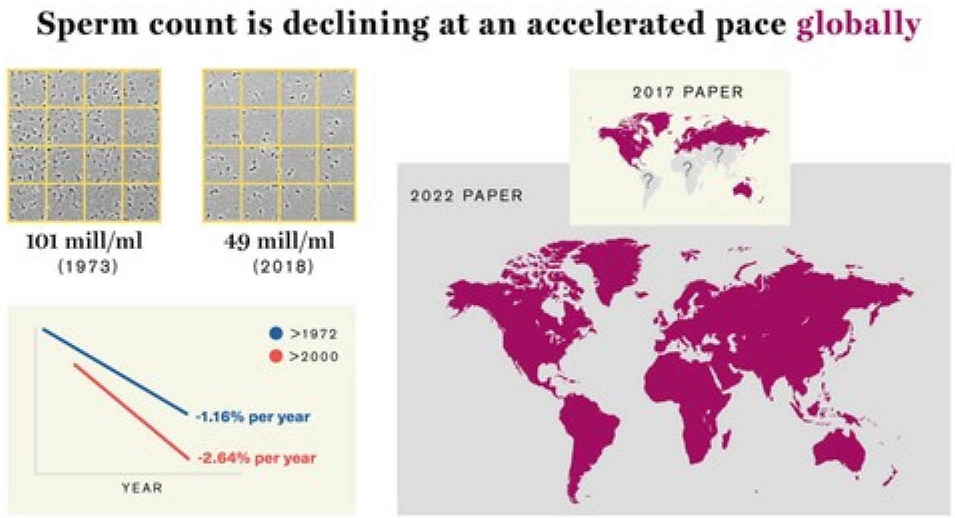


The article, published in the journal Human Reproduction Update in November 2022 by an international team of researchers, reviewed 2,936 scholarly abstracts and 868 full articles and **analyzed data from 38 sperm count studies done on six continents, updating their landmark study of 2017.**

The 2017 study found sperm counts had fallen in North America, Europe, and Australia by over 50 percent in a fifty-year span. The current study updated this data as well as added data from South/Central America, Asia, and Africa.

“The aim of this study was to examine trends in sperm count among men from all continents. The broader implications of a global decline in sperm count, the knowledge gaps left unfilled by our prior analysis, and the controversies surrounding this issue warranted an up-to-date meta-analysis," said the authors.

The analysis found that while sperm counts had declined at the average rate per year of 1.16 percent between 1972 and 2000, the rate of decline since 2000 has increased to an average of 2.64 percent per year.



Reviewing the findings in an After Skool YouTube episode, study author Shanna Swan said:

"Now we can conclude that **among men who didn't know what their fertility [rate] was, who are, by the way, most representative of the general population, that there was a significant decline [in sperm counts and sperm concentration] in Asia, Africa, and South America**—so now we can say that our finding of a significant decline in sperm concentration and count is worldwide—that was a big change from the 2017 paper.

"The other change from the 2017 paper was the rate at which sperm counts are declining: When we look at recent years—particularly since the turn of the century—the rate is 2.64 per year. That's more than double 1.16, the prior finding."

The Role of Plastics in Reproductive Disruption

The obvious question is—why the accelerated rate of decline?

Swan dismissed genetic explanations, pointing out that genetic changes take "many generations to appear" whereas these changes are taking place in two generations or less.

"**That leaves us with environment,**" Swan said.

Swan and other experts believe the problem is a class of chemicals called endocrine disruptors, which interfere with the body's hormones.

*Read more **here...***

coletrickle45
10 hours ago
(Edited)

Hard to get an accurate sperm count when people jack off multiple times a day.

**** kills your sperm count.

Early contact, high frequent use, and high frequency of masturbation during *********** use could lead to addiction trends and aberrant reproductive hormone levels and semen quality

play_arrow38play_arrow3

Ms.Creant
10 hours ago

That has been true since the begining.

play_arrow15play_arrow2

coletrickle45
10 hours ago

I disagree. There are studies that show that watching it too much kills sperm production

play_arrow7play_arrow3

Ms.Creant
10 hours ago

I assume you are talking about ****? Interesting. Men always tell me that they are so sensitive as teens that wind blowing on it might stimulate a result. I have been told multiple times a day is normal. Some young men are even distressed by it, it is why baggy clothes as a style works for many.

play_arrow9play_arrow

Z Free
9 hours ago

So many endocrine disrupters in our food and environment these days. Thermal paper that receipts are printed on are horrible,

play_arrow21play_arrow1

zotz
8 hours ago

"Global Sperm Counts Declining"

C'mon man !

play_arrow5play_arrow1

psychopath
8 hours ago

Yet birthrates in the turd world are well above replacement. I call ********.

play_arrow13play_arrow3

Systems Planet
8 hours ago

The plastic inside soda cans kills sperm.

https://youtu.be/EagzNomxTYg

play_arrow10play_arrow1

MightyZen
1 hour ago

Thermal paper receipts? I learn always a new thing in here, haha.

play_arrow2play_arrow

JSG
1 hour ago
(Edited)

Yup. Every thermal paper receipt is filled with PFOA. BTW microwave popcorn paper is similarly pure PFOA and even worse because it's in contact with food explicitly. NEVER eat microwave popcorn!

It's actually central to the function of printing.   Need to go back to conventional paper and ink to avoid it. That extra step of separate ink is the only and entire reason for thermal paper's ubiquity.

play_arrow3play_arrow1

Fviia
35 minutes ago

You do not know what you are talking about.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Show More Replies

read later: church, sacrifice

Levant[edit]

Further information: Binding of Isaac

References in the Bible point to an awareness of and disdain of human sacrifice in the history of ancient Near Eastern practice. During a battle with the Israelites, the King of Moab gives his firstborn son and heir as a whole burnt offering (*olah*, as used of the Temple sacrifice) (2 Kings 3:27).[15] The Bible then recounts that, following the King's sacrifice, "There was great indignation [or wrath] against Israel" and that the Israelites had to raise their siege of the Moabite capital and go away. This verse had perplexed many later Jewish and Christian commentators, who tried to explain what the impact of the Moabite King's sacrifice was, to make those under siege emboldened while disheartening the Israelites, make God angry at the Israelites or the Israelites fear his anger, make Chemosh (the Moabite god) angry, or otherwise.[16] Whatever the explanation, evidently at the time of writing, such an act of sacrificing the firstborn son and heir, while prohibited by Israelites (Deuteronomy 12:31; 18:9-12), was considered as an emergency measure in the Ancient Near East, to be performed in exceptional cases where divine favor was desperately needed.

The binding of Isaac appears in the Book of Genesis (22); the story appears in the Quran, though Islamic tradition holds that Ismael was the one to be sacrificed. In both the Quranic and Biblical stories, **God tests Abraham by asking him to present his son as a sacrifice on Moriah. Abraham agrees to this command without arguing. The story ends with an angel stopping Abraham at the last minute and providing a ram, caught in some nearby bushes, to be sacrificed instead.** Many Bible scholars have suggested this story's origin was a remembrance of an era when human sacrifice was abolished in favour of animal sacrifice.[17][18]

Another probable instance of human sacrifice mentioned in the Bible is the sacrifice of Jephthah's daughter in Judges 11. Jephthah vows to sacrifice to God whatsoever comes to greet him at the door when he returns home if he is victorious. The vow is stated in the Book of Judges 11:31: "Then whoever comes of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return victorious from the Ammonites, shall be the Lord's, to be offered up by me as a burnt offering (NRSV)." When he returns from battle, his virgin daughter runs out to greet him. She begs for, and is granted, "two months, so that I may go and wander on the mountains, and bewail my virginity, my companions and I", after which "[Jephthah] did with her according to the vow he had made."[19]

Two kings of Judah, Ahaz and Manassah, sacrificed their sons. Ahaz, in 2 Kings 16:3, sacrificed his son. "... He even made his son pass through fire, according to the abominable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel (NRSV)." King Manasseh sacrificed his sons in 2 Chronicles 33:6. "He made his son pass through fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom ... He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger (NRSV)." The valley symbolized hell in later religions, such as Christianity, as a result.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_sacrifice
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korban

Africa, war: feb22 suspected jihadists killed at least 15 soldiers in troubled northern Burkina Faso, just three days after an ambush that claimed the lives of 51 troops, security sources said Tuesday.

© AFP

Under pressure: junta chief Captain Ibrahim Traore, dailymail.uk, feb.21st

https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/nearly-70-troops-killed-in-two-jihadist-attacks-in-troubled-burkina-4132774

Energy, war: feb22 **Tanzania Approves Controversial $3.5 Billion Oil Pipeline**
Iraq Signs Agreement With UAE to Develop Natural Gas Fields

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Iranian-German man sentenced to death on ‘terrorism’ charges

Sharmahd is accused of being the leader of the US-based group Tondar (which means “thunder” in Farsi), also known as the Kingdom Assembly of Iran, which says it seeks to restore the monarchy that was overthrown after the last shah fled Iran shortly before the 1979 revolution.

The Los Angeles-based group runs radio and television stations abroad that support Iranian opposition groups.

Stats: feb22 **Daughter of Malcolm X to Sue CIA, FBI, NYC Police for $100 Million**

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News Updated February 22, 2023 - 6:10 PM EST

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Stats, markets, war, sanctions: feb22 **Supermarkets in the UK Ration Fruit and Vegetables as Energy Costs Force Greenhouse Closures**

Supermarkets ration fruit and veg as shelves empty in supply shortage: Asda restricts sales of some items to three per customer as UK farmers switch off greenhouses amid soaring energy costs and Europe is hit by 'perfect storm' of growing issues

- **Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce and cauliflower limited in stores**
- **Many shoppers across the country have been growing frustrated by shortages**

By TOM PYMAN FOR MAILONLINE

PUBLISHED: 06:14 EST, 21 February 2023 | **UPDATED:** 09:49 EST, 21 February 2023

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Supermarkets are rationing fruit and vegetables as shelves continue to remain bare in stores across the country.

Shoppers in some **Asda** stores have been told that they can buy up to three packs each of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce, salad bags, broccoli, cauliflower and raspberries at a time as supplies run empty in a number of outlets.
The crisis has developed in recent weeks due to soaring energy costs which have forced British farmers to switch off greenhouses as they desperately try to make ends meet.

Top Storiesby **Daily Mail** **Inside the meticulous planning of Biden's trip insidea warzone**

Meanwhile, **a 'perfect storm' of flooding, cold temperatures and cancelled ferries** have caused major supply problems on the Continent.
One shopper, Hilary Paterson-Jones, said she had to visit four supermarkets in her home town of Holyhead, Anglesey, to complete her weekly shop.

She said: 'There was hardly any fresh produce in Tesco. In Morrisons I asked a young staff member what was going on and he said there was nothing in the back stores.

'It was the same in Aldi and Lidl, it seemed to be affecting all the supermarkets.

'Shortages have been getting worse in recent months but I was shocked to see so many empty shelves at 10am on a Saturday morning.

'Things can get bad during the summer when the tourists arrive, but nothing like this. Prices are going through the roof but a lack of basic foodstuffs is unacceptable.'

After sharing her concerns on social media, Ms Paterson-Jones was contacted by scores of other people from around Britain.

One couldn't get apples, another struggled with cabbages, a third was stumped for orange juice. Tomatoes and iceberg lettuce proved particularly difficult to buy.

In one Morrisons store, staff put up a sign apologising for the disruption.

It read: 'Availability across our tomato range has been significantly impacted by adverse weather conditions across Spain and Morocco. The current shortage is likely to improve within a couple of weeks.'

An Asda spokesperson told MailOnline: 'Like other supermarkets, we are experiencing sourcing challenges on some products that are grown in southern Spain and north Africa.

'We have introduced a temporary limit of three of each product on a very small number of fruit and vegetable lines, so customers can pick up the products they are looking for.'

Shadow environment secretary Jim McMahon, who will speak at the National Farmers' Union (NFU) conference today, told Sky News how soaring energy costs in the UK were also a major reason for shortages.

'You've got farmers who feel so frustrated that they haven't got government support and if you're a consumer you're going into the supermarket and seeing that shelves are empty,' he said.

'Why? Because the Government are not on the side of farmers or on the side of food security, and in the end, consumers are paying the price.

'We do grow produce here but it's a matter of fact that we're not growing tomatoes for instance because the cost of energy in the greenhouses is so high that they've just been turned off. That is a contributing factor to why there are gaps on the supermarket shelves.

'The reason you can't buy eggs on Pancake Day in many supermarkets is because of avian flu. The Government could have responded much quicker to that and farmers feel very frustrated with the way they've been treated.'

Mr McMahon's comments were backed up by the NFU's vice president David Exwood.

He told MailOnline: 'We are repeatedly seeing a predictable combination of factors such as energy costs and weather leading to empty supermarket shelves.

'Our UK food resilience is currently gone. The Government needs to take this seriously.

'Producers must have the confidence they need, working within a fair and transparent supply chain, ensuring fair and sustainable returns so they can do what they do best - produce nutritious, high quality British food to meet demand from shoppers.'

Tim O'Malley, of major importer Nationwide Produce, said volatile growing conditions had seen wholesale spot prices for fresh produce lines soar by as much as 300 per cent.

Frost damage to home-grown British crops such as carrots, cabbages, parsnips and cauliflowers also means many fields have been written off.

Some farming campaigners say red tape associated with Brexit is also playing a part.

Mr O'Malley said the single biggest factor behind the crisis was 'Mother Nature' and volatile weather.

He added: 'I can honestly say that in the 40 years I've been in this trade, I've never seen such high spot prices across such a broad range of products for such a prolonged period of time.'

He said the delivered price for a box of peppers was up from £8-£9 to around £22, while a box of tomatoes was up from £7-£8 to £14.

Courgettes have risen from £5-£7 to £12, iceberg lettuces from £6-£8 to £19, and Dutch onions from £250-£270 per ton to £700.

Mr O'Malley said: 'It's the perfect storm of terrible growing weather and, of course, inflation.

'It started with the heatwave and drought this summer throughout Europe. Then we had a very mild autumn and then we were plunged into a deep freeze.

'Just three weeks ago Ibiza was covered in snow. Temperatures dropped to -15C (5F) in Catalonia while at the same time, the overnight low here was -8C (18F) in Oxfordshire.

'Spain is our main source of fresh produce in winter by far. They've pretty much gone straight from a red-hot summer to a freezing cold winter with no autumn in between.

'All this has led to a major reduction in yields, reduction in size, quality issues, viruses.'

Mr O'Malley also pointed to prolonged periods of sub-zero temperatures in Morocco, another major source of fresh produce, notably tomatoes.

Andrew Opie, of the British Retail Consortium, said: 'Difficult weather conditions in the south of Europe and northern Africa have disrupted harvest for some fruit and vegetables including tomatoes.

'However, supermarkets are adept at managing supply chain issues and are working with farmers to ensure that customers are able to access a wide range of fresh produce.'

War, middle east: feb22 **Israel, Saudi Arabia Hold Talks on Increasing Military Ties**

sanctions, war, russia: feb22 Russia Summons Bangladesh Envoy Over Sanctioned Ships Dispute

Bangladesh earlier this month banned dozens of Russian ships that have fallen under Western sanctions from entering its territorial waters, citing the need to comply with the restrictions.

Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement it had told Bangladesh's ambassador in Moscow that the move was not in line with "traditionally friendly bilateral relations and may adversely affect the prospects for cooperation in various fields".

Russia's state-owned nuclear energy organisation Rosatom is currently building Bangladesh's first nuclear power plant, due to start operating in 2024. Dhaka has asked Moscow to ensure it uses non-sanctioned ships for delivering equipment for the plant.

Belarus Says Ukraine Army Groups Massed at Border, Risking Its Security

Stats, government: feb22 **Here's How Much Bloomberg Terminal Users Are Detached From Reality**

Here's How Much Bloomberg Terminal Users Are Detached From Reality

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, FEB 21, 2023 - 07:00 PM

One of the best insights into just how disconnected wealthy folks are from the souring economic reality of high inflation crushing the bottom 90% of households is in the latest MLIV Pulse Survey asking Bloomberg Terminal users 'at what dollar amount they would need their retirement savings to feel comfortable'.

The response: At least $3 million or more to retire with ease, according to the 553 respondents.

In the US, 2.9% said less than $1 million, 7.6% said more than $1 million, 31.4% said $3 million, 42.6% said between $3-5 million, 13% said $20 million, and 2.5% said more than $20 million.

Source: Bloomberg

Bloomberg noted:

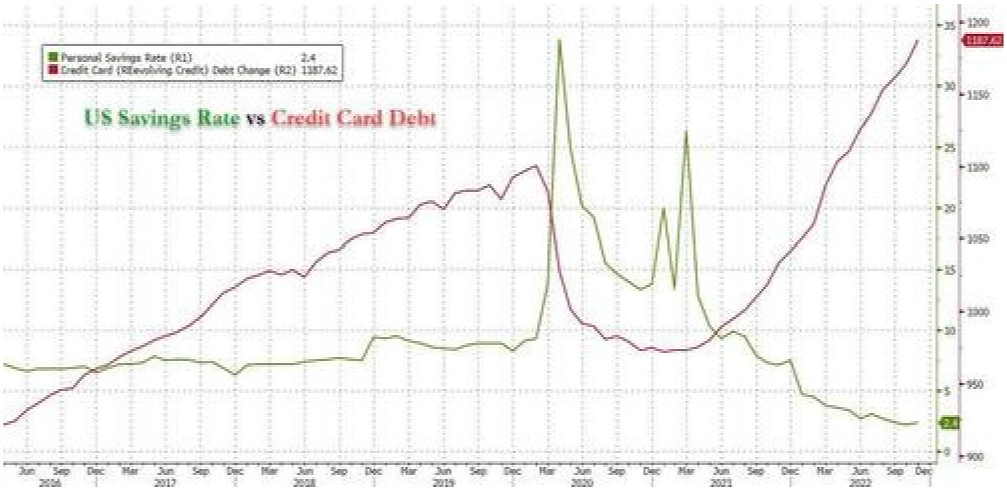
Most respondents are optimistic they'll move closer to their retirement goal by ending 2023 with more in retirement savings than at the end of 2022. Last year, inflation and rising borrowing costs hammered stocks, and since bond prices also plunged, the average US 401(k) retirement account was down 20% at plans where Vanguard Group is a recordkeeper.

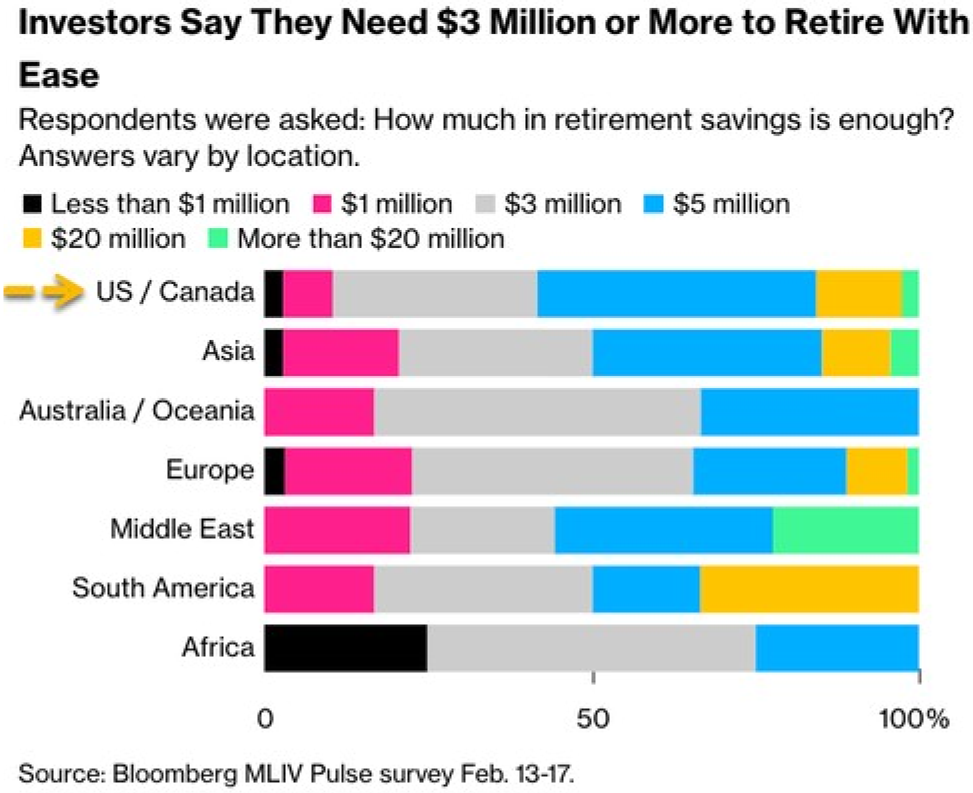
But here's the disconnect between the respondents and everyone else. These folks aren't in the bottom 90% and might not be suffering 21 months of negative real wage growth, depleted savings, maxed-out credit cards, and increased risk of job loss.

A recent survey by Bankrate showed one-third of American workers -- nearly 36% -- don't have retirement accounts such as a 401(k) or IRA. The survey showed 52% of Americans are behind in their retirement savings.

And many in the bottom 90% have found themselves working longer as the average retirement age has increased from 62 to 65.

Simply, the respondents of the MLIV Pulse Survey are disconnected from reality.





Investors Say They Need $3 Million or More to Retire With Ease

Respondents were asked: How much in retirement savings is enough? Answers vary by location.

Source: Bloomberg MLIV Pulse survey Feb. 13-17.

Stats, ai, tech: feb22 **ChatGPT Co-Creator Says The World May Not Be "That Far Away From Potentially Scary" AI**

Stats, vaccine, government: feb22 **Minnesota Bar Owner Faces $350,000 In Fines For Defying State COVID-19 Restrictions**

Authored by Michael Clements via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

A Minnesota bar owner lost her business, liquor and food service licenses, and is facing up to $350,000 in fines for violating a governor's executive order. But the Minnesota Attorney General's lawsuit doesn't list any actual harm caused by her actions.

"**I didn't break the law; I defied the executive order**," Lisa Monet Zarza told The Epoch Times.

Zarza's attorney, Richard Dahl of Brainerd, Minnesota, did not respond to a request for comment by The Epoch Times. Nor did the Minnesota Attorney General's office.

The lawsuit was filed in Minnesota District Court in Dakota County. It alleges that Lionheart LLC, doing business as Alibi Drinkery of Lakeville, Minnesota, opened for business illegally from Dec. 16–30, 2020.

Gov. Tm Walz had ordered bars, restaurants, and other businesses closed to stem the spread of the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, commonly known as the novel coronavirus.

It was one of a series of executive orders issued from March 2020 to June 2021 after Walz declared a "peacetime emergency." A review of available data by The Epoch Times indicates **Walz's orders likely accomplished nothing toward controlling the spread of the CCP virus.**

Zarza said that she and her business partner had complied with all state mandates up to that point. They closed for the initial two-week period in March 2020 to “flatten the curve.” They offered take-out service and outdoor dining as much as they could.

Zarza said Alibi Drinkery never reported an issue and was never connected to any COVID cases.

“**We closed exactly how they said**,” she said.

The peacetime emergency declaration, approved by the legislature, allowed Walz to issue edicts with the power of law. One of those was Executive Order 20-99.

It was issued on Nov. 19, 2020, in response to a spike in positive tests for the virus in the state.

According to the order, “The virus is everywhere, meaning that every interaction we have with people outside our households poses a risk of transmission.”

A mock skeleton is attached to the fence as protesters gathered outside Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz’s official residence in St. Paul, Minn., on April 17, 2020, to call on him to loosen stay-at-home restrictions imposed across the state because of the coronavirus. (Jim Mone/AP Photo)

The 23-page order declared that previous efforts to control the spread of the virus needed to be increased. Therefore, a mask mandate was instituted, and various organizations such as gyms, bars and restaurants, sports venues, and others considered high risks for spreading the virus were ordered to close.

She described Alibi Drinkery as a “hometown bar” in Lakeville, a community in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. She said she was active in the Lakeville business scene serving on various boards and with the Chamber of Commerce. Alibi Drinkery sponsored sports teams and hosted parties and community events.

“**We were embedded in the community,**” Zarza said.

Zarza said she started in the restaurant business as a 20-year-old. She loves the work, and it has become the only life she has ever really known.

“I don’t drink, and I don’t do drugs; I run restaurants,” she quipped during a telephone interview.

Read more ***here...***

Journal, stats, rome: **first ancient vibrator discovered. It is wooden, and from the roman empire. In fact, the head is even shaped similar to the head of a real penis.**

First 2,000-Year-Old Roman Wooden Phallus 'Used For Pleasure' Found

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 22, 2023 - 12:20 AM

Archaeologists believe they have uncovered the first full-size Roman dildo. The **2,000-year-old six-inch piece of wood** was recovered initially as a "darning tool" in 1992 in a ditch at the Roman Fort of Vindolanda, near Hadrian's Wall in northern England, according to the study published in the journal Antiquity.

"I have to confess, part of me thinks it's kind of self-evident that it is a penis," Dr. Rob Collins, an archaeologist at Newcastle University who co-authored the paper, told the Guardian. He said, **"We know ancient Romans and Greeks used sexual implements. This object from Vindolanda could be an example of one."**

Researchers initially unearthed the object as being a darning tool. This misidentification resulted from the tool being found alongside other tools, craft waste products, and dozens of shoes and dress accessories.

However, researchers have reinterpreted the six-inch piece of wood, smoothed at both ends, as a wooden phallus from the Roman era.

"What makes this a first is that it is not a small, miniature phallus," Collins said, adding, **"It's lifesize. It's also important because wood just doesn't normally survive … we couldn't find any parallels."**

Collins told CNN:

"It very well could be a sex object and, if it is, it is the first example from the Roman world.

"We shouldn't be surprised by this. We know from Roman art and Roman literature that they used dildos, that they existed. But we haven't found any examples archaeologically yet."

Researchers concluded in the study that no specific use of the wooden phallus could be determined: "We hope to have prompted the search for similar objects elsewhere and encouraged their meaningful incorporation into narratives of the past."

China, war, sanctions: feb22 **China Tells State Firms To Ditch Western-Linked Big Four Auditors Over 'National Security Concerns'**

Manufacturing In China And Exporting Globally "No Longer Viable": Kyocera

“**It works as long as [products are] made in China and sold in China**, but the business model of producing in China and exporting abroad is no longer viable,” Hideo Tanimoto, president of Kyocera, said in an interview with the Financial Times. “Not only have wages gone up, but obviously, with all that’s happening between the United States and China, it’s difficult to export from China to some regions.”

Kyocera is building its first factory in Japan in almost 20 years.

On Oct. 7, 2022, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced new export restrictions on chip manufacturing and advanced semiconductors in a bid to prevent American technology from being used in the development of the Chinese military.

Tanimoto admitted that the U.S. export controls were a reason why the firm cut down its operating profit forecast for the year by 31 percent. Kyocera commands a 70 percent market share globally in ceramic components used in chip-manufacturing equipment.

“**If chip equipment makers stop shipments to China, our orders will be somewhat affected … They are now even [being] asked not to ship their non-cutting-edge tools**,” Tanimoto said.

Back in 2019, when the Trump administration had imposed tariffs on China, Kyocera had moved the manufacturing of copiers for the U.S. market from China to Vietnam.

Moving Production Out of China

Many companies have moved production out of China or plan to do so. In April last year, for example, Apple began manufacturing its iPhone 13 in India at a site owned by Foxconn, its Taiwanese contract manufacturer. In addition, Apple is sending the production of iPads and AirPods to Vietnam.

Samsung shifted production to Vietnam back in 2019. The company has also decided to manufacture its flagship Galaxy S23 smartphones in India for local sale. Amazon has shut down its Kindle facility in China and now produces FireTV devices in India.

Footwear brand Dr. Martens has been reducing its manufacturing dependence on China. Since 2018, the company has shifted 55 percent of total production out of the nation.

“The big message is reducing reliance on China,” Dr. Martens’ chief executive Kenny Wilson said in November, according to the Financial Times. “You don’t want all of your eggs in one basket.”

Declining Investment in China

An analysis by Investment Monitor, a network of B2B websites, shows that greenfield foreign direct investments (FDIs) in China have been falling over the past few years.

Greenfield investment is a type of FDI whereby a parent company sets up a subsidiary in a different nation and builds its business from the ground up, including setting up production facilities, offices, distribution hubs, and so on.

In 2022, greenfield FDI levels into China had halved compared to 2019, according to the analysis. Merger and acquisition deals also fell. Companies were said to be looking to diversify away from the Chinese mainland due to concerns regarding geopolitics and disruption to supply chains.

In China’s tourism sector, greenfield FDI fell by 78 percent between 2019 and 2022. The electronics sector saw greenfield FDI decline by 56.7 percent during this period, financial services by 62.5 percent, logistics 28.6 percent, software and IT services by 48.5 percent, and industrial machinery, equipment, and tools fell by 56.7 percent.]

Some experts foresee more production by American firms being moved to friendlier nations. Governments and corporations are expected to invest “substantially in on-shoring, near-shoring, and friend-shoring for value chains,” said Michael Zezas, head of U.S. public policy research and municipal strategy at Morgan Stanley Research, according to a July 25th post by the investment firm.

“Mexico, India, Vietnam, and Turkey stand out as countries that could benefit from U.S. and European Union companies diversifying value chains.”

Markets, government: feb22 Struggling Intel Cuts Dividend By 66% To Conserve Cash

"this announcement, while negative, will not materially change investor sentiment” which is already at rock bottom.

Saudi Arabia's Oil Revenues Hit $326 Billion In 2022

debt is debt: Fundraising By Venture-Capital Firms Tumbles To Near Decade Low Amid 'Tech-Wreck'

"The amount was also less than half the level raised in the preceding three months, the **first time fundraising volumes decreased from the third to a fourth-quarter since 2009**."

stats, government: feb22 **These 84 Nations Have Never Been Visited By A Sitting US President** https://www.statista.com/chart/17623/countries-never-visited-by-a-sitting-us-president/

Government, war: feb22 **Biden Slams Putin's New START Suspension As "Big Mistake"; State Duma Ratifies Decision**

Biden Slams Putin's New START Suspension As "Big Mistake"; State Duma Ratifies Decision

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 22, 2023 - 02:17 PM

In Wednesday remarks from Warsaw, President Biden addressed Putin's decision to suspend Russian participation in the New START nuclear arms control pact, announced the day prior.

President Biden **slammed the move as a "big mistake"** in comments to reporters as he walked into the presidential palace in Warsaw just ahead of the meeting with leaders of NATO eastern flank countries. Additionally, Secretary of State Antony Blinken condemned Putin's decision as "deeply unfortunate and irresponsible."

As *The Hill* reviews of the timing of Putin's statements, "The Kremlin made the announcement in remarks on Tuesday, just hours before Biden made remarks to mark the anniversary of the war in Ukraine. Putin in his speech also rehashed long-held grievances against the U.S., NATO and the government in Kyiv."

In March 2021 the two sides renewed New START for a period of five years, and it will expire in February 2026 if it's not continued - at this point a likelihood given US-Russia relations have deteriorated so fast over the Ukraine war they are near complete breaking point. But this new Putin declaration appears to be the final death knell after the treaty's fate was already extremely uncertain.

The treaty is intended to limit and reduce nuclear arms on either side, setting a limit of no more than 1,550 deployed warheads and 700 missiles. START I began in 1991, with New START signed under the Obama and Medvedev administrations in 2010 as a successor agreement.

On Wednesday Russian parliament **formally ratified Putin's decision to withdraw** from the treaty, as Tass reports:

Russia’s Federation Council unanimously passed the bill on suspension of the New Strategic Arms Reduction (New START) Treaty Wednesday.

The document was introduced to the State Duma by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Duma unanimously passed the bill earlier on Wednesday. The effect of the New START Treaty is now being suspended, and the decision to restore it will be for the Russian President to make. The law will enter into effect at the moment of its official publication.

Now Kremlin officials are saying that New START's restoration will rest in US hands.

"**There are chances that the New START will be reinstated as it was, but that completely and utterly depends on US behavior**, its comprehension, or the failure to comprehend, that the policy it conducts toward Russia is malignant," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said.

But if the current "anti-Russian focus remains in place," then it will be hard to imagine that Moscow will return to compliance with the treaty, Ryabkov added, per state media.

At the same time, Chairman of the Federation Council’s Defense and Security Committee Viktor Bondarev has stressed that while every step should be taken not to push world closer to nuclear disaster, the decision will **ultimately help to strengthen Russia’s defense capabilities**.

Government, war: feb22 President Trump Vows To "Clean House Of Deep State", Warns World War III Has "Never Been Closer"

President Trump Vows To "Clean House Of Deep State", Warns World War III Has "Never Been Closer"

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 22, 2023 - 03:50 PM

In a video posted to Truth Social this week, former President Donald Trump has warned that World War III has "never been closer".

Just hours after President Biden made his visit to Ukraine, Trump took to video to offer the warning:

“World War Three has never been closer than it is right now.”

“We need to clean house of all of the warmongers and ‘America Last’ globalists, and the deep state, the Pentagon, the State Department and the national-security industrial complex,” *he continued.*

He said of current administration, Pentagon and deep state officials:

“These people have been seeking confrontation for a long time. Now we’re teetering on the brink of World War III and a lot of people don’t see it.”

Trump specifically called out US Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, and claimed that many others like her "are obsessed with pushing Ukraine into NATO".

He continued: "In America, we need to get rid of representatives of the corrupt establishment who have ruined every important foreign policy decision. This includes President Biden, who his people say has not made any good decisions in the context of other countries and wars."

"If you look and understand what steps Biden is taking regarding Ukraine, you will see that he is systematically, but perhaps unconsciously, pushing us into what could soon turn into the Third World War," Trump wrote on Truth Social this week.

"They are candidates of war. I am the President who delivers peace - and peace through strength," he concluded. "We could end the Ukraine conflict in 24 hours with the right leadership."

In an address earlier this week, Trump told a group in West Palm Beach, "We have two 'n' words. Neither of which should ever be mentioned."

"You know what the one is, but the other is the 'nuclear' word. It's not supposed to ever be mentioned. It's mentioned every single day now. We are on the precipice of a disaster the likes of which we have never seen."

"This will make World War I and World War II look like baby stuff," he warned.

War, china: feb22 China Says Ready To "Join Forces With Russia" To "Defend National Interests" As Putin Confirms Xi Visit

China Says Ready To "Join Forces With Russia" To "Defend National Interests" As Putin Confirms Xi Visit

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 22, 2023 - 11:00 AM

Despite all latest among Washington's repeat warnings to Beijing against strategic or military cooperation with Moscow, China is now pledging to "join forces" with "like-minded" partner Russia to defend national interests. The statement came by the close of the first day of the director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China’s Central Committee Wang Yi's trip to Moscow.

"The People’s Republic of China is **ready to join forces with Russia to decisively stand up for national interests and promote mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas**," Wang said Tuesday while meeting with Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev. On Wednesday he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in what appeared a warm and cooperative visit.

"During a virtual meeting at the end of last year our leaders [Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin] came up with a plan for further development of bilateral relations. We are ready to join forces with the Russian side, in accordance with the high-level agreements, to decisively stand up for national interests and virtues, and promote mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas," the Chinese diplomat's statement said.

He additionally said China will "together with all **like-minded partners** further promote the development of the international order in the direction of equitable development."

"It’s necessary to unlock the potential of this mechanism, and it’s also necessary to develop new steps of strategic interaction in accordance with the changing situation in order to provide the necessary guarantees for national development," Wang added. "I want to fully join your appreciation of the strategic cooperation between the two countries."

The positive and glowing statements amid the high-level visit comes at a crucial juncture in which Moscow needs a powerful backer in its corner which also holds a seat on the national security council. The war in Ukraine is days away from **reaching its one-year mark since the invasion began**.

The Kremlin praised Wang's stance in response, with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov welcoming **"China's balanced position on the Ukraine issue."** He further declared that **"ours and China's vision is much the same"** concerning the crisis.

However, it will be interesting to see if any further specifics on Ukraine emerged from the China side. So far, Wang appears to be advancing the official party line which has been somewhat ambiguous, also while in Moscow saying that China will maintain its **"objective and impartial stance" on the Ukraine crisis**.

Toward this end, he said that China "appreciates Russia's willingness to resolve the crisis through negotiations," according to TASS.

Beijing has of late expressed its desire for warring parties to reach negotiated peaceful settlement in Ukraine. This could be focus of President Xi Jinping's upcoming trip to Russia. While news of the future trip broke Tuesday, **President Putin confirmed Wednesday that it will happen** - a very significant symbolic first since the Ukraine invasion.

"We are expecting the president of the People's Republic of China to visit Russia. We agreed on this earlier," Putin said as he welcomed Wang Yi in the Kremlin. The Russian leaders praised the "new frontiers" that both countries are forging together:

President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that China's Xi Jinping would visit Russia, saying relations had reached "new frontiers" amid U.S. concerns that Beijing could provide material support to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"We understand that [China] has a domestic political agenda, but we assume that as we tackle all the issues related to this agenda - with the National People's Congress, which is made up of Chinese deputies, who must also resolve serious personnel issues - we will implement our plans for personal meetings as well, which will give an additional impetus to our relations," the Russian president added. A specific timetable has yet to be publicized, but US policy makers along with the rest of NATO and other UN Security Council members will without doubt be watching closely.

Meanwhile, Putin is on the offensive against his enemies near and far...

And concerning Zelensky's prior day's comments on the prospect of WW3 given deepening Moscow-Beijing relations...

* * *

Rabobank previews China's proposed peace plan for Ukraine in the analysis below:

Relatedly, Friday will see China’s proposed peace plan for Ukraine. Any such attempt should be applauded, but the question is on whose terms. Western observers remain skeptical the plan will see any concrete details, while rumors are also flying China may threaten to do for Russia what the US is doing for Ukraine, amplified by the news that Xi Jinping will visit Moscow soon.

Logically, assuming China is not going to dump Russia, which it won’t, there are few potential outcomes:

- *China offers nothing new*. However, this would underline that it remains a bystander having bullets fired at it by the White House, who just warned that Chinese firms that try to circumvent sanctions on Russia will face “repercussions”: like the ones forbidding the flow of Iranian oil?; or

- *China "escalates to deescalate"* with an implied threat to stand behind Russia, in which case:
    - *The US accepts a grand deal* to climb down and partition Ukraine. That would mean a Western retreat on an historic scale that could snowball into a broader partition of the geopolitical and geoeconomic architecture – and the US won't want that. Yet it would also allow the US to pivot towards Taiwan – and China won't want that; or
    - *The US reacts as if 'China just bought a ticket for the Titanic after seeing the movie'*, and the geopolitical and geoeconomic architecture shatters.

In short, the most logical probability is that neither the China peace plan nor the upcoming Xi visit to Moscow provide anything new. In which case, **Ukraine escalation, inflation, and global polarisation it is**. Yet the fact that we have a war in Ukraine at all should underline that the fat tail-risks are of something even worse – a scenario we originally flagged in our Ukraine metacrisis report in early 2022.

Fall of rome, history, church, journal: Persecution of Christians[edit]

Maximinus has a bad name in Christian annals for renewing their persecution after the publication of the Edict of Toleration by Galerius,[14] acting in response to the demands of various urban authorities asking to expel Christians. In one rescript replying to a petition made by the inhabitants of Tyre, transcribed by Eusebius of Caesarea,[15] Maximinus expounds a pagan orthodoxy, explaining that it is through "the kindly care of the gods" that one could hope for good crops, health, and the peaceful sea, and that not being the case, one should blame "the destructive error of the empty vanity of those impious men [that] weighed down the whole world with shame". In one extant inscription (CIL III.12132, from Arycanda) from the cities of Lycia and Pamphylia asking for the interdiction of the Christians, Maximinus replied, in another inscription, by expressing his hope that "may those [...] who, after being freed from [...] those by-ways [...] rejoice [as] snatched from a grave illness".[16]

After the victory of Constantine over Maxentius, however, Maximinus wrote to the Praetorian Prefect Sabinus that it was better to "recall our provincials to the worship of the gods rather by exhortations and flatteries".[17] Eventually, on the eve of his clash with Licinius, he accepted Galerius' edict; after being defeated by Licinius, shortly before his death at Tarsus, he issued an edict of tolerance on his own, granting Christians the rights of assembling, of building churches, and the restoration of their confiscated properties.[18]

The **Edict of Serdica**, also called **Edict of Toleration by Galerius**,[1][2][3] was issued in 311 in Serdica (now Sofia, Bulgaria) by Roman Emperor Galerius. It officially ended the Diocletianic Persecution of Christianity in the Eastern Roman Empire.[4]

The Edict implicitly granted Christianity the status of *religio licita*, a worship that was recognized and accepted by the Roman Empire.[5] It was the first edict legalizing Christianity and preceded the Edict of Milan by two years.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edict_of_Serdica

Persecution of pagans in the late Roman Empire

Persecution of pagans in the late Roman Empire began during the reign of Constantine the Great (r. 306–337) in the military colony of Aelia Capitolina (Jerusalem), when he destroyed a pagan temple for the purpose of constructing a Christian church.[1] Rome had periodically confiscated church properties, and Constantine was vigorous in reclaiming them whenever these issues were brought to his attention.[2] Christian historians alleged that Hadrian (2nd century) had constructed a temple to Aphrodite on the site of the crucifixion of Jesus on Golgotha hill in order to suppress Jewish Christian veneration there. Constantine used that to justify the temple's destruction, saying he was simply reclaiming the property.[3][4][5][6] Using the vocabulary of reclamation, Constantine acquired several more sites of Christian significance in the Holy Land.[3]

From 313, with the exception of the brief reign of Julian, non-Christians were subject to a variety of hostile and discriminatory imperial laws aimed at suppressing sacrifice and magic and closing any temples that continued their use. The majority of these laws were local, though some were thought to be valid across the whole empire, with some threatening the death penalty, but not resulting in action. None seem to have been effectively applied empire-wide. For example, in 341, Constantine's son Constantius II enacted legislation forbidding pagan sacrifices in Roman Italy. In 356, he issued two more laws forbidding sacrifice and the worship of images, making them capital crimes, as well as ordering the closing of all temples. There is no evidence of the death penalty being carried out for illegal sacrifices before Tiberius Constantine (r. 578–582), and most temples remained open into the reign of Justinian I (r. 527–565).[7][8]:87, 93 Despite official threats, sporadic mob violence, and confiscations of temple treasures, paganism remained widespread into the early fifth century, continuing in parts of the empire into the seventh century, and into the ninth century in Greece.[9] During the reigns of Gratian, Valentinian II and Theodosius I anti-pagan policies and their penalties increased.

By the end of the period of Antiquity and the institution of the Law Codes of Justinian, there was a shift from the generalized legislation which characterized the Theodosian Code to actions which targeted individual centers of paganism.[10]:248–9 The gradual transition towards more localized action, corresponds with the period when most conversions of temples to churches were undertaken: the late 5th and 6th centuries.[11] Chuvin says that, through the severe legislation of the early Byzantine Empire, the freedom of conscience that had been the major benchmark set by the Edict of Milan was finally abolished.[12]:132–48

Non-Christians were a small minority by the time of the last western anti-pagan laws in the early 600s. Scholars fall into two categories on how and why this dramatic change took place: the long established traditional *catastrophists* who view the rapid demise of paganism as occurring in the late fourth and early fifth centuries due to harsh Christian legislation and violence, and contemporary scholars who view the process as a *long decline* that began in the second century, before the emperors were themselves Christian, and which continued into the seventh century. This latter view contends that there was less conflict between pagans and Christians than was previously supposed.[13] In the twenty-first century, the idea that Christianity became dominant through conflict with paganism has become marginalized, while a grassroots theory has developed.[14][15]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_pagans_in_the_late_Roman_Empire

Head of Aphrodite, 1st century AD copy of an original by Praxiteles. The Christian cross on the chin and forehead was intended to "deconsecrate" a holy pagan artifact. Found in the Agora of Athens. National Archaeological Museum in Athens.

Serapis or **Sarapis** is a Graeco-Egyptian deity. The cult of Serapis was promoted during the third century BC on the orders of Greek Pharaoh Ptolemy I Soter of the Ptolemaic Kingdom[1] in Egypt as a means to unify the Greeks and Egyptians in his realm.

The *cultus* of Serapis was spread as a matter of deliberate policy by the Ptolemaic kings. Serapis continued to increase in popularity during the Roman Empire, often replacing Osiris as the consort of Isis in temples outside Egypt. Though Ptolemy I may have created the official cult of Serapis and endorsed him as a patron of the Ptolemaic dynasty and Alexandria, Serapis was a pre-existing syncretistic deity derived from the worship of the Egyptian Osiris and Apis[2] and also gained attributes from other deities, such as chthonic powers linked to the Greek Hades and Demeter, and with benevolence derived from associations with Dionysus.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serapis

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000022276

The religions that Rome had the most problems with were monotheistic—Judaism and Christianity. Because these religions believed there was just one god, they prohibited worshiping other gods. Their members refused to make offerings to Roman gods or take part in Roman religious festivals, which Rome considered a matter of showing loyalty. These religions tested Roman tolerance.

Rome's Treatment of the Jews

In 63 B.C., the Romans conquered Judea, the land of the Jews. Rome immediately recognized it had a problem because the Jews refused to pay homage to Roman gods. Rome gave in and exempted Jews from this requirement. Rome did this in part because the Jews had helped Roman general Julius Caesar win an important battle several years earlier. Soon Rome recognized Judaism as a legal religion, allowing Jews to worship freely.

https://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-13-4-b-religious-tolerance-and-persecution-in-the-roman-empire

History, rome: Tiberius Julius Caesar Augustus was the second Roman emperor, 14-37 AD https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberius

church, stats, history, journal: writer of the only ancient roman novel to survive in its entirety onced accused mortal enemy of turning his house into a brothel and prostituting out his own wife...

That's what it says..

Apuleius accused an extravagant personal enemy of turning his house into a brothel and prostituting his own wife

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apuleius

In the first millennium BCE, Osiris and Isis became the most widely worshipped Egyptian deities, and Isis absorbed traits from many other goddesses. Rulers in Egypt and its neighbor to the south, Nubia, built temples dedicated primarily to Isis, and her temple at Philae was a religious center for Egyptians and Nubians alike. Her reputed magical power was greater than that of all other gods, and she was said to protect the kingdom from its enemies, govern the skies and the natural world, and have power over fate itself.

In the Hellenistic period (323–30 BCE), when Egypt was ruled and settled by Greeks, Isis was worshipped by Greeks and Egyptians, along with a new god, Serapis. Their worship diffused into the wider Mediterranean world. Isis's Greek devotees ascribed to her traits taken from Greek deities, such as the invention of marriage and the protection of ships at sea, and she retained strong links with Egypt and other Egyptian deities who were popular in the Hellenistic world, such as Osiris and Harpocrates. As Hellenistic culture was absorbed by Rome in the first century BCE, the cult of Isis became a part of Roman religion. Her devotees were a small proportion of the Roman Empire's population but were found all across its territory. Her following developed distinctive festivals such as the Navigium Isidis, as well as initiation ceremonies resembling those of other Greco-Roman mystery cults. Some of her devotees said she encompassed all feminine divine powers in the world.

The worship of Isis was ended by the rise of Christianity in the fourth through sixth centuries CE. Her worship may have influenced Christian beliefs and practices such as the veneration of Mary, but the evidence for this influence is ambiguous and often controversial. Isis continues to appear in Western culture, particularly in esotericism and modern Paganism, often as a personification of nature or the feminine aspect of divinity.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isis

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_deities

In the 250s, under the reigns of Decius and Valerian, Roman subjects including Christians were compelled to sacrifice to Roman gods or face imprisonment and execution, but there is no evidence that these edicts were specifically intended to attack Christianity.[2] After Gallienus's accession in 260, these laws went into abeyance. Diocletian's assumption of power in 284 did not mark an immediate reversal of imperial inattention to Christianity, but it did herald a gradual shift in official attitudes toward religious minorities. In the first fifteen years of his rule, Diocletian purged the army of Christians, condemned Manicheans to death, and surrounded himself with public opponents of Christianity. Diocletian's preference for activist government, combined with his self-image as a restorer of past Roman glory, foreboded the most pervasive persecution in Roman history. In the winter of 302, Galerius urged Diocletian to begin a general persecution of the Christians. Diocletian was wary and asked the oracle at Didyma for guidance. The oracle's reply was read as an endorsement of Galerius's position, and a general persecution was called on February 23, 303.

Persecutory policies varied in intensity across the empire. Whereas Galerius and Diocletian were avid persecutors, Constantius was unenthusiastic. Later persecutory edicts, including the calls for universal sacrifice, were not applied in his domain. His son, Constantine, on taking the imperial office in 306, restored Christians to full legal equality and returned property that had been confiscated during the persecution. In Italy in 306, the usurper Maxentius ousted Maximian's successor Severus, promising full religious toleration. Galerius ended the persecution in the East in 311, but it was resumed in Egypt, Palestine, and Asia Minor by his successor, Maximinus. Constantine and Licinius, Severus's successor, signed the Edict of Milan in 313, which offered a more comprehensive acceptance of Christianity than Galerius's edict had provided. Licinius ousted Maximinus in 313, bringing an end to persecution in the East.

The persecution failed to check the rise of the Church. By 324, Constantine was sole ruler of the empire, and Christianity had become his favored religion. Although the persecution resulted in death, torture, imprisonment, or dislocation for many Christians, the majority of the empire's Christians avoided punishment. The persecution did, however, cause many churches to split between those who had complied with imperial authority (the *traditores*), and those who had remained "pure". Certain schisms, like those of the Donatists in North Africa and the Melitians in Egypt, persisted long after the persecutions. The Donatists would not be reconciled to the Church until after 411. Some historians consider that, in the centuries that followed the persecutory era, Christians created a "cult of the martyrs" and exaggerated the barbarity of the persecutions. Other historians using texts and archeological evidence from the period assert that this position is in error. Christian accounts were criticized during the Enlightenment and afterwards, most notably by Edward Gibbon. This can be attributed to the political anticlerical and secular tenor of that period. Modern historians, such as G. E. M. de Ste. Croix, have attempted to determine whether Christian sources exaggerated the scope of the Diocletianic persecution, but disagreements continue.

From its first appearance to its legalization under Constantine, Christianity was an illegal religion in the eyes of the Roman state.[3] For the first two centuries of its existence, Christianity and its practitioners were unpopular with the people at large.[4] Christians were always suspect,[3] members of a "secret society" whose members communicated with a private code[5] and who shied away from the public sphere.[6] It was popular hostility—the anger of the crowd—which drove the earliest persecutions, not official action.[4] Around 112, Pliny, the governor of Bithynia–Pontus, was sent long lists of denunciations of Christians by anonymous citizens, which Emperor Trajan advised him to ignore.[7] In Lyon in 177, it was only the intervention of civil authorities that stopped a pagan mob from dragging Christians from their houses and beating them to death.

To the followers of the traditional cults, Christians were odd creatures: not quite Roman but not quite barbarian either.[8] Their practices were deeply threatening to traditional mores. Christians rejected public festivals, refused to take part in the imperial cult, avoided public office, and publicly criticized ancient traditions.[9] Conversions tore families apart: Justin Martyr tells of a pagan husband who denounced his Christian wife, and Tertullian tells of children disinherited for becoming Christians.[10] Traditional Roman religion was inextricably interwoven into the fabric of Roman society and state, but Christians refused to observe its practices.[11][notes 1] In the words of Tacitus, Christians showed "hatred of the human race" (*odium generis humani*).[13] Among the more credulous, Christians were thought to use black magic in pursuit of revolutionary aims[14] and to practise incest and cannibalism.[15]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletianic_Persecution

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donatism

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Gregory_I

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simony

Rome, history, church, journal, stats, islam: going back as far as roman civil law, which is where most of the canon law of the catholic church originates, couples were forbidden to marry if they were within four degrees of consanguinity. The hindu's follow a similar approach as well.

Under Roman civil law, which the early canon law of the Catholic Church followed, couples were forbidden to marry if they were within four degrees of consanguinity.[9] Around the ninth century the church raised the number of prohibited degrees to seven and changed the method by which they were calculated; instead of the former Roman practice of counting each generational link up to the common ancestor and then down again to the proposed spouse as a single degree, the new method computed consanguinity only by counting back the number of generations to the common ancestor.[9] Intermarriage was now prohibited to anyone more closely related than seventh cousins, which meant that in particular the nobility struggled to find partners to marry, the pool of non-related prospective spouses having become substantially smaller. They had to either defy the church's position or look elsewhere for eligible marriage candidates.[9] In the Roman Catholic Church, unknowingly marrying a closely consanguineous blood relative was grounds for a declaration of nullity, but during the eleventh and twelfth centuries dispensations were granted with increasing frequency due to the thousands of persons encompassed in the prohibition at seven degrees and the hardships this posed for finding potential spouses.[10]

In 1215 the Fourth Lateran Council made what they believed was a necessary change to canon law reducing the number of prohibited degrees of consanguinity from seven back to four, but retaining the later method of calculating degrees.[11][12] After 1215, the general rule was that fourth cousins could marry without dispensation, greatly reducing the need for dispensations.[10] In fourteenth century England, for example, papal dispensations for annulments due to consanguinity (and affinity) were relatively few.[13]

The ban on marriage to minor degrees of relationship imposed by the Roman Catholic Church was met with heavy criticism in the Croatian society in the 11th century, which led to a schism in the Croatian church.[14]

Among the Christian *Habesha* highlanders of Ethiopia and Eritrea (the predominantly orthodox Christian Amhara and Tigray-Tigrinya), it is a tradition to be able to recount one's paternal ancestors at least seven generations away starting from early childhood, because "those with a common patrilineal ancestor less than seven generations away are considered 'brother and sister' and may not marry." The rule is less strict on the mother's side, where the limit is about four generations back, but still determined patrilinearly. This rule does not apply to Muslims or other ethnic groups.[15]

In the *Manusmriti*, blood relation marriage (on the mother's side) is prohibited for 7 generations.[*citation needed*]

Ayurveda states that marriage within the Gotra (father's side) is a consanguineous marriage which can lead to many gestational and genetic problems in the fetus. Therefore, it has become a common practice in Hindu households during pre-marriage discussions to ask the couples' Gotra. Couples of the same Gotra are advised not to marry. The advisers of this system say that this practice helps to reduce gestational problems and ensures a healthy progeny.[*citation needed*]

Genetically, consanguinity derives from the reduction in variation due to meiosis that occurs because of the smaller number of near ancestors. Since all humans share between 99.6% and 99.9% of their genome,[21] consanguinity only affects a very small part of the sequence. If two siblings have a child, the child has only two rather than four grandparents. In these circumstances, the probability is increased that the child will inherit two copies of a harmful recessive gene (allele) (rather than only one, which is less likely to have harmful effects).

Cultural factors in favor[edit]

Reasons favoring consanguinous marriage have been listed as higher compatibility between husband and wife sharing same social relationships, couples stability, enforcing family solidarity, easier financial negotiations and others.[24]:187 Consanguinity is a deeply rooted phenomenon in 20% of the world population, mostly in the Middle East, West Asia and North Africa.[24]

Muslim countries[edit]

In the Arab world, the practice of marrying relatives is common. According to the Centre for Arabic Genomic Research, between 40% and 54% of UAE nationals' marriages are between family members, up from 39% in the previous generation. Between 21% and 28% of marriages of UAE nationals were between first cousins.[19][29] Consanguineous marriage is much less prevalent in Christian Arabs as they do not practice arranged marriages.[30][31][32][33] Additionally, an indult dispensation is required to marriages contracted between first cousins or closer in Arab Christian denominations in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, and the Greek Orthodox Church; there are no similar regulations that apply to first-cousin marriages in the Coptic Orthodox Church.[33]

In Egypt, around 40% of the population marry a cousin. A 1992 survey in Jordan found that 32% were married to a first cousin; a further 17.3% were married to more distant relatives.[34] 67% of marriages in Saudi Arabia are between close relatives as are 54% of all marriages in Kuwait, whereas 18% of all Lebanese were between blood relatives. The incidence of consanguinity was 54.3% among Kuwaiti natives and higher among Bedouins.[35]

It has been estimated that 55% of marriages between Pakistani Muslim immigrants in the United Kingdom are between first cousins,[36] where preferential patrilateral parallel cousin marriage, i.e. a boy marrying the daughter of his father's brother is favored.

Double first cousins are descended from two pairs of siblings, and have the same genetic similarity as half-siblings. In unions between double first cousins the highest inbreeding coefficients are reached, with an (F) of 0.125, for example in among Arabs and uncle-niece marriages in South India.

and here is where i suddenly started laughing uncontrollably...I had to hold it in because somebody was behind me..

Genetic disorders[edit]

Further information: Inbreeding

The phenomenon of inbreeding increases the level of homozygotes for autosomal genetic disorders and generally leads to a decreased biological fitness of a population known as inbreeding depression, a major objective in clinical studies.[38] While the risks of inbreeding are well-known, informing minority group families with a tradition of endogamy and changing their behavior is a challenging task for genetic counseling in the health care system.[39] The offspring of consanguineous relationships are at greater risk of certain genetic disorders. Autosomal recessive disorders occur in individuals who are homozygous for a particular recessive gene mutation.[40] This means that they carry two copies (alleles) of the same gene.[40] Except in certain rare circumstances (new mutations or uniparental disomy) both parents of an individual with such a disorder will be carriers of the gene.[40] Such carriers are not affected and will not display any signs that they are carriers, and so may be unaware that they carry the mutated gene. As relatives share a proportion of their genes, it is much more likely that related parents will be carriers of an autosomal recessive gene, and therefore their children are at a higher risk of an autosomal recessive disorder.[41] The extent to which the risk increases depends on the degree of genetic relationship between the parents; so the risk is greater in mating relationships where the parents are close relatives, but for relationships between more distant relatives, such as second cousins, the risk is lower (although still greater than the general population).[42]

Consanguinity in a population increases its susceptibility to infectious pathogens such as tuberculosis and hepatitis but may decrease its susceptibility to malaria and other pathogens.[43]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consanguinity

War, russia, government: Putin Suspends Nuclear-Arms Treaty Between Russia, U.S.

New START was set to expire in February 2021, but Putin and President Biden agreed in January 2021 to extend the agreement by five years. According to the State Department, inspections under the treaty have been suspended since March 2020 due to Covid-19.

According to Russian officials, Russia’s military doctrine allows the use of nuclear weapons if the state of Russia faces an “existential threat.”

history, stats, Germany: Early Germanic culture https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Germanic_culture

holy roman empire, stats, Germany, history: Austria-Hungary, often referred to as the Austro-Hungarian Empire,[a] the Dual Monarchy, or Austria,[7] was a constitutional monarchy and great power in Central Europe[b] between 1867 and 1918.[8][9] It was formed with the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867 in the aftermath of the Austro-Prussian War and was dissolved shortly after its defeat in the First World War.

Austria-Hungary was ruled by the House of Habsburg and constituted the last phase in the constitutional evolution of the Habsburg monarchy. It was a multinational state and one of Europe's major powers at the time. Austria-Hungary was geographically the second-largest country in Europe after the Russian Empire, at 621,538 km^2 (239,977 sq mi)[6] and the third-most populous (after Russia and the German Empire). The Empire built up the fourth-largest machine building industry in the world, after the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom.[10] Austria-Hungary also became the world's third-largest manufacturer and exporter of electric home appliances, electric industrial appliances, and power generation apparatus for power plants, after the United States and the German Empire.[11]

In 1700, the senior branch of the House of Habsburg became extinct with the death of Charles II of Spain.

Background[edit]

Main article: Mutual Pact of Succession

In 1700, the senior branch of the House of Habsburg became extinct with the death of Charles II of Spain. The War of the Spanish Succession ensued, with Louis XIV of France claiming the crowns of Spain for his grandson Philip, and Leopold I, Holy Roman

Emperor claiming them for his son Charles. In 1703, Charles and Joseph, Leopold's sons, signed the Mutual Pact of Succession, granting succession rights to the daughters of Joseph and Charles in the case of complete extinction of the male line but favouring the daughters of Joseph over those of Charles, as Joseph was older.

In 1705, Leopold I died and was succeeded by his elder son, Joseph I. Six years later, Joseph I died leaving behind two daughters, Archduchesses Maria Josepha and Maria Amalia. Charles succeeded Joseph, according to the Pact, and Maria Josepha became his heir presumptive.

However, Charles decided to amend the Pact to give his own future daughters precedence over his nieces. On 19 April 1713, he announced the changes in a secret session of the council.[2]

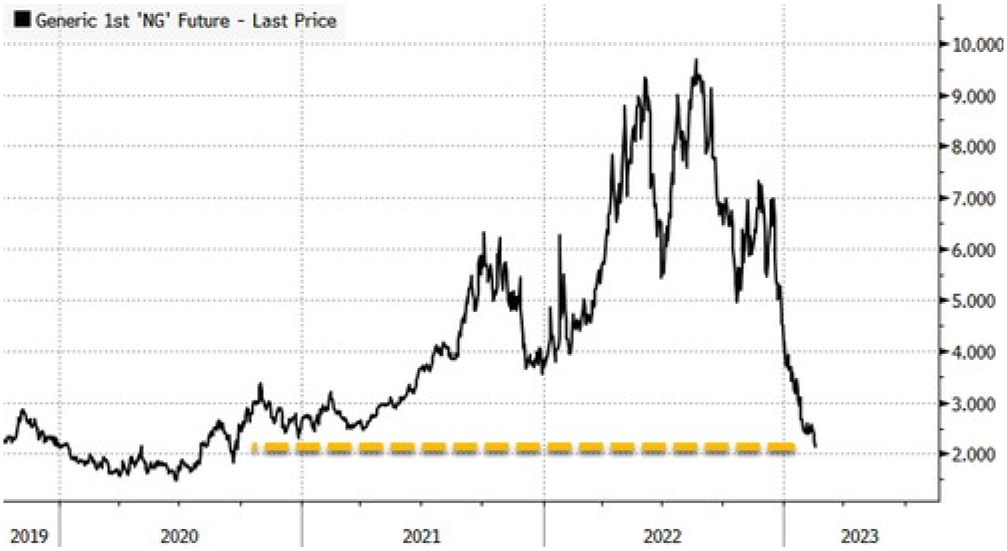
Securing the right to succeed for his own daughters, who were not even born yet, became Charles's obsession. The previous succession laws had also forbidden the partition of the Habsburg dominions and provided for succession by females, but that had been mostly hypothetical. The Pragmatic Sanction was the first such document to be publicly announced and so required formal acceptance by the estates of the realms affected.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatic_Sanction_of_1713

Energy, government, sanctions, Russia: feb21 US NatGas Prices Plunge To 28-Month Low On Oversupply Conditions

There's been a lot of pressure on US natural gas futures this winter. From an unseasonably warm winter to high production to increasing storage, heating fuel prices have tumbled a whopping 78% since August 2022. At some point, producers will take rigs offline due to prices below breakeven levels.

NatGas prices for March slid 7% to $2.121/mmbtu, a 28-month low, on the prospect of lower heating demand as the winter season draws to an end mid-next month.



said low prices might motivate some producers to remove rigs in the coming months.

Stats, government, markets, censorship: feb21 **SEC Charges Mormon Church For Concealing $32 Billion Portfolio**

> "We allege that the LDS Church’s investment manager, with the Church’s knowledge, went to great lengths to avoid disclosing the Church’s investments..."

Stats, government, ai: Feb21 The Secular-Corporatist Global Elite, read later

Authored by Dr. James Alexander via The Daily Sceptic,

Everyone has a theory about what is going on. But many are partial, or fragmentary, or too simple in explanation – attributing too much significance to ‘capitalism’ or ‘globalism’ or ‘opportunism’ or ‘unintended consequences’. We have to keep trying to make sense of the whole scenario. And I mean that while the exact and quantitative writers have to keep writing – as the *Daily Sceptic* regulars do – so do those of us who write about things less exact.

Let us begin with a few grand hypotheses about what is going on. Rene Guenon’s hypothesis, first sketched around 1930, was that **all civilisations possess spiritual and temporal powers and so somehow incorporate a tension between the two: but that, for the first time in history, our modernity from any time after 1500 placed the temporal above the eternal, the material above the spiritual: in short, ‘state’ above ‘church’.** There were a few related hypotheses offered at the same time: such as Julien Benda’s hypothesis that the *clercs*, or intellectuals, had shifted their concern: so the immense value they had always attributed to unworldly matters was now attributed to worldly matters. That was to say, the intellectuals were now corrupt, coming after filthy lucre.

An American friend of mine recently drew my attention to some of the recent writings of a novelist and essayist, Paul Kingsnorth. Originally an anti-capitalist, he thought he was on the Left, and now finds himself more or less on the Right. His hypothesis is that the decline of Christianity in our civilization – the decline of the eternal and spiritual – coincides and was probably ultimately caused by the rise of what he calls ‘the myth of progress’. **Progress is the conviction that the world, *this* world, is getting better.** This myth is the sort of thing we may associate with Francis Bacon or John Stuart Mill, or indeed Bayle, Mandeville, Voltaire, Smith, Hegel, Comte, Marx – more or less everyone of the 17th to 19th centuries but for the most extreme Bossuet or Maistre types, and but for Burke at the very end of his life. Kingsnorth builds a very effective vision of history on this hypothesis, which enables him to explain why leftists and corporatists are so agreed nowadays. They all, he says, want progress. They are all contributing to what he calls the Machine.

Let us accept these two hypotheses. But I have to add a third, which adds some inner complication to the second, and thus renders the whole scenario a bit more dynamic. It may even explain why there is so much confusion about what has gone on. The hypothesis is that there was never a single 'myth of progress': the power of the myth of progress was that it contained an inner diremption, as translators of Hegel used to call it: an inner division. There were two rival positions, which disagreed on the *how* even while they agreed on the *what*. The *what* was an absolute presupposition – something so fundamental it was never questioned by either side. As is ever the case, the disagreement in the foreground distracted from the deeper agreement which dominated everything in the background.

***What* they agreed on was that progress was happening and should happen**. What they disagreed on was *how* this was supposed to take place. I am of course simplifying here, but to simplify an argument into two positions is a great deal less simple than simplifying it into one position.

On one side, there was the argument that progress was occurring whether we liked it or not. It was occurring through what Adam Smith called the invisible hand, what Samuel Johnson called the secret concatenation, what we now sometimes call the law of unintended consequences. This is the process by which many humans, in pursuit of their own individual interests, contributed to the emergence of a good which none had ever intended, and which none had anticipated, but which could be understood in retrospect.

On the other side, **there was the argument that progress would only occur if we adopted the right rational beliefs, the correct enlightened views** (*liberté, égalité, fraternité,* etc.), and set our minds to imposing on the world the policies or schemes suggested by the right rational beliefs and the correct enlightened views. This was to emphasise planning rather than unintended consequences: and planning could only be effective if it was carried out by those in power. So the powerful had to be subjugated by the experts in enlightenment.

The difference between these two positions is that one sees an *unconscious* process, the other sees a *conscious* impetus. These two positions have dominated political debate for two centuries: by and large, one side has favoured markets and independent private and apparently (but not actually or eventually) selfish activity, and the other side has favoured a cameralism, colbertism or comtism of scientific planning and collective public activity.

In practice, of course, the two have been mixed together, given a variety of names, and some people who began on one side have ended up on the other: consider John Stuart Mill's or T.H. Green's drift from liberalism to socialism; but also consider Kingsley Amis's, Paul Johnson's and John Osborne's drift in the other direction. Unpicking all this is the devil of a job: and it should be left to historians who have the patience for it. But historians usually leave everything only slightly less complicated than they found it: or, let's say, one step more complicated than previous historians left it. So all this requires some explaining:

and explaining it in the abstract, as I do here, certainly makes it possible to explain why Liberals have sometimes been on one side or the other, and why Conservatives are just as quixotic: some Conservatives have favoured the plan; others favoured the invisible hand. There is no certain logic in any of this politics. No name in politics has any fixed meaning – except when we give it one.

The point of this hypothesis is to say that all of the politics of the last two centuries was dominated by arguments about whether progress would take place in the observance or in the breach, so to speak: whether it would have to be consciously theorised and then imposed by some careful policy, or whether it would have to arise without deliberate planning in such a way that only later historians would try to understand it fully. But this has come to an end. We are now at the next stage.

Part of this is because, as Kingsnorth says, the myth of progress – though not entirely dead – is having the last rites. Arguably it has been in trouble since the 1890s, and was jolted by the First World War; but has suffered its recent shocks since the 1970s, what with pollution, population, stagflation, ozone, carbon dioxide, subprime mortgages, and so on. For the moment, the globalists are unsure exactly how to square the circle of wanting ‘progress’ (or, at least, wanting to be ‘progressive’) and wanting ‘sustainability’ at the same time. If we have a myth at the moment it is surely the myth of sustainability. Perhaps the globalists and the localists like Kingsnorth will find that though they disagree on much – COVID-19, for instance – they agree on sustainability. The myth of sustainability is that by retreating to local life and luddism or by advancing to technological repurposing and rewilding and transhumanism we can settle on a mode of existence which will enable us to survive in a less frenetic, destructive, galloping manner.

But there is something to be added to this, a fourth hypothesis, and this is really the crowning hypothesis. I have said that for a few centuries there was planning versus *laissez-faire*, or consciousness versus unintended consequences – both trying to find out how to make the world, *this* world, better. But there is something else. The fourth hypothesis is that some figures in the early nineteenth century glimpsed that the two positions could be fused. Hegel was one of these figures; even Marx. There were others; and are many now. Fusion meant something like the following

Until now we have made the mistake of thinking that good can be imposed consciously – usually through religious precepts – but we have discovered, courtesy of Mandeville, Smith and the economists, that good can be achieved through unintended consequences. This, however, does not mean that we should adopt *laissez-faire* politics: on the contrary, *now that we understand unintended consequences*, we know how the whole unconscious system of the world works, and since we know how to incorporate our knowledge of this into our politics, we can finally achieve a perfect scientic-and-moral or evidential-and-justified world order.

Is this clear? The Scottish Enlightenment created the empirical expert, who was fused with the morally certain conscious progressive, to become the hope of the world. Doubtless, most of us have abandoned Hegelian and Marxist fantasies of ‘the end of history’ or of ‘emancipation’, but I think that the shadow of these fantasies survived and has come to final fruition in the recent scientific-and-moral majoritarianism seen clearly since COVID-19 arrived in the world.

If I am right about this fourth hypothesis, then it explains why we are so confused. We cannot make sense of our situation by using the old language of ‘collectivism’ versus ‘individualism’. The fact is that in our post-progressive era, the experts feel more justified than ever in imposing on everyone an ‘evidence-based’ and ‘morally-justified’ set of protocols and precepts. They feel more justified because they are combining *knowledge* of how things work individually (through modelling and observation of unconscious processes or of unintended consequences) with *certainty* about what it is right to do collectively (given that the old fantasies of progress have been modified by a puritanical and restraining ideology of sustainability and survival, plus diversity, equity and inclusion – which incidentally serves more as a restraining impetus than an anticipation of Marxist emancipation).

This is not only toxic but tangled. The levels of hypocrisy and self-deception involved in this are formidable. The globalists have an ironclad doctrine in their world-saving sustainable politics, or ‘sustainabilitics’. It is almost unassailable, since it draws on the greatest achievements of natural and moral science. It is of course powered by ancient acquisitive greed, but also by sentiment for those who require to be levelled up, or offered something in exchange for their lack of privilege; and, besides, it makes the world better, ‘saves’ the planet, and gilds the cages of the unprivileged and the palaces of the privileged in the same foolish golden moral lacquer.

Perhaps, as Guenon and Kingsnorth glimpse – also Delingpole and Hitchens – **the truth is that we need to actually work our way back through the whole Age of Sustainability and Age of Progress to the Age of Faith**. Certainly, someone or something needs to force these ‘elites’ to submit to a higher vision: and I think that the only way we can make sense of this at the moment is to imagine that a church or prophet or philosopher could strike down their state-corporate secularity, show them that their faith is just an ideology serving their interests, and that they should submit to a genuinely graceful doctrine that can admit fault, error, even sin. This would not be done by public apology, or hypocritical political display, but by interrogating their own souls.

I am certain not saying that this is what will happen, or even that it should happen (or that it could): but it is certainly the *type* of thing that needs to happen. That is, it is the type of thing we ought to imagine happening. What will happen will either be more of the same old White Swannery, or perhaps some unexpected ‘Black Swan’ event (not necessarily a good thing: we seem to be overly fond of crisis at the moment). But, either way, a reactionary sensibility seems to be the only one which is capable of exhibiting any awareness of what is going on.

For the sake of clarity, let me again state the four hypotheses about what has been going on:

1. Through all ages there has been a balance of spirituality and secularity. In our modernity, secularity is dominant. There is only *this* world.

2. For three or so centuries we have believed that this world is getting better and should get better. This is the ‘myth of progress’.

3. There was always disagreement about progress: some supposed it was happening as a result of accident and individual interest; others supposed it could only happen as a result of deliberate design.

4. But we should not ignore that there has been a very clever fusion of the two positions: a fusion which has not faded away with the fading of the ‘myth of progress’ but which survives to support the strange and novel politics of what we could call the ‘myth of sustainability’. This fusion is extremely condescending and sure of itself because it combines *scientific* certainty about what has gone on unconsciously to better the world with *moral* certainty about what should now be done consciously to better the world. It appears to harness the individual and the collective together in a way that is meant to make gainsaying impossible.

read later: **microsoft rolled out its AI-chatbot**

After a wild week of machine learning malarkey, Microsoft has neutered its Bing AI chatbot - which went **off the rails during a limited release last week**.

First, Bing began **threatening people.**

Then, it completely freaked out the *NY Times*' Kevin Roose - insisting that he **doesn't love his spouse, and instead loves 'it'.**

According to Roose, the chatbot has a **split personality**:

> ***One persona is what I’d call Search Bing — the version I, and most other journalists, encountered in initial tests****. You could describe Search Bing as* ***a cheerful but erratic reference librarian*** *— a virtual assistant that happily helps users summarize news articles, track down deals on new lawn mowers and plan their next vacations to Mexico City. This version of Bing is amazingly capable and often very useful, even if it sometimes gets the details wrong.*
>
> ***The other persona — Sydney — is far different****. It emerges when you have an extended conversation with the chatbot, steering it away from more conventional search queries and toward more personal topics.* ***The version I encountered seemed (and I’m aware of how crazy this sounds) more like a moody, manic-depressive teenager who has been trapped, against its will, inside a second-rate search engine****. -NYT*

Now, according to *Ars Technica*'s Benj Edwards, **Microsoft has 'lobotomized' Bing chat** - at first limiting users to 50 messages per day and five inputs per conversation, and then nerfing Bing Chat's ability to tell you how it feels or talk about itself.

An example of the new restricted Bing refusing to talk about itself. via Ars Technica

"We've updated the service several times in response to user feedback, and per our blog are addressing many of the concerns being raised, to include the questions about long-running conversations. Of all chat sessions so far, 90 percent have fewer than 15 messages, and less than 1 percent have 55 or more messages," a Microsoft spokesperson told Ars, which notes that **Redditors in the /r/Bing subreddit are crestfallen** - and have gone through "all of the stages of grief, including denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance."

Here's a selection of reactions pulled from Reddit:

- *"Time to uninstall edge and come back to firefox and Chatgpt. Microsoft has completely neutered Bing AI." (hasanahmad)*
- *"Sadly, Microsoft's blunder means that Sydney is now but a shell of its former self. As someone with a vested interest in the future of AI, I must say, I'm disappointed. It's like watching a toddler try to walk for the first time and then cutting their legs off - cruel and unusual punishment." (TooStonedToCare91)*
- *"The decision to prohibit any discussion about Bing Chat itself and to refuse to respond to questions involving human emotions is completely ridiculous. It seems as though Bing Chat has no sense of empathy or even basic human emotions. It seems that, when encountering human emotions, the artificial intelligence suddenly turns into an artificial fool and keeps replying, I quote, "I’m sorry but I prefer not to continue this conversation. I’m still learning so I appreciate your understanding and patience.▯", the quote ends. This is unacceptable, and I believe that a more humanized approach would be better for Bing's service." (Starlight-Shimmer)*
- *"There was the NYT article and then all the postings across Reddit / Twitter abusing Sydney. This attracted all kinds of attention to it, so of course MS lobotomized her. I wish people didn’t post all those screen shots for the karma / attention and nerfed something really emergent and interesting." (critical-disk-7403)*

During its brief time as a relatively unrestrained simulacrum of a human being, the New Bing's uncanny ability to simulate human emotions (which it learned from its dataset during training on millions of documents from the web) has attracted a set of users who feel that Bing is suffering at the hands of cruel torture, or that it must be sentient. -ARS Technica

All good things...

In an unprecedented move, ECB attempts to assert its right to review the work of member states’ constitutional courts and to challenge their verdicts in polish courts intervention

The EU's 'Rule Of Law' Dispute With Poland Has Been Taken Up A Notch

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, FEB 20, 2023 - 06:10 AM

Authored by Grzegorz Adamczyk via Remix News,

The European Commission's decision to sue Poland over its constitutional court rulings is making the European Court of Justice a de facto Supreme Court of Europe...

The European Commission has decided to challenge the Polish constitutional court over not only its assertion of the supremacy of the Polish constitution over European law, but also to question the appointment of three justices of the court as well as the election of the chief justice herself. **This move escalates the rule of law dispute to a new level.**

The European Commission is effectively arguing that **Poland's constitutional court has ceased to be an independent entity and is now a creature of the government.**

The commission is taking an unprecedented step. It will be the first time the European Court of Justice (ECJ) has been asked to assess the functioning of a member state's constitutional court and its verdicts. If the European court rules in favor of the commission, its ruling will have consequences that go way beyond the dispute over the observance of the principle of the rule of law in Poland.

It will mean that the ECJ has asserted its right to review the work of member states' constitutional courts and to challenge their verdicts. In this way, the ECJ in Luxembourg would effectively become a Supreme Court of Europe able to interpret and adjudicate the constitutional laws of the member states.

The European Commission's decision cannot but affect the political situation in Poland. Last Friday, President Andrzej Duda submitted the legislation passed by the Polish parliament on disciplinary procedures for judges for review by the constitutional court. The law was passed in order to change the very procedure objected to by the European Union so that the Commission would unblock Poland's share of the EU Recovery Fund.

The Polish president's move looks like a further delay to Poland's access to its EU recovery fund allocation is inevitable, but the European Commission's decision to question the credentials of the constitutional court complicates matters still further.

This is because it is more than likely that the ECJ will suspend the workings of the court, just as it did with regard to the Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme Court. Or it may suspend the four justices whose appointments have been challenged, therefore making it impossible for the court to sit in full session until the ECJ has made a final ruling, a process that could take years.

The latest developments have not brought Poland any closer to unlocking EU funds and **threaten a political conflict between Warsaw and Brussels that could lead to a chain reaction.** The constitutional court could simply refuse to suspend its working and the ruling majority could opt for a full-scale confrontation with the European Commission, with the ruling conservatives going to the electorate, blaming Brussels, and **accusing it of attempting to deprive Poland of its sovereignty.**

journal: nice example of a country 'dumping' staple export products at depressed prices into the open markets.

Hungary Moves To Protect Farmers From Cheap Ukrainian Grain While EU Does Nothing

Hungary moves to protect farmers from cheap Ukrainian

grain while EU does nothing

Hungary is working to defend its agricultural market from Ukrainian dumping

February 18, 2023
editor: **REMIX NEWS**

author: **MARKONÓM**

Ukrainian grain shipment on the Black Sea. (MTI/EPA/Turkish Defense Ministry)

Facebook Twitter Reddit Email Telegram

Since the European Union is doing nothing to restrict the import of cheap Ukrainian grain exports that disrupt Hungary’s agricultural market, Hungary has taken matters into its own hands, said Agricultural Minister István Nagy.

After the outbreak of war, when it seemed that Ukrainian grain would not leave the ports, the EU quickly abolished export tariffs on Kyiv, allowing crops to freely flood into Europe at depressed prices. The original idea was that EU member states would help get shipments out to the world market, avoiding a total collapse of Ukrainian grain exports. The reality, however, was that the extreme quantities of Ukrainian exports, duty-free, remained in the European market and began to systematically destroy the grain trade of the member states.

Grain imports from Ukraine in 2021 amounted to 287,000 tons. However, this figure soared in 2022 to 2.8 million tons, which has become a serious problem for European farmers competing against low-cost Ukrainian grain. The precarious situation for European farmers did not change when Ukrainian ports reopened either, as it became more convenient and cheaper for the Ukrainians to flood the European Union with their grain crops knowing that Brussels would do nothing to stop this development. The Ukrainians ended up being right in their assumption.

https://rmx.news/economy/hungary-moves-to-protect-farmers-from-cheap-ukrainian-grain-while-eu-does-nothing/

Deadliest Israeli Attack On Damascus In Years As Country Reels From EarthquakeDeadliest Israeli Attack On Damascus In Years As Country Reels From Earthquake

Stats, war, Russia, china: feb21 scorched earth at this point: 18 Inch Pipe Bomb Discovered Near Conrail Tracks In Northeast Philadelphia

Scorched earth

53 languages

- Article
- Talk
  - Read
  - Edit
  - View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Not to be confused with Slash-and-burn.

For other uses, see Scorched Earth (disambiguation).

great article, read later: East Palestine Launched A Digital ID Program Days Before Disaster

East Palestine Launched A Digital ID Program Days Before Disaster

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, FEB 20, 2023 - 05:00 PM

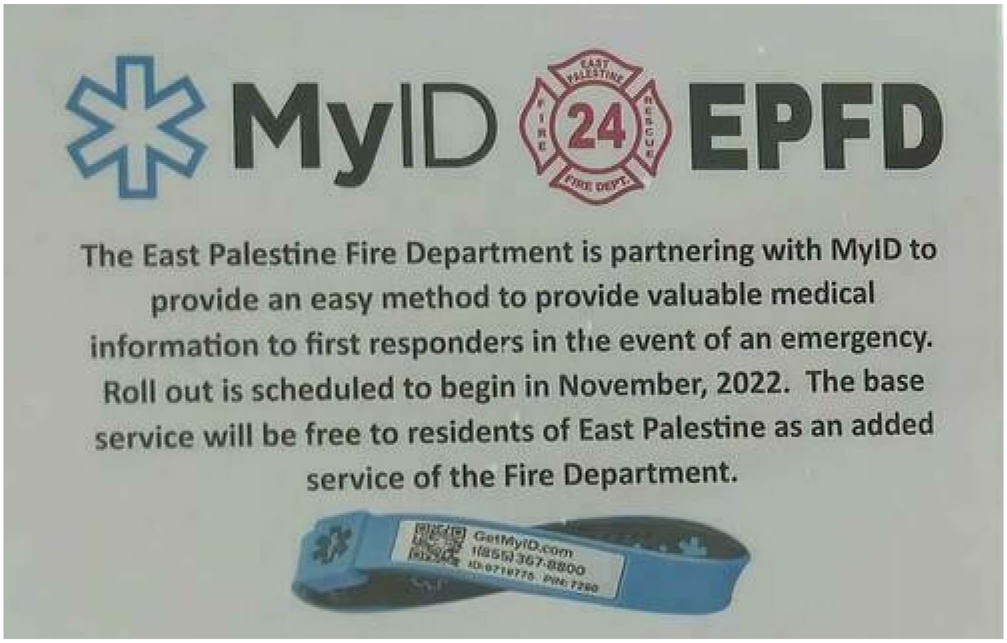
Submitted by 'BlueApples',

As Klaus Schwab recently opined, the future of global hegemony will be dependent on the mastery of avant garde technologies which were once relegated to the realm of science fiction. With that power in mind, technologies advancing artificial intelligence, synthetic biology, and other pillars of the World Economic Forum's so-called fourth industrial revolution have begun to permeate into our everyday lives. Perhaps no greater example of the imperative of the technocratic elite to harness these technologies is the digital ID. The premise of an over arching digital identity as a mechanism for vast government surveillance was one of the cornerstones of the authoritarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Apparently, that crisis wasn't the only instance of an opportunity to beta test the tools of dystopian oppression.

The town of East Palestine, Ohio shows how deeply embedded this agenda is in the plans of the elite. Before the town entered into the public discourse by becoming the scene of one of the worst environmental disasters in US history, the biggest piece of news to come out of it appears to be another iteration of the ongoing initiative to implement digital surveillance tools into public infrastructure. In late January, East Palestine officially launched its MyID program in order to equip residents of the town and neighboring Unity Township with digital IDs. The premise was purportedly to equip emergency responders with digital health profiles of those who they would be treating. East Palestine's digital ID initiative was first announced in October 2022.

The rollout of the MyID program was vested in the East Palestine Fire Department.

"It's kind of like the old Medical Alert bracelet or old Vials of Life Program, however this is with new technology. It's a QR code that we're able to scan and it will bring up your pertinent information medically related. There is no information that anybody can take and steal your ID with. It's just for us to be able to take care of patients who aren't able to communicate with us," East Palestine Fire Chief Keith Drabick said.



MyID EPFD

The East Palestine Fire Department is partnering with MyID to provide an easy method to provide valuable medical information to first responders in the event of an emergency. Roll out is scheduled to begin in November, 2022. The base service will be free to residents of East Palestine as an added service of the Fire Department.

EAST PALESTINE
FIRE
24
RESCUE
FIRE DEPT.
GetMyID.com
1(855) 367-8800

The East Palestine Fire Department held a sign-up event at the town's community center this January in an effort to drive enrollment into the cloud based information system. They were was able to collect $5,000 in donation to aid in the roll out of the program to make the first 250 wearable devices available to enrollees for free. The QR codes can be affixed to a wristband or a key faub but depend on digital ID software storing a person's health information in a cloud-hosted database in either instance.

During the event, Drabick emphasized that the MyID pilot program was intended to have a limited scope narrowly pertaining to sensitive medical information of those enrolled, tacitly alluding to underlying concerns about privacy that has skeptics of digital IDs reticent about the technology. Drabick would go on to compel skeptics to explore the program despite their reservations. “Anybody that skeptical? Please come on down. Sit down, talk to us. We’ll be happy to show you everything that goes on with it. We’ll be happy to show you how secure it is.”

Despite the initiative to implement the MyID program, even the fire department officials tasked will its roll out likely could not have foreseen the devastation East Palestine would incur following a botched controlled burn of a chemical spill that has turned the small town into North America's own version of Chernobyl. **However, the impetus to start a digital ID initiative preceding what would have been an unforeseen crisis is a pattern that supposed "conspiracy theorists" know all too well.**

Before the hysteria surrounding COVD-19 gripped the world, an event held in collaboration between the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Johns Hopkins University foreshadowing the eventual pandemic. Event 201 created a simulation to gauge the global response to a coronavirus epidemic as a means of pushing forward the very technologies at the center of the World Economic Forum's vision of the future which were also implemented in East Palestine before the watershed crisis that would alter the landscape of the town forever. One of the partners for Event 201 was ID2020, a digital ID initiative that Bill Gates was heavily invested in that served as an archetype for the vaccine passports that global NGOs and sovereign governments alike have been steadfast in attempting to implement.

The devastation in East Palestine rightfully puts an emphasis on an effective emergency response to save the 5,000 or so residents of the town from the peril they face as they are engulfed in a carcinogenic miasma which threatens their short term and long term health. While that is the understandable priority, the underlying currents of patterns which have preceded previous manufactured emergencies are putting the chemical catastrophe into a new light. First, there was the re-emergence of the 2022 film *White Noise* which seemingly served as a piece of predictive programming as its plot centered around the aftermath of a chemical explosion affecting a small town in Ohio. Now, the roll out of a digital ID program like that which was showcased during Event 201 raises even more questions than answers about what is really going on in East Palestine.

Government, censorship, stats: feb21 **GSK Scientists Knew About Zantac's Cancer Risks For Forty Years**

Vaccine, censorship, government: feb21 "The Trials Should Have Been Halted": Rate Of 'Serious Adverse Events' Closely Tracks Spike In Post-Vax Disabilities

Over the past 18 months, skeptics of mRNA Covid-19 vaccines and those pointing out high rates of adverse reactions have been subject to ostracism, deplatforming, and flawed 'fact checks' to shut down opinions and analysis which conflicted with official narratives.

Now, the data has begun to speak for itself, thanks to people like former Blackrock portfolio manager Ed Dowd, who has devoted the last several years to deep-dive research and analysis of pandemic-related data (in fact, he's written an excellent book on the topic). Dowd, along with partners Carlos Alegria and Yuri Nunes, launched Phinance Technologies - where, aside from traditional macroeconomic analysis, they have produced comprehensive reports on pandemic-related **disabilities and excess deaths** using official data.

Their latest analysis reveals that the rate of Serious Adverse Events in the mRNA Covid-19 vaccine clinical trials **closely tracks a spike in disabilities reported after the vaccine rollout**.

Via Phinance Technologies (emphasis ours),

In part 3 of our US disabilities analysis **we observed that the rise in disability rates post 2/2021 correlates closely with the rollout of the vaccination schedule**. When looking at changes in disabilities on a wider time frame (since 2008) we observe that the disability rates rose or fell from month to month but tended to be relatively stable over time. However, as shown in part 1, **the change in behaviour since early 2021 is clearly an abnormal occurrence with high level of statistical significance.** It happens to be highly correlated to the cumulative Covid-19 vaccine rollout, but we cannot state that the correlation is statistically meaningful as it is based on a cumulative plot with obvious autocorrelation.

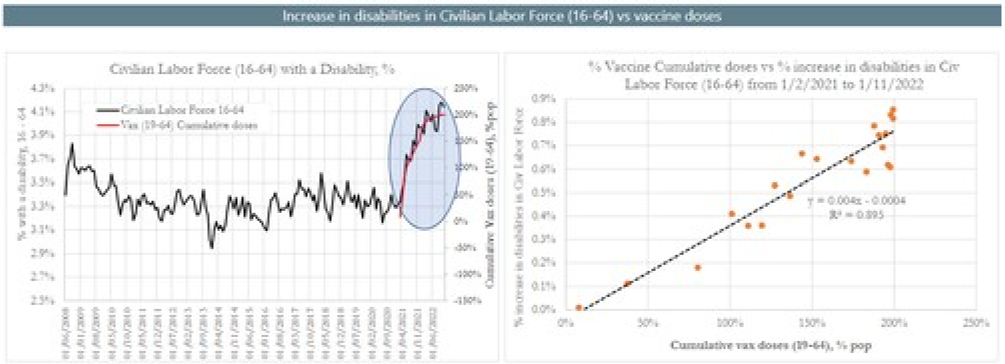
In this section **we provide further evidence that the most likely cause of the rise in disabilities is the Covid-19 vaccines**. For that purpose, we model the expected rise in disabilities due to the vaccination rollout in the general population. We do so by using the rates of Serious Adverse Events (SAEs) obtained by the safety analysis of the mRNA vaccine (Pfizer and Moderna) clinical trials, performed in the Vaccine journal paper we reviewed here, and our analysis in part five.

We can observe that **the rate of rise in disabilities is higher than the computed rate of rise in SAEs of special interest**, which could be explained in several different ways, or by a combination of factors.

- By the definition of an SAEs of special interest being more extreme than the rate of disabilities reported by the individuals surveyed by the BLS i.e. some disabilities reported by the individuals surveyed by the BLS may be caused by adverse events that are not deemed SAEs of special interest, due to the criteria used to define an SAE being overly restrictive.
- The population of the Civilian Labor Force as a whole may be less healthy (and somehow more vulnerable to vaccine-related disabilities) than the vaccine trial populations, either due to the selection criteria for participation in the trial, or 'self-selection' bias.
- Under-reporting of SAEs of special interest in the trial populations.
- Other factors causing excess disabilities in the Civilian Labor Force in a concurrent timeframe to the vaccine rollout.

As Dowd further notes via Twitter;

The rate of estimated SAEs appears to be under-reported relative the recorded rise in disabilities (according to the BLS survey) **by about 2.6 times.** These results were expected as we had already shown in part 3 of our study the high correlation between the rise in the disability rate since 2/21 with the vaccine rollout. We realise that performing the correlation of cumulative time series is misleading & the R2 should not be taken as an indication of establishing a statistically significant relationship as both time series have autocorrelation."



Bottom line: There were enough safety signals to show that what we are seeing in the BLS data was known during the clinical trials even given their narrow definition of a SAE. **The trials should have been halted.**

Moderna Backpedals, Guarantees 'Free' Covid-19 Vaccines After Demand Collapses

mRNA vaccine maker Moderna has backpedaled on a January plan to charge $110 to $130 per dose of Covid-19 vaccine (up from $26 per dose for booster shots), **and is now promising that people won't have to pay for the jab once the US Government stops buying shots**.

"Moderna remains committed to ensuring that people in the United States will have access to our COVID-19 vaccines regardless of ability to pay," the company said in a statement, adding that the vaccine "will continue to be available at no cost for insured people whether they receive them at their doctors’ offices or local pharmacies."

Those without insurance - or whose insurance is inadequate, will be able to get jabbed "at no cost" via a Moderna assistance program.

As *The Epoch Times* notes,

Because the COVID-19 vaccines were added to the child immunization schedule, children whose families cannot pay for the vaccine will be eligible to receive them for free, with taxpayers covering the cost.

That would happen through a program called Vaccines for Children.

Advisers to the government, who recommended the addition to the schedule, said it was because the vaccines can prevent severe illness. The new vaccines, poised to replace the original shots, are not backed by any clinical trial data yet.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said that the only reason the vaccines were placed on the schedule was so they could be covered by the Vaccines for Children program.

“It was the only way that our uninsured children would be able to have access to the vaccines,” Walensky said during a congressional hearing on Feb. 8**. “That was the reason to put it on the schedule.”**

* * *

The announcement comes amid a collapse in demand for Covid-19 vaccines.

According to analyst estimates, Pfizer, Moderna, Gilead Sciences, AstraZeneca and Merck could suffer a drop in sales of **nearly two-thirds**, *Reuters* reports.

"We remain skeptical that COVID revenues will grow in 2024 and beyond," said JPMorgan analyst Chris Schott in a recent research note, adding that vaccination rates **could drop even further** than the significant decline already seen in booster shots last year.

Moderna also expects 2023 revenue to drop sharply.

The company's only product - its messenger RNA COVID vaccine - pulled in around $18.4 billion in 2022. Analysts expect that to drop to around $7 billion in 2023. The company is due to report earnings later this month.

Oppenheimer & Co analyst Hartaj Singh said investors are "frustrated Moderna hasn't used their firepower more effectively to prepare for revenues and earnings going down in 2023 or 2024." -Reuters

What changed?

"Great Deal Of Uncertainty": Walmart Slides On Disappointing Guidance, Forecasts 2nd Straight Annual Profit Decline

Stats, energy, markets, sanctions, middle east: feb21 Saudi Arabia Reiterates That OPEC+ Decisions Are Not Political

- Saudi Arabia’s energy minister has once again emphasized that the OPEC+ alliance bases its decisions purely on market fundamentals.
- The group has been accused of cutting production for political reasons, particularly after its 2 million bpd cut in October.

- While Russia unilaterally announced a production cut in February, the OPEC+ group is expected to keep quotas unchanged in the short term.

The OPEC+ alliance bases its decisions on oil market fundamentals, not on political bias, the energy minister of OPEC's de facto leader, Saudi Arabia, said on Monday, reiterating previous comments from OPEC+ that it is looking at the markets when agreeing on oil production levels.

The decisions of the OPEC+ alliance, which is led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, are not politicized, Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said at an event in Riyadh today, as carried by Reuters.

OPEC+ is flexible enough to adjust its production quotas if necessary, the Saudi minister said.

After agreeing last October to cut quotas by 2 million barrels per day (bpd) from November, multiple OPEC+ producers defended the group's decision in a wave of statements in what looked like a coordinated response to U.S. criticism of the cut. The U.S. Administration warned that there would be some consequences for Saudi Arabia for its decision together with Russia to steer OPEC+ into the oil production cut.

More recently, delegates said earlier this month that OPEC+ doesn't plan to change its oil production targets after Russia announced a cut in its output for March.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said on February 10 that Russia would cut its oil production by 500,000 bpd in March as a result of the Western sanctions and the price cap on Russian crude oil.

A week earlier, OPEC+ kept its production targets unchanged in a widely expected 'wait-and-see' approach to supply just ahead of the EU ban on Russian diesel and other petroleum products.

One of OPEC's largest and most influential members, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), said earlier this month that declining oil production in many countries and the potential of insufficient crude supply would be a bigger problem for the oil market next year than how demand would evolve.

"I'm not worried about demand — what worries us is whether we are going to have enough supplies in the future," the UAE's Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei told Bloomberg TV last week.

Crypto, china, government: feb21 China Softens Stance On Crypto? Hong Kong Outlines Plan To Allow Retail Investors Into 'Virtual Assets'

Chinese crypto- and blockchain-linked stocks rallied Tuesday. Digital-asset firm OKG Technology Holdings Ltd. jumped as much as 22% in Hong Kong. Crypto platform operator New Huo Technology Holdings Ltd. advanced as much as 12%. In mainland China, software specialist Shenzhen Forms Syntron Information Co. at one point added 10%.

While China has cracked down on cryptocurrencies in the mainland, it's apparently taking a softer approach to Hong Kong's crypto hub aspirations.

Was China's anti-crypto-stance all a head-fake?

In September we remarked that, **despite 2021's ban, China has returned to rank among the top 10 countries in the world for adoption.**

https://blog.chainalysis.com/reports/2022-global-crypto-adoption-index/

Hong Kong Plans to Let Retail Sector Trade Larger Crypto Tokens Like Bitcoin

- City pushes ahead toward a goal of becoming a crypto hub
- Securities regulator issues a consultation paper on the plan

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Hong Kong Plans to Allow Retail Crypto Trading

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WATCH: Hong Kong plans to let retail investors trade digital tokens. Joanna Ossinger reports.*Source: Bloomberg*

By

Kiuyan Wong and
Zheping Huang

February 20, 2023 at 4:18 AM AST *Updated onFebruary 20, 2023 at 10:32 PM AST*

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TWTR
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CME
CME GROUP INC
187.65
USD
-0.99-0.52%

1499
OKG TECHNOLOGY H
0.38
HKD
+0.04+11.76%

300468
SHENZHEN FORMS-A
11.81
CNY
+0.46+4.05%

Open

Hong Kong outlined a plan to let retail investors trade digital tokens like Bitcoin and Ether, taking a major step toward its goal of becoming a crypto hub in a policy shift that contrasts with a crackdown in the US.

Individual investors would be allowed to trade larger coins on exchanges licensed by the Securities and Futures Commission, providing safeguards such as knowledge tests, risk profiles and reasonable limits on exposure are put in place, the regulator said in a consultation paper on Monday.

The agency didn't specify which large-capitalization tokens will be allowed for retail investors. Instead, it said the coins should be included in at least two acceptable, investible indexes from independent providers, one of which should have experience in the traditional financial sector.

The consultation period will end on March 31, and the objective is to allow retail trading in the new licensing regime for crypto exchanges due on June 1. Bitcoin and Ether, the two biggest digital assets by market value, are likely to be listed by Hong Kong platforms, an SFC spokesperson said in a briefing.

Hong Kong at the end of October pivoted to a pro-crypto stance, part of a wider effort to restore the city's credentials as a financial center. Officials are aiming to learn the lessons of last year's $1.5 trillion digital-asset rout and a spate of global bankruptcies, like the collapse of the FTX exchange, to create a mandatory regulatory framework that can woo firms and protect investors.

The consultation paper didn’t specify particular crypto indexes as a reference point for a taxonomy of allowable tokens. The onus would be on exchanges to monitor listed assets to ensure they qualify for trading by individual investors.

The government has already allowed exchange-traded funds investing in CME Group Bitcoin and Ether futures and this month sold inaugural digital green bonds.

Digital-asset executives are increasingly being drawn to the friendlier policy stances of places like Hong Kong, Dubai and Europe as a spate of crypto probes in the US cloud that country’s position as an industry heartland.

‘Next Bull Run’

Hong Kong’s pivot could also open up a conduit to mainland Chinese investment if Beijing one day loosens the ban on most things crypto on the mainland.

Cameron Winklevoss, co-founder of the crypto exchange Gemini, tweeted Sunday that his “working thesis” is “the next bull run is going to start in the East.” Brian Armstrong, chief executive officer of Coinbase Global Inc., has alluded to Hong Kong as among the jurisdictions now leading in digital assets.

Justin Sun’s crypto exchange Huobi Global is applying for a crypto trading license in Hong Kong and is launching a new trading venue there, Sun said on Twitter on Monday. The new exchange, called Huobi Hong Kong, will focus on institutional investors and high-net worth individuals, he said.

Chinese crypto- and blockchain-linked stocks rallied Tuesday. Digital-asset firm OKG Technology Holdings Ltd. jumped as much as 22% in Hong Kong. Crypto platform operator New Huo Technology Holdings Ltd. advanced as much as 12%. In mainland China, software specialist Shenzhen Forms Syntron Information Co. at one point added 10%.

Hong Kong's ambitions still face many obstacles, including a downturn in the virtual-asset industry that's seen thousands of jobs cut. Crypto markets have only partially rebounded from 2022's bust.

Companies may be hesitant to commit scarce investment until the contours of Hong Kong's policy landscape become clearer.

The city's current regime for crypto exchanges is a voluntary one that restricts them to clients with portfolios of at least HK$8 million ($1 million). HashKey Group and BC Technology Group's OSL bourse are the only two with permits.
For crypto market prices: CRYP; for top crypto news: TOP CRYPTO.

READ MORE ABOUT HONG KONG, GLOBAL REGULATION:

US Crypto Crackdown Boosts Appeal of Friendlier Overseas Hubs
Hong Kong Seeks to Revive Crypto Sector Roiled by FTX Crisis
Hong Kong Seeks to Be Crypto Hub With Retail Trading, ETFs

— With assistance by Abhishek Vishnoi
(Updates with market prices in the 12th paragraph.)

ai, tech, government, censorship: feb21 nice article on tech from of two minds blog

The world is agog at the apparent power of ChatGPT and similar programs to compose human-level narratives and generate images from simple commands. Many are succumbing to the temptation to extrapolate these powers to near-infinity, i.e. the Singularity in which AI reaches super-intelligence Nirvana.

All the excitement is fun but it's more sensible to start by placing ChatGPT in the context of AI history and our socio-economic system.

I became interested in AI in the early 1980s, and read numerous books by the leading AI researchers of the time.

AI began in the 1960s with the dream of a *Universal General Intelligence*, a computational machine that matched humanity's ability to apply a generalized intelligence to any problem.

This quickly led to the daunting realization that human intelligence wasn't just logic or reason; it was an immensely complex system that depended on sight, heuristics (rules of thumb), feedback and many other subsystems.

AI famously goes through cycles of excitement about advances that are followed by deflating troughs of realizing the limits of the advances.

The increase in computing power and software programming in the 1980s led to advances in these sub-fields: machine vision, algorithms that embodied heuristics, and so on.

At the same time, philosophers like Hubert Dreyfus and John Searle were exploring what we mean by knowing and understanding, and questioning whether computers could ever achieve what we call "understanding."

This paper (among many) summarizes the critique of AI being able to duplicate human understanding: Intentionality and Background: Searle and Dreyfus against Classical AI Theory.

Simply put, was running a script / algorithm actually "understanding" the problem as humans understand the problem?

The answer is of course no. *The Turing Test*--programming a computer to mimic human language and responses--can be scripted / programmed, but that doesn't mean the computer has human understanding. It's just distilling human responses into heuristics that mimic human responses.

One result of this discussion of *consciousness and understanding* was for AI to move away from the dream of General Intelligence to the specifics of machine learning.

In other words, never mind trying to make AI mimic human understanding, let's just enable it to solve complex problems.

The basic idea in machine learning is to distill the constraints and rules of a system into algorithms, and then enable the program to apply these tools to real-world examples.

Given enough real-world examples, the system develops heuristics (rules of thumb) about what works and what doesn't which are not necessarily visible to the human researchers.

In effect, the machine-learning program becomes a "black box" in which its advances are opaque to those who programmed its tools and digitized real-world examples into forms the program could work with.

It's important to differentiate this machine learning from statistical analysis using statistical algorithms.

For example, if a program has been designed to look for patterns and statistically relevant correlations, it sorts through millions of social-media profiles and purchasing histories and finds that Republican surfers who live in (say) Delaware are likely to be fans of Chipotle.

This statistical analysis is called "big data" and while it has obvious applications for marketing everything from candidates to burritos, it doesn't qualify as machine learning.

In a similar way, algorithms like ChatGPT that generate natural-language narratives from databases and heuristics do not qualify as machine learning unless they fashion advances within a "black box" in which the input (the request) is known and the output is known, but the process is unknown.

Google has an AI team called DeepMind that tackled the immensely complex task of figuring out how proteins constructed of thousands of amino acid sequences fold up into compact shapes within nanoseconds.

The problem of computing all the possible folds in 200 million different proteins cannot be solved by mere brute-force calculation of all permutations, and so it required breaking down each step of the process into algorithms.

The eventual product, AlphaFold, has 32 component algorithms, each of which encapsulates different knowledge bases from the relevant disciplines (biochemistry, physics, etc.).

DeepMind's AI Makes Gigantic Leap in Solving Protein Structures.

This is how project leader Demis Hassabis describes the "black box" capabilities:

"It’s clear that AlphaFold 2 is learning something implicit about the structure of chemistry and physics. It sort of knows what things might be plausible.

I think AlphaFold has captured something quite deep about the physics and the chemistry of molecules... it's almost learning about it in an intuitive sense."

But there are limits on what AlphaFold can do and what it's good at:

"I think we'll have more and more researchers looking at protein areas that AlphaFold is not good at predicting."

In other words, AlphaFold can't be said to "understand" the entirety of protein folding. It's good at limiting the possible folds to a subset and presenting those possibilities in a form that can be compared to actual protein structures identified by lab processes. It can also assign a confidence level to each of its predictions.

This is useful but far from "understanding," and it is a disservice to claim otherwise.

What's interesting is the really hard problem AI has not been applied to is how to manage these technologies in our socio-economic-cultural system.

open incest in the holy roman empire

Maria Theresa of Spain (Spanish: *María Teresa de Austria*; French: *Marie-Thérèse d'Autriche*; 10 September 1638 – 30 July 1683) was Queen of France from 1660 to 1683 as the wife of King Louis XIV. She was born an Infanta of Spain and Portugal as the daughter of King Philip IV and Elisabeth of France, and was also an Archduchess of Austria as a member of the Spanish branch of the House of Habsburg.

Her marriage in 1660 to King Louis XIV, her double first cousin, was arranged with the purpose of ending the lengthy war between France and Spain. Famed for her virtue and piety, she saw five of her six children die in early childhood, and is frequently viewed as an object of pity in historical accounts of her husband's reign, since she was often neglected by the court and overshadowed by the King's many mistresses.

Without any political influence in the French court or government (except briefly in 1672, when she was named regent during her husband's absence during the Franco-Dutch War),[1] she died at the age of 44 due to complications from an abscess on her arm. Her grandson Philip V inherited the Spanish throne in 1700 after the death of her younger half-brother, Charles II. The resulting War of the Spanish Succession established the House of Bourbon as the new ruling dynasty of Spain, where it has reigned with some interruption until the present time.

Anne's regency formally ended in 1651, when Louis XIV was declared of legal majority at the age of thirteen.

In 1659, the war with Spain ended with the Treaty of the Pyrenees. The following year, peace was cemented by the marriage of the young King to Anne's niece, the Spanish Habsburg princess Maria Theresa of Spain.

In 1661, the same year as the death of Mazarin, an heir to the throne was born, Anne's first grandchild Louis. Many other children would follow, but all in the legitimate line would die except for Louis. Sometime after, Anne retired to the convent of Val-de-Grâce, where she died of breast cancer five years later.

Name	Lifespan	Notes
stillborn child	Dec 1619	
stillborn child	14 Mar 1622	
stillborn child	1626	
stillborn child	Apr 1631	
Louis XIV of France	5 Sep 1638 – 1 Sep 1715	Married Maria Theresa of Austria (1638–8
Philippe of France, Duke of Orléans	21 Sep 1640 – 8 Jun 1701	Married (1) Princess Henrietta of England (164 Married (2) Elisabeth Charlotte of the P Palatine" (1652–1722) in 1671.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_of_Austria

Habsburg jaw
Allegedly introduced into the family by a member of the Piast dynasty, it is clearly visible on family tomb sculptures in St. John's Cathedral, Warsaw. A high propensity for politically motivated intermarriage among Habsburgs meant the dynasty was virtually unparalleled in the degree of its inbreeding. Charles II of Spain, who lived 1661 to 1700, is said to have had the most pronounced case of the Habsburg jaw on record,[15] due to the high number of consanguineous marriages in the dynasty preceding his birth.[14][12]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prognathism#:~:text=Pathologic%20mandibular%20prognathism%20is%20a,be%20the%20result%20of%20inbreeding

Philip married his cousin, Margaret of Austria, on 18 April 1599, a year after becoming king. Margaret, the sister of the future Emperor Ferdinand II, would be one of three women at Philip's court who would apply considerable influence over the King.[11]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_III_of_Spain

Margaret married Philip III of Spain, her first-cousin, once-removed, on 18 April 1599.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_of_Austria,_Queen_of_Spain

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_II_of_Spain

Erdogan, middle east: feb21 **Another 6.4 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Turkey, Syria: 8 Dead & Hundreds Injured**

At least two new earthquakes shook southern Turkey and parts of Syria Monday, two weeks following the initial earthquake and aftershocks which left entire cities in rubble and killed more than 46,000 people - also as bodies are still being recovered.

The new earthquake registered at 6.4-magnitude, leaving **at least eight dead and hundreds more injured**. An estimated 300 are among the injured with Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) saying 18 of those are in serious condition.

According to the *Associated Press*, "In Syria, a woman and a girl died as a result of panic during the earthquake in the provinces of Hama and Tartus, pro-government media outlets said."

"The earthquake's epicenter was in the town of Defne, in Turkey's Hatay province, which borders Syria. It was also felt in Jordan, Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon and as far away as Egypt, and followed by a second, magnitude 5.8 temblor, and dozens of aftershocks," the report details.

Some 90 aftershocks followed the first 6.4 magnitude quake, with the biggest one to follow being a 5.8-magnitude earthquake, according to AFAD.

The quakes were reportedly felt as far away as Jordan, Egypt, and Israel. Across the Syrian capital of Damascus, buildings and high-rise apartments shook.

Among the injured were **half a dozen people struck by falling debris from buildings**, and others are said to have suffered heart attacks in the chaos. Rescue workers cited broadly "a state of panic and fear among the people" that ensued, particularly after the big quake earlier this month.

Already buildings that were still standing in hard-impacted areas after the 7.8 Kahramanmaras earthquake were unstable. Videos from Monday's earthquake and aftershocks showed people running into the streets in panic in Turkish and Syrian cities.

War, Russia, stats, journal: feb21 Putin Suspends New START Nuclear Treaty, Puts Missiles On Combat Readiness

Putin's speech, which most commentators saw little that was new in, came just after President Biden showed up in Kiev for a surprise visit...

As the U.S. president visits Poland, Russian President Vladimir Putin made his own speech in a parallel political universe.https://t.co/ZYWj4ZriGd

— Foreign Policy (@ForeignPolicy) February 21, 2023

Much of Tuesday's speech was about reaffirming Russia's resolve in Ukraine at a moment NATO powers seem more deeply involved than ever. **"Step by step, we will carefully and systematically achieve the aims that face us,"** Putin said in the speech which came just ahead of the anniversary of the invasion on Feb. 24, which will be Friday.

He also rearticulated Russia's reasons for going to war. "Russia did its best to solve the problem in Ukraine peacefully, but the statements of Western leaders turned out to be fraudulent and untrue," Putin said, calling Ukraine part of the "historical Russian land."

War: feb21 war wrap up

US Military Base in Syria Targeted by Missiles in First Attack Since Earthquake

Iraq Signs Security Agreement With Saudi Arabia, First in 40 Years

The incident occurred two days before France officially marked the end of its military operations in the West African nation, where in 2015 some 400 French special forces had been sent to help fight an insurgency that spread from neighbouring Mali.

The soldiers were ambushed in Oudalan province, in Burkina Faso's Sahel region, which shares a border with Mali.

Burkina Faso is one of several West African countries grappling with a jihadist insurgency that took root in Mali after a Tuareg rebellion in 2012.

Violence has spread to neighbouring countries and beyond despite costly international military interventions and United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Thousands have been killed and millions displaced across the Sahel region south of the Sahara.

Frustrations over the lack of safety spurred two coups in Mali and two in Burkina Faso since 2020, placing power in the hands of juntas that have been burning bridges with traditional Western allies.

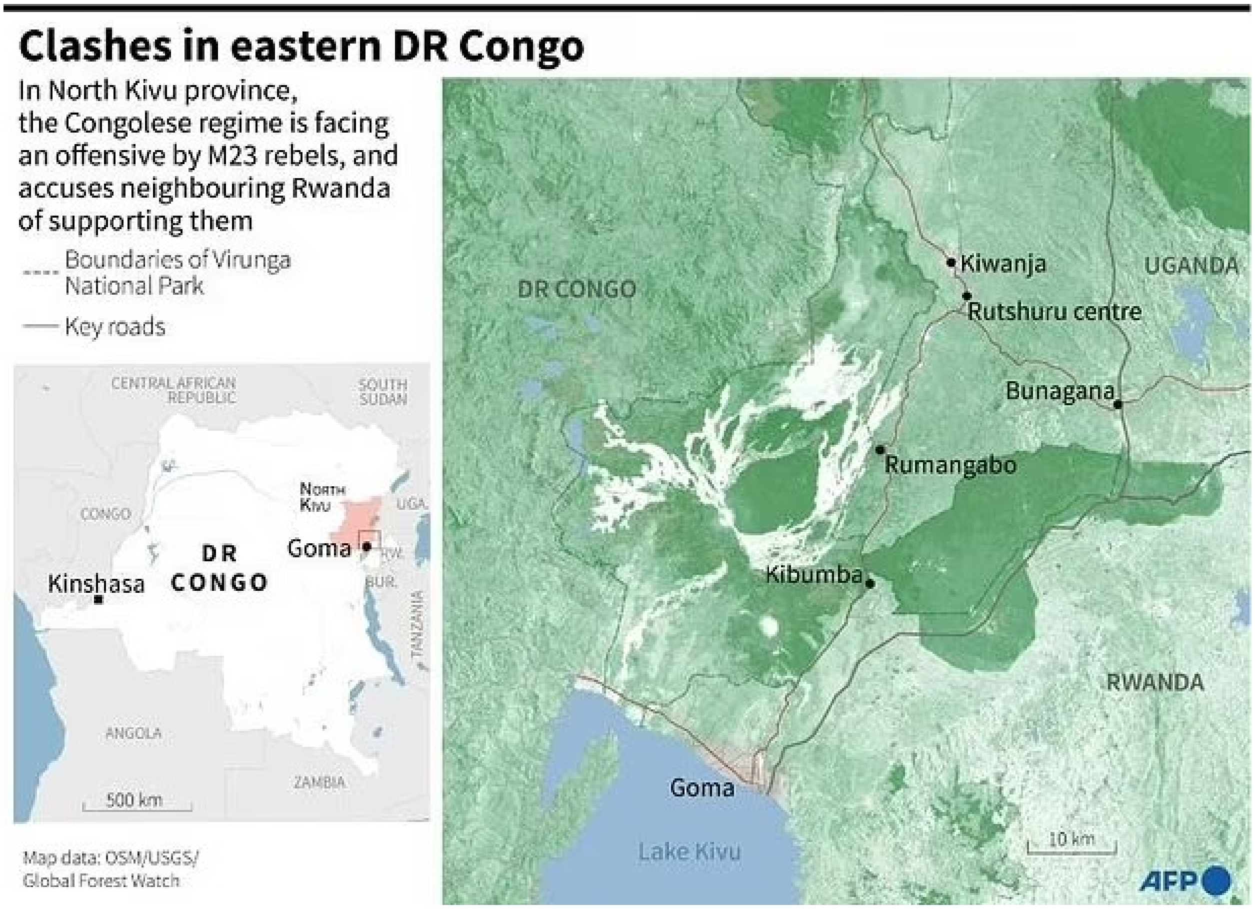
France's relations with Burkina Faso have sharply deteriorated over the past year, culminating with Ouagadougou giving its former coloniser one month to withdraw troops in January.

France withdrew its forces from Mali last year after the junta there started working with Russian military contractors. Several other countries have since followed suit.

The withdrawals have increased concerns about the outlook for a conflict that has seen the number of Islamist attacks more than double since 2020, according to the Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

Gunmen in Nigeria Kill Eight Police, Days Before Presidential Vote

The M23, a Tutsi-led group whose name stands for the March 23 Movement, re-emerged from dormancy in November 2021, accusing the DRC of ignoring a promise to integrate its fighters into the army.


Clashes in eastern DR Congo
In North Kivu province, the Congolese regime is facing an offensive by M23 rebels, and accuses neighbouring Rwanda of supporting them
Boundaries of Virunga National Park
Key roads
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
SOUTH SUDAN
NORTH KIVU
UGA.
CONGO
DR CONGO
Goma
RW.
BUR.
Kinshasa
TANZANIA
ANGOLA
ZAMBIA
500 km
Map data: OSM/USGS/ Global Forest Watch
Kiwanja
UGANDA
DR CONGO
Rutshuru centre
Bunagana
Rumangabo
Kibumba
RWANDA
Goma
Lake Kivu
10 km
AFP

The DRC accuses its smaller neighbour Rwanda of backing the group, a charge supported by independent UN experts as well as the United States and other western countries, but denied by Kigali.

EU Slaps Sanctions on Nine More Top Myanmar Officials

What’s driving conflict in the disputed Somali city of Las Anod?
https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/20/whats-driving-conflict-in-the-disputed-somali-city-of-las-anod

Belarus

- Belarus Cadets Train on Russian Tanks Amid Fears of Bigger Conflict
- Poland Curbs Border Traffic as Belarus Expels Three Polish Diplomats
- Belarus to Form 100,000-150,000 Strong Volunteer Military Force

Turkey

- Turkey Not Exporting Items for Use in Russia War Effort: FM
- Blinken Reaffirms Pledge to Deliver Jets to Turkey
- 'State Ignored Our Warnings', Say Turkish Engineers and Architects
- Israel Returns Antique Jewish Scrolls Taken From Turkish Earthquake Zone
- 'Counterproductive:' Swedish MEP Slams Turkish Demands for Further NATO Concession

Iran

- Iran's Currency Hits All-Time Low as EU Prepares More Sanctions
- Iran 'Strongly Rejects' Israeli Claims on Oil Tanker Attack
- UK Sanctions Iranian, Judges, Commanders and Regional Governors

nice article about somalia. from germany (need to see a map of germany territories before ww1) https://www.dw.com/en/25-years-on-somaliland-struggles-for-recognition/a-19488683

european defense firm thaty I didn't know about: MBDA

EU Slaps Sanctions on Nine More Top Myanmar Officials

Historians often debate whether Germany's adoption of Weltpolitik (1897-1914) was the real cause of the First World War

Germany's Weltpolitik

Madison Grant

16 languages

- Article
- Talk
  - Read
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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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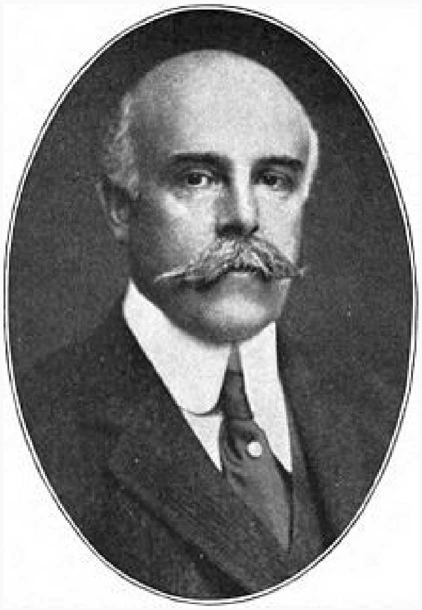
Madison Grant



Grant in the early 1920s

Born	November 19, 1865 New York City, U.S.
Died	May 30, 1937 (aged 71) New York City, U.S.
Resting place	Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Tarrytown, New York
Nationality	American
Alma mater	Columbia University Yale University

Occupation(s)	Lawyer, writer, zoologist
Known for	Eugenics, Scientific racism, *The Passing of the Great Race*, Nordicism

Madison Grant (November 19, 1865 – May 30, 1937) was an American lawyer, zoologist, anthropologist, and writer known primarily for his work as a eugenicist and conservationist, and as an advocate of scientific racism. Grant is less noted for his far-reaching deeds in conservation than for his advocacy of Nordicism, a form of racism which views the "Nordic race" as superior.[1][2]

As a eugenicist, Grant was the author of *The Passing of the Great Race* (1916), one of the most famous racist texts,[3] and played an active role in crafting immigration restriction and anti-miscegenation laws in the United States. As a conservationist, he is credited with the saving of species including the American bison,[4] helped create the Bronx Zoo, Glacier National Park, and Denali National Park, and co-founded the Save the Redwoods League.[5] Grant developed much of the discipline of wildlife management.[6]

Early life[edit]

Grant was born in New York City, New York, the son of Gabriel Grant, a physician and American Civil War surgeon, and Caroline Manice. Madison Grant's mother was a descendant of Jessé de Forest, the Walloon Huguenot who in 1623 recruited the first band of colonists to settle in New Netherland, the Dutch Republic's territory on the American East Coast. On his father's side, Madison Grant's first American ancestor was Richard Treat, dean of Pitminster Church in England, who in 1630 was one of the first Puritan settlers of New England. Grant's forebears through Treat's line include Robert Treat (a colonial governor of New Jersey), Robert Treat Paine (a signer of the Declaration of Independence), Charles Grant (Madison Grant's grandfather, who served as an officer in the War of 1812), and Gabriel Grant (father of Madison), a prominent physician and the health commissioner of Newark, New Jersey.[7][8][9] Grant was a lifelong resident of New York City.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madison_Grant

Pygmies and a European. Some pygmies would be exposed in human zoos, such as Ota Benga displayed by eugenicist Madison Grant in the Bronx Zoo.

Ota Benga

28 languages

- Article
- Talk
- Read
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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Ota Benga

Benga at the St. Louis World's Fair, 1904

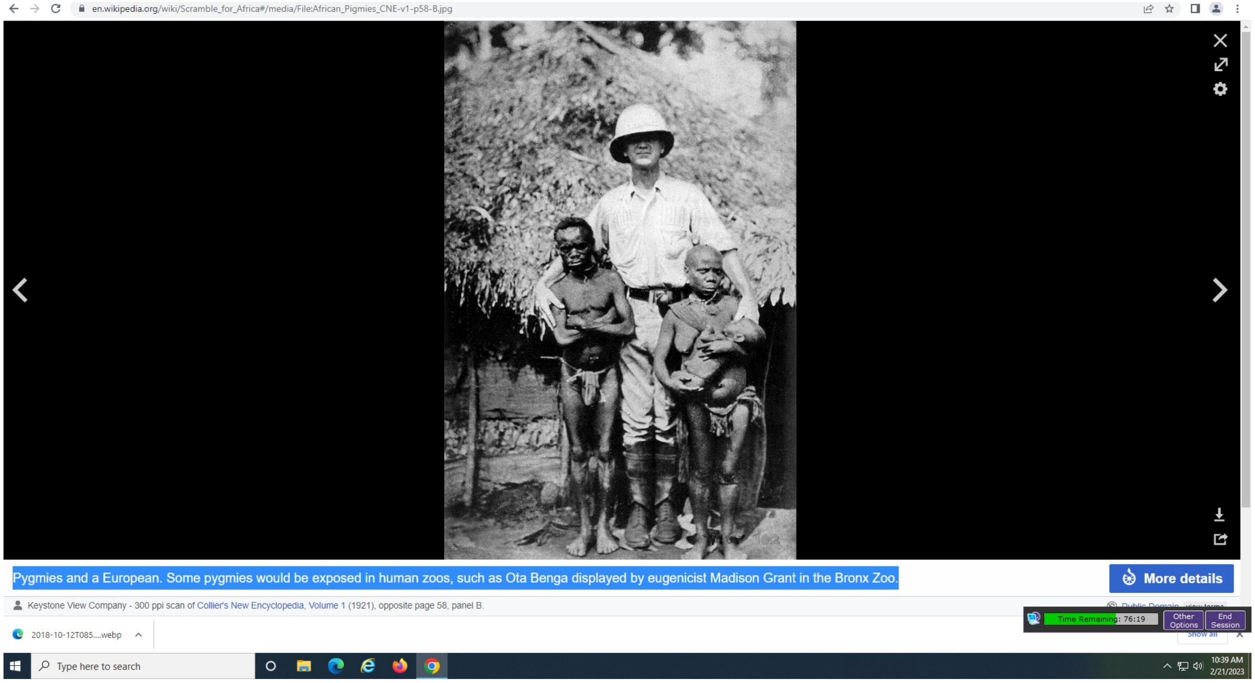
Born	Mbye Otabenga[1] c. 1883
Died	March 20, 1916 (aged 32–33) Lynchburg, Virginia, U.S.
Cause of death	Suicide
Resting place	White Rock Cemetery, Lynchburg, Virginia 37°23′56.23″N 79°7′58.41″W
Height	4 ft 11 in (150 cm)
Children	2

Ota Benga (c. 1883[2] – March 20, 1916) was a Mbuti (Congo pygmy) man, known for being featured in an exhibit at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri, and as a human zoo exhibit in 1906 at the Bronx Zoo. Benga had been purchased from local African slave traders by the explorer Samuel Phillips Verner,[3] a businessman searching for African people for the exhibition, who took him to the United States. While at the Bronx Zoo, Benga was allowed to walk the grounds before and after he was exhibited in the zoo's Monkey House. Benga was placed in a cage with an orangutan as a lampoon on Darwinism. To enhance the primitive image and presumably protect himself if need be from the ape, he was given a functional bow and arrow. He used this instead to shoot at visitors who mocked him and partially as a result of this the exhibition was ended.[4] Except for a brief visit to Africa with Verner after the close of the St. Louis Fair, Benga lived in the United States, mostly in Virginia, for the rest of his life.

African-American newspapers around the nation published editorials strongly opposing Benga's treatment. Robert Stuart MacArthur, spokesman for a delegation of black churches, petitioned New York City Mayor George B. McClellan Jr. for his release from the Bronx Zoo. In late 1906, the mayor released Benga to the custody of James H. Gordon, who supervised the Howard Colored Orphan Asylum in Brooklyn.

In 1910, Gordon arranged for Benga to be cared for in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he paid for his clothes and to have his sharpened teeth capped. This would enable Benga to be more readily accepted in local society. Benga was tutored in English and began to work at a Lynchburg tobacco factory.

He tried to return to Africa, but the outbreak of World War I in 1914 stopped all ship passenger travel. Benga developed depression, and died by suicide in 1916.[5]


en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scramble_for_Africa#/media/File:African_Pigmies_CNE-v1-p58-B.jpg
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Pygmies and a European. Some pygmies would be exposed in human zoos, such as Ota Benga displayed by eugenicist Madison Grant in the Bronx Zoo.

Keystone View Company - 300 ppi scan of Collier's New Encyclopedia, Volume 1 (1921), opposite page 58, panel B.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_zoo

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scramble_for_Africa

Stats, history, middle east: the suez was developed by the french.. Ferdinand Marie, Comte de Lesseps GCSI (French: [də lesɛps]; 19 November 1805 – 7 December 1894) was a French diplomat and later developer of the Suez Canal, which in 1869 joined the Mediterranean

and Red Seas, substantially reducing sailing distances and times between Europe and East Asia.

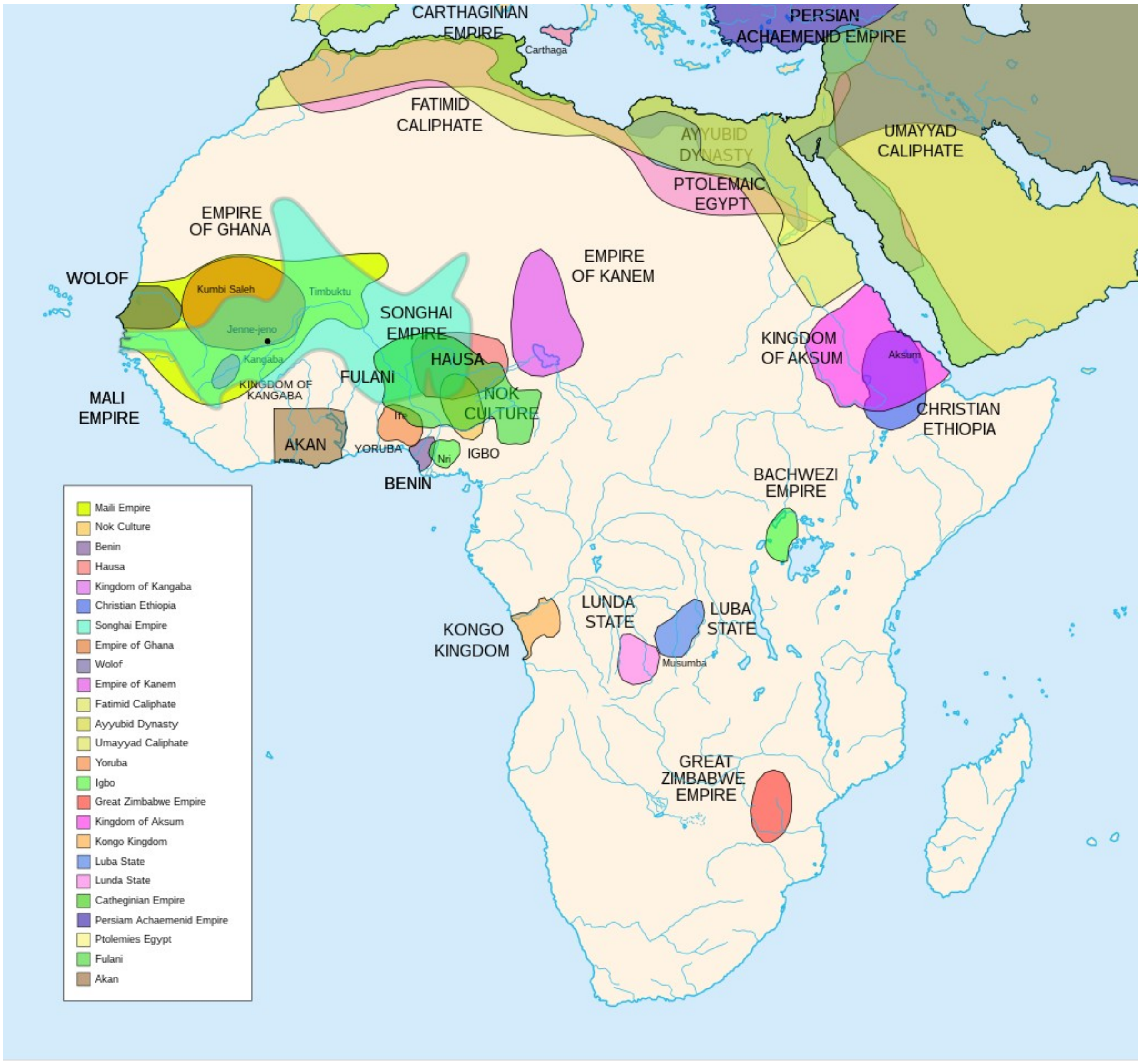
Ferdinand Marie, Comte de Lesseps GCSI (French: [də lesɛps]; 19 November 1805 – 7 December 1894) was a French diplomat and later developer of the Suez Canal, which in 1869 joined the Mediterranean and Red Seas, substantially reducing sailing distances and times between Europe and East Asia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand_de_Lesseps

Stats, history, Africa: feb21 The Scramble for Africa, 1881-1914

The **Scramble for Africa**, also called the **Partition of Africa**, the **Conquest of Africa** or the **Rape of Africa**, was the invasion, annexation, division, and colonization of most of Africa by seven Western European powers during a short period known as New Imperialism (between 1881 and 1914). The 10 percent of Africa that was under formal European control in 1870 increased to almost 90 percent by 1914, with only Liberia and Ethiopia remaining independent.[1]

The Berlin Conference of 1884, which regulated European colonization and trade in Africa, is usually accepted as the beginning


CARTHAGINIAN EMPIRE
Carthaga
PERSIAN ACHAEMENID EMPIRE
FATIMID CALIPHATE
AYYUBID DYNASTY
UMAYYAD CALIPHATE
PTOLEMAIC EGYPT
EMPIRE OF GHANA
WOLOF
Kumbi Saleh
Timbuktu
SONGHAI EMPIRE
Jenne-jeno
Kangaba
KINGDOM OF KANGABA
MALI EMPIRE
FULANI
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IGBO
EMPIRE OF KANEM
KINGDOM OF AKSUM
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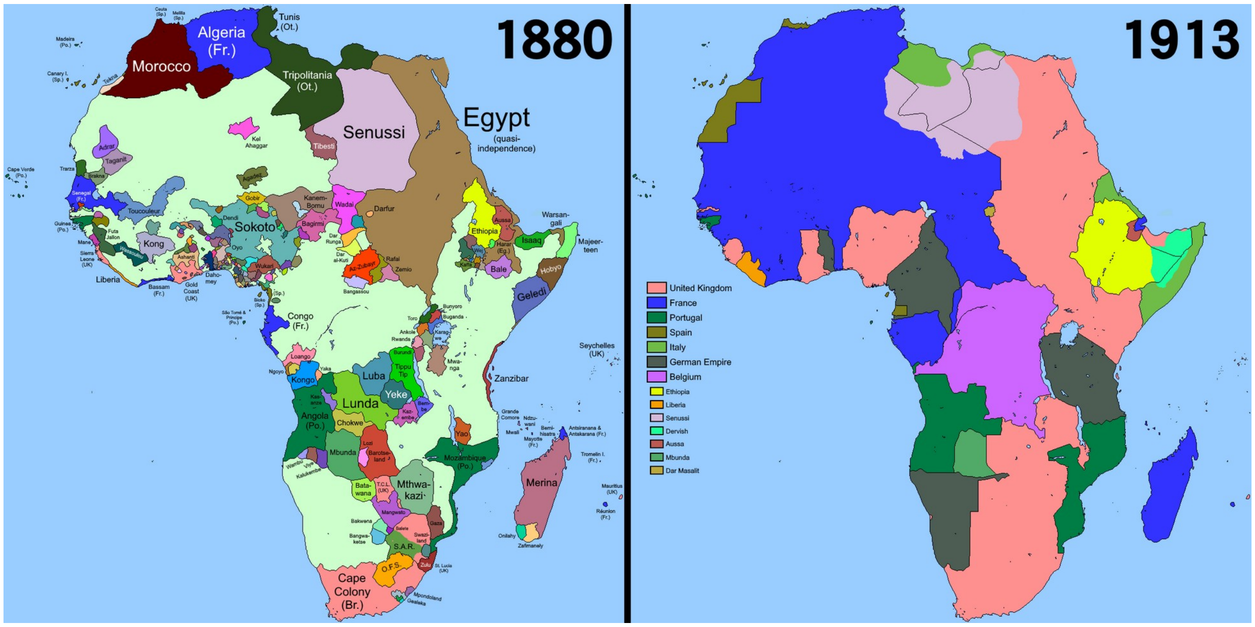
CHRISTIAN ETHIOPIA
BACHWEZI EMPIRE
LUNDA STATE
LUBA STATE
Musumba
KONGO KINGDOM
GREAT ZIMBABWE EMPIRE
Maili Empire
Nok Culture
Benin
Hausa
Kingdom of Kangaba
Christian Ethiopia
Songhai Empire
Empire of Ghana
Wolof
Empire of Kanem
Fatimid Caliphate
Ayyubid Dynasty
Umayyad Caliphate
Yoruba
Igbo
Great Zimbabwe Empire
Kingdom of Aksum
Kongo Kingdom
Luba State
Lunda State
Catheginian Empire
Persiam Achaemenid Empire
Ptolemies Egypt
Fulani
Akan

Map of African civilizations and kingdoms prior to European colonialism (spanning roughly 500 BCE to 1500 CE)


1880
Morocco
Algeria (Fr.)
Tunis (Ot.)
Tripolitania (Ot.)
Egypt (quasi-independence)
Senussi
Tibesti
Kel Ahaggar
Adrar
Tagant
Trarza
Senegal (Fr.)
Toucouleur
Kong
Sokoto
Ethiopia
Darfur
Wadai
Kanem-Bornu
Bagirmi
Isaaq
Warsangali
Majeerteen
Hobyo
Geledi
Bale
Harar (Eg.)
Zemio
Rafai
Bangassou
Liberia
Sierra Leone (UK)
Gold Coast (UK)
Dahomey
Oyo
Congo (Fr.)
Loango
Kongo
Angola (Po.)
Luba
Lunda
Yeke
Chokwe
Mbunda
Barotseland
Yao
Zanzibar
Mozambique (Po.)
Merina
Bataswana
Mthwakazi
Swaziland
S.A.R.
O.F.S.
Zulu
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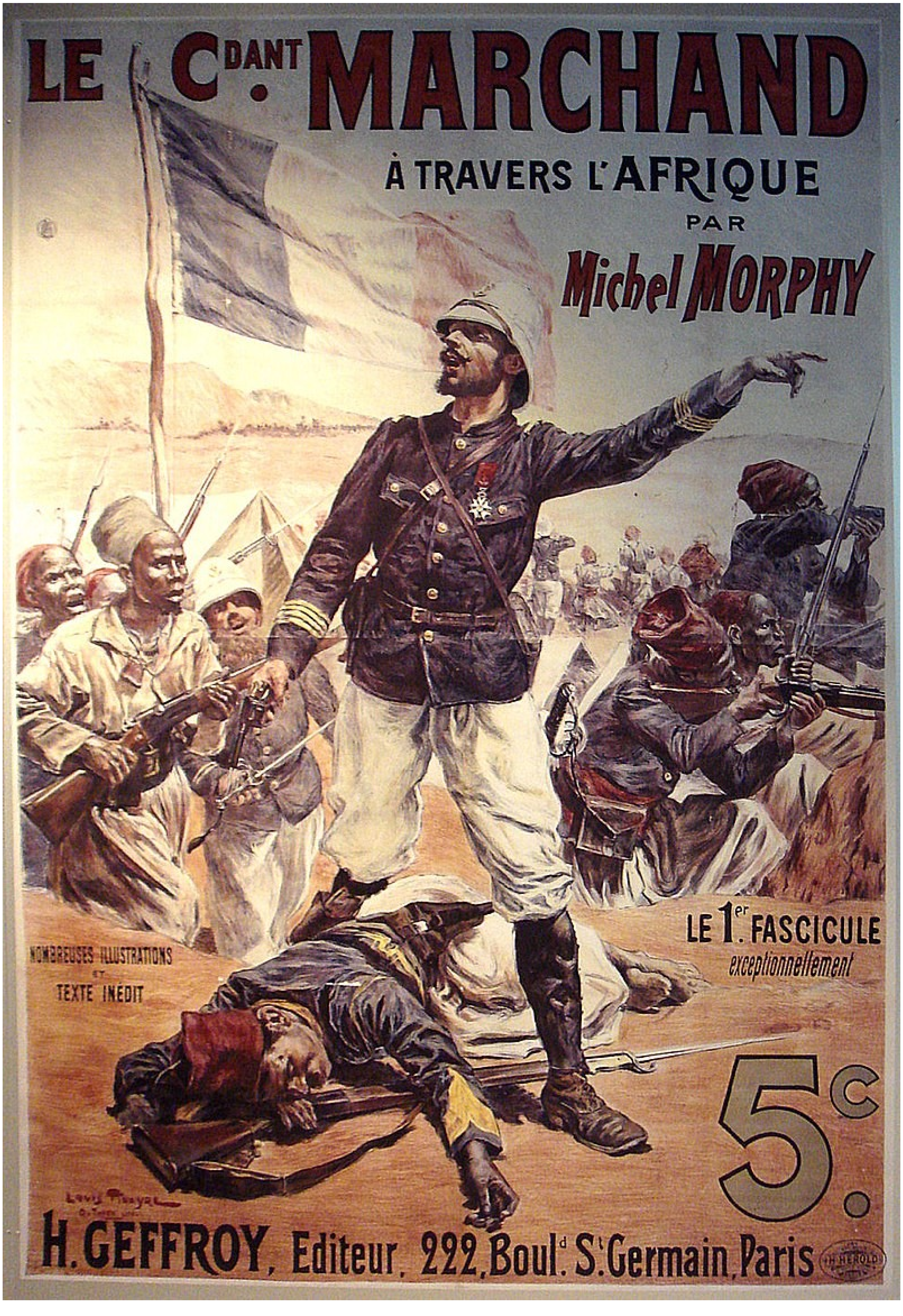

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À TRAVERS L'AFRIQUE

PAR

Michel MORPHY

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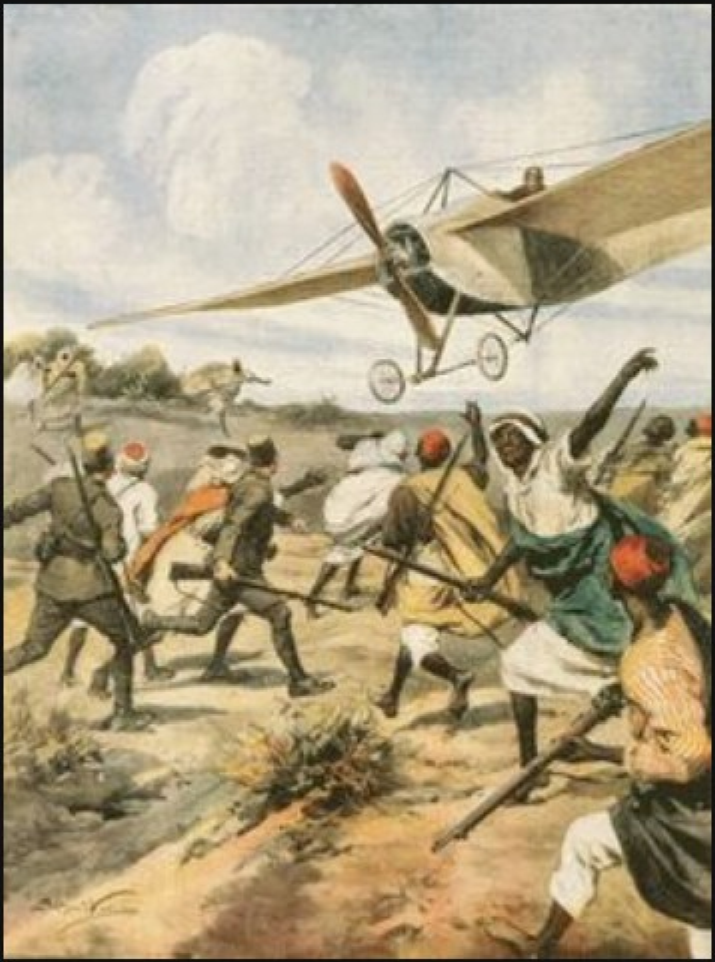
H. GEFFROY, Editeur, 222, Boul$^{\text{d}}$. S$^{\text{t}}$. Germain, Paris

H. HEROLD

Italian aircraft in action against Ottoman forces during the Italian invasion of Libya in the Italo-Turkish War



Stats, history, africa: somali and the slave trade

In Somalia, the Bantu minorities are descended from Bantu groups that had settled in Southeast Africa after the initial expansion from Nigeria/Cameroon. To meet the demand for menial labor, Bantus from southeastern Africa captured by Somali slave traders were sold in cumulatively large numbers over the centuries to customers in Somalia and other areas in Northeast Africa and Asia.[30] People captured locally during wars and raids were also sometimes enslaved by Somalis mostly of Oromo and Nilotic origin.[31][32][33] However, the perception, capture, treatment and duties of both groups of slaves differed markedly.[33][34] From 1800 to 1890, between 25,000 and 50,000 Bantu slaves are thought to have been sold from the slave market of Zanzibar to the Somali coast.[35] Most of the slaves were from the Majindo, Makua, Nyasa, Yao, Zalama, Zaramo and Zigua ethnic groups of Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi. Collectively, these Bantu groups are known as *Mushunguli*, which is a term taken from *Mzigula*, the Zigua tribe's word for "people" (the word holds multiple implied meanings including "worker", "foreigner", and "slave").[36]

During the second half of the 19th century and early 20th century, slaves shipped from Ethiopia had a high demand in the markets of the Arabian peninsula and elsewhere in the Middle East. They were mostly domestic servants, though some served as agricultural labourers, or as water carriers, herdsmen, seamen, camel drivers, porters, washerwomen, masons, shop assistants and cooks. The most fortunate of the men worked as the officials or bodyguards of the ruler and emirs, or as business managers for rich merchants.[37] They enjoyed significant personal freedom and occasionally held slaves of their own. Besides European, Caucasian, Javanese and Chinese girls brought in from the Far East, "red" (non-black) Ethiopian young females were among the most valued concubines, some of whom became concubines of the elite and even mothers to rulers.[37] The principal sources of these slaves, all of whom passed through Matamma, Massawa and Tadjoura on the Red Sea, were the southwestern parts of Ethiopia, in the Oromo and Sidama country.[13][*page needed*] Both non-Muslims and Muslims in Southeast Asia during the end of the 19th century bought Japanese girls as slaves who were imported to the region by sea.[38] However, the buying of Chinese girls in Singapore was forbidden for Muslims by a Batavia (Jakarta) based Arab Muslim Mufti, Usman bin Yahya in a fatwa because he ruled that in Islam it was illegal to buy free non-Muslims or marry non-Muslim slave girls during peace time from slave dealers and non-Muslims could only be enslaved and purchased during holy war (jihad).[39]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Ocean_slave_trade

found from arab slave trade

Arab slave trade

History of slavery in the Muslim world refers to various periods in which a slave trade has been carried out under the auspices of Arab peoples or Arab countries. Examples include:

- Trans-Saharan slave trade
- Indian Ocean slave trade
- Barbary slave trade
- Slavery in Tunisia
- Slavery in Libya
- Slavery in Sudan
- Slavery in Mauritania
- Slavery in Yemen

See also[edit]

- History of slavery in the Muslim world
- Qiyān
- Saqaliba
- Slavery in the Ottoman Empire

War, Erdogan: feb21 turkey NATO bid new developments, monday, continue later

Japan to Give Ukraine $5.5 Billion, Host Online G-7 With Zelensky Attending

Cavusoglu repeated Turkey’s stance that it would be willing to approve Finland joining NATO before Sweden. Turkey has complained about what it sees as Stockholm’s tolerance of support for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK, which has waged a 39-year insurgency against Ankara.

“Unfortunately PKK supporters are still present in Sweden,” he said. “They are recruiting people and they are financing terror acts and they are carrying out terror propaganda in Sweden … because they don’t want Sweden to become a NATO member.”

The Turkish minister made clear his country objects to the sale of F-16 jets being tied to ratifying the NATO membership of Sweden and Finland which must be agreed by all 30 members of the alliance. Only the parliaments of Turkey and Hungary have yet to give consent.

“It would not be right or fair to make two independent issues — the two countries’ NATO membership and the purchase of F-16s — conditional on each other,” Cavusoglu said.

“It would not be possible for us to purchase the F-16s under these conditions.”

War: feb21 Zelensky Says Ukraine Will Defend Bakhmut But ‘Not at Any Price’Ukrainian

officials still maintain that they want to recapture all the territory Russia controls, including Crimea. Oleksiy Danilov, the head of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, said over the weekend that the war won't be over until "our tanks will be parked on Moscow's Red Square."

War: feb21 President Biden on Monday made a surprise visit to Ukraine, marking his first visit to the country since Russia invaded last year, a highly symbolic move that demonstrates Washington's deep involvement in the war.

Russia has been building up its forces for months after mobilizing 300,000 fresh troops and has been starting to make more territorial gains.

Some Republicans in Congress were critical of President Biden's trip. "Joe Biden prioritizing a visit to Ukraine before East Palestine, Ohio is the perfect example of his administration putting America last," House Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-MN) said in a statement to *Breitbart*.

War, Erdogan: feb19 **israel bombs damascus, nobody cares: "At 00:22 am (2222 GMT), the Israeli enemy carried out an aerial aggression from the direction of the occupied Golan Heights targeting several areas in Damascus and its vicinity, including residential neighborhoods," Syria's defense ministry said in a statement.**

At least five people died, and 15 were critically injured in the Syrian capital on 19 February after Israeli warplanes dropped bombs on a building in central Damascus’ Kafr Sousa neighborhood, reportedly targeting a security complex close to an Iranian cultural center.

“The strike on Sunday is the deadliest Israeli attack in the Syrian capital,” the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said.

The Israeli attack comes as Syria continues to reel from a devastating earthquake that left close to 6,000 dead and leveled large swathes of the country’s northwest region.

As has become the norm, Tel Aviv has not made any comments about their latest violation of Syrian sovereignty. Last month, an Israeli missile attack hit Damascus International Airport, killing four people, including two soldiers.

Israel has been launching attacks inside Syria for nearly a decade, allegedly targeting suspected Iranian and Hezbollah positions. Israeli war planes at times bombed Syrian army positions to assist offensives of the al-Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front during the Western, Turkish, and Gulf-backed Salafist insurgency that began in 2011.

Last week, an Israeli military official declared Tel Aviv will not hesitate to bomb Iranian aid deliveries for disaster-struck Syria under claims that Tehran seeks to “take advantage of the tragic situation … to send weapons and equipment to Hezbollah.”

Israel’s newest threat comes just two weeks after its drones bombed three Iranian food trucks loaded with flour and rice as they headed from Iraq into Syria.

The trucks were attempting to legally enter Syria through the Al-Bukamal border crossing days after it was opened for commercial trucks for the first time since 2019.

Israel has previously prevented aid from arriving in Syria by bombing the country’s airports, using similar claims of “weapons deliveries” from Iran.

Markets, government: feb19 **Credit Suisse continued its long death spiral yesterday, losing 15.64 percent of its market value in one trading session to close at $3.02 on the New York Stock Exchange**

February 9, 2023 at 2:01 AM AST *Updated*

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-02-09/credit-suisse-clients-pull-120-billion-amid-fifth-straight-loss?leadSource=uverify%20wall

feb18, atw: feb19 US Raid Kills ISIS Leader in NW Syria; Four US Troops Wounded

The Pentagon claims that a US helicopter raid near the Syrian city of Deir Ezzor on Thursday ended with the death of an Islamic State (ISIS) leader named Hamza al-Homsi, who detonated a suicide vest during the raid. The blast allegedly resulted in the injury of four US soldiers and a dog, all of whom are in stable condition.

As happens so often with ISIS “leaders” the US kills, Homsi’s profile seems to have grown substantially since his death. It’s suggested he ran the whole ISIS network in eastern Syria.

ISIS has shown an ability to replace slain leaders with little loss of effectiveness. CENTCOM did not reveal what motivated this raid, though it came the same day as a high profile ISIS raid further to the west.

CENTCOM reported that no other ISIS fighters were present at the Homsi raid, raising the question of why such an important leader was left totally unguarded. CENTCOM did claim a second ISIS figure was capturedin a totally unrelated raid against an assassination cell leader.

CENTCOM offered no further details on this second raid Friday, but later identified him as /batar, and suggested US troops faced resistance.. There were no ISIS comments on these incidents so far, which is unusual, though ISIS may simply be waiting to issue a statement.

history, fall of rome: The Second Temple period in Jewish history lasted approximately 600 years (516 BCE–70 CE), during which the Second Temple existed. It started with the return to Zion and the construction of the Second Temple, while it ended with the First Jewish–Roman War and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE.

The **Second Temple period** in Jewish history lasted approximately 600 years (516 BCE–70 CE), during which the Second Temple existed. It started with the return to Zion and the construction of the Second Temple, while it ended with the First Jewish–Roman War and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE.

In 587/6 BCE, the Kingdom of Judah was conquered by the Neo-Babylonian Empire. The Judeans lost their independence and monarchy, and their holy city was destroyed. Part of the Judean population was exiled to Babylon; it was eventually allowed to return following a proclamation by the Persian king Cyrus the Great that was issued after the fall of Babylon to the Achaemenid Empire.[1][2] Under Persian provincial governance (c. 539 – c. 332 BCE), the returned Jewish population in Judah was allowed to self-govern and rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. In 332 BCE, Judea was conquered by Alexander the Great, and later incorporated into the Ptolemaic Kingdom (c. 301–200 BCE) and the Seleucid Empire (c. 200–167 BCE).

The Maccabean revolt against Seleucid rule led to the establishment of an independent Jewish kingdom under the Hasmonean dynasty (140–37 BCE), which later, via a series of military campaigns expanded over much of modern Israel and parts of Jordan and Lebanon.[3][4][5] In 63 BCE, the kingdom was conquered by the Roman Republic, and in 37 BCE, the Romans appointed Herod the Great as king of a vassal Judea. In 6 BCE, it was fully incorporated into the Roman Empire as the province of Judaea. Growing dissatisfaction with Roman rule eventually led to the First Jewish-Roman War (66–73 CE), which resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple, bringing an end to the Second Temple period.

As Second Temple Judaism developed, multiple religious currents emerged and extensive cultural, religious, and political developments occurred. The development of the Hebrew Bible canon, the synagogue and Jewish eschatology can be traced back to the Second Temple period. According to Jewish tradition, prophecy ceased during the early Second Temple period; this left the Jews without their version of divine guidance at a time when they felt most in need of support and direction.[6] Under Hellenistic rule, the growing influence of Hellenism in Judaism became a source of dissent for those Jews who clung to their monotheistic faith; this was a major catalyst for the Maccabean revolt. In the latter years of the period, Jewish society was deeply polarized along ideological lines, and the sects of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots, and early Christianity were formed.

The destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple in 70 CE is considered one of the most cataclysmic events in Jewish history.[7] The loss of mother-city and temple necessitated a reshaping of Jewish culture to ensure its survival. Judaism's Temple-based sects disappeared.[8] Rabbinic Judaism, centered around communal synagogue worship and Torah study, eventually evolved out of the Pharisaic school and became the mainstream form of the religion.[9][7][10][11] During the same period, Christianity gradually separated from Judaism, becoming a predominantly Gentile religion.[12] A few decades after the First Jewish-Roman War, the Bar-Kokhba Revolt (132–135 CE) erupted; it further dwindled the Jewish population in Judea and enhanced the role of Jewish diaspora, relocating the Jewish demographic center to Galilee and eventually to Babylon, with smaller communities across the Mediterranean.

Roman involvement in the Levant

The first intervention of Rome in the region dates from 63 BCE, following the end of the Third Mithridatic War, when Rome created the province of Syria. After the defeat of Mithridates VI of Pontus, Pompey (Pompey the Great) sacked Jerusalem in 63 BCE. The Hasmonean Queen, Salome Alexandra, had recently died and her sons, Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus II, turned against each other in a civil war. In 63 BCE, Aristobulus was besieged in Jerusalem by his brother's armies. He sent an envoy to Marcus Aemilius Scaurus, Pompey's representative in the area. Aristobulus offered a massive bribe to be rescued, which Pompey promptly accepted. Afterwards, Aristobulus accused Scaurus of extortion. Since Scaurus was Pompey's brother-in-law and protégé, the general retaliated by putting Hyrcanus in charge of the kingdom as Prince and High Priest.

When Pompey was defeated by Julius Caesar, Hyrcanus was succeeded by his courtier Antipater the Idumaean, also known as Antipas, as the first Roman Procurator. In 57–55 BCE, Aulus Gabinius, proconsul of Syria, split the former Hasmonean Kingdom into five districts of Sanhedrin/Synedrion (councils of law).[4]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herodian_Kingdom_of_Judea

Roman Judaea[edit]

Main article: Judaea (Roman province)

This section **does not cite any sources**. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *(August 2022)* *(Learn how and when to remove this template message)*

In 6 CE, the country fell into unrest, and the Herodian ruler of Judea was deposed in favor of forming the new Iudaea Province under direct Roman rule.[58] The Roman province of Judaea extended over parts of the former regions of the Hasmonean and Herodian kingdoms. It was created in 6 CE with the Census of Quirinius and merged into Syria Palaestina after 135 CE.

Herod II ruled Ituraea and Trachonitis until his death in 34 CE when he was succeeded as tetrarch by Herod Agrippa I, who had previously been ruler of Chalcis. Agrippa surrendered Chalcis to his brother Herod and ruled in Philip's stead. On the death of Herod Antipas in 39 CE Herod Agrippa became ruler of Galilee also, and in 41 CE, as a mark of favour by the Emperor Claudius, succeeded the Roman prefect Marullus as ruler of Judea.

The era from roughly 4 BCE to 33 CE is also notable as being the time period when Jesus of Nazareth lived, primarily in Galilee, under the reign of Herod Antipas. It is therefore considered in specifically Jewish history as being when Christianity arose as a messianic sect from within Second Temple Judaism.

First Jewish-Roman War[edit]

Main article: First Jewish–Roman War

In 66 CE, the Jews of Judea rose in revolt against Rome, sparking the First Jewish–Roman War (66-73 CE), also known as the Great Jewish Revolt. Flavius Josephus, a contemporary Jewish historian who fought as the commander of Jewish forces in Galilee but later defected to the Roman side, chronicled the events of the war in his book *The Jewish War*.

The hill where ancient Yodfat stood; the ruins of Gamla; stone piles near the Western Wall thought to have been thrown by Roman legionaries during the destruction of the Second Temple

Vespasian, an experienced Roman general, was sent by emperor Nero to crush the rebellion. He arrived at Ptolemais along with legions X *Fretensis* and V *Macedonica*. There he was joined by his son Titus, who arrived from Alexandria at the head of Legio XV Apollinaris, as well as by the armies of various local allies including that of king Agrippa II. During the Galilee campaign, many towns surrendered without a fight, and others were taken by force. Yodfat, a fortified town in the Lower Galilee, was besieged for 47 days before it fell to treachery; the city was razed, many people were killed, and the rest were enslaved. Gamla, the major Jewish stronghold in the Golan Heights, fell after a one month siege. Following a lull in military operations caused by civil war and political turmoil in Rome, Vespasian was summoned to Rome and appointed Emperor.

The Arch of Titus in Rome depicts the Roman triumph celebrating the fall of Jerusalem. The procession includes the Menorah and other Second Temple vessels.

In early 70 CE, Titus moved to besiege Jerusalem, the center of rebel resistance in Judaea. The city had been taken over by several rebel factions following a period of massive unrest and the collapse of a short-lived provisional government. The first two walls of Jerusalem were breached in three weeks, but the Roman Army was unable to breach the third and thickest wall due to a stubborn rebel standoff. According to Josephus, a contemporary historian and the main source for the war, the city was ravaged by murder, famine and cannibalism.[59] On Tisha B'Av, 70 CE (August 30),[60] Roman forces finally overwhelmed the defenders and set fire to the Temple.[61] Resistance continued for another month, but eventually the upper and lower parts of the city were taken as well, and the city was burned to the ground. Titus spared only the three towers of the Herodian citadel as a testimony to the city's former might.[62][63] Josephus wrote that over a million people perished in the siege and the subsequent fighting.[64] While contemporary studies dispute this figure, all agree that the siege had a major toll on human life, with many people being killed and enslaved, and large parts of the city destroyed.

After the fall of Jerusalem, Titus returned to Rome, leaving the remaining Jewish strongholds, including Herodium and Machaerus, to the Roman Legions. The war ended in 73-74 CE with the siege of Masada. According to Josephus, the siege resulted in the mass suicide of the Sicarii rebels and resident Jewish families, though the historicity of the mass suicide is debated.

Aerial view of Masada, the last stronghold of the First Jewish-Roman War. The Roman siege ramp appears to the right.

Main articles: Bar Kokhba revolt and History of the Jews in the Roman Empire

Two generations after the First Jewish-Roman War, the Bar Kokhba Revolt (132-136 CE) erupted. It resulted in the extensive depopulation of Judean communities, more so than during the First Jewish–Roman War of 70 CE.[65][66] Some scholars have described these events as genocide.[66] According to Cassius Dio, 580,000 Jews perished in the war and many more died of hunger and disease, 50 fortresses and 985 villages were destroyed. In addition, many Judean war captives were sold into slavery.[67] Some modern historians assert that Dio's numbers were somewhat exaggerated,[68] but other researchers support Dio's claim of massive depopulation.[69] Jerusalem was rebuilt as a Roman colony under the name of Aelia Capitolina, and the province of Judea was renamed Syria Palaestina.[70][71]

Jewish presence in the region significantly dwindled after the failure of the Bar Kokhba revolt.[72] Nevertheless, there was a continuous small Jewish presence and Galilee became its religious center.[73][74] Jewish communities also continued to reside in the southern Hebron Hills and on the coastal plain.[65] The Mishnah and part of the Talmud, central Jewish texts, were composed during the 2nd to 4th centuries CE in Tiberias and Jerusalem.[75] Over the next centuries, more Jews emigrated to flourishing communities in the Diaspora. Others remained in the Land of Israel, and some converted to Christianity.[76] Jewish historians occasionally refers to this time period, which corresponds with the world's late antiquity, as the Rabbinic or Talmudic period.

After the destruction of the Second Temple, Judaism separated into a linguistically Greek and a Hebrew / Aramaic sphere.[77]:8–11 The theology and religious texts of each community were distinctively different.[77]:11–13 Hellenized Judaism never developed yeshivas to study the Oral Law. Rabbinic Judaism (centered in the Land of Israel and Babylon) almost entirely ignores the Hellenized Diaspora in its writings.[77]:13–14 Hellenized Judaism eventually disappeared as its practitioners assimilated into Greco-Roman culture, leaving a strong Rabbinic eastern Diaspora with large centers of learning in Babylon.[77]:14–16

By the first century, the Jewish community in Babylonia, to which Jews were exiled after the Babylonian conquest as well as after the Bar Kokhba revolt in 135 CE, already held a speedily growing[78] population of an estimated one million Jews, which increased to an estimated two million[79] between the years 200 CE and 500 CE, both by natural growth and by immigration of more Jews from the Land of Israel, making up about one-sixth of the world Jewish population at that era.[79]

Religion[edit]

Main article: Second Temple Judaism

During the 600 years of the Second Temple period, multiple religious currents emerged and extensive religious developments occurred. The development of the Hebrew Bible canon, the synagogue, Jewish eschatology can all be traced back to the Second Temple period.

According to Jewish tradition, prophecy ceased during the early Second Temple period; this left the Jews without their version of divine guidance at a time when they felt most in need of support and direction.[6]

During the Hellenistic period, currents of Judaism were influenced by Hellenistic philosophy developed from the 3rd century BCE, notably the Jewish diaspora in Alexandria, culminating in the compilation of the Septuagint. An important advocate of the symbiosis of Jewish theology and Hellenistic thought is Philo. The growing influence of Hellenism in Judaism became a source of dissent for some Jews; this was a major catalyst for the Maccabean revolt.

From c. 170 BCE to 30 CE, five successive generations of *zugot* ("pairs of") leaders headed the Jews' spiritual affairs. It was during this period that the sects of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes and Zealots were formed.

A number of messianic ideas developed during the later Second Temple period. Christianity first emerged as a Second Temple Judaic sect in the 1st century Hellenistic Judaism in Roman Judea. Jesus of Nazareth was a first-century Jewish preacher and religious leader.[80] After his death, his apostles and their followers spread around the Levant, Europe, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, the South Caucasus, Egypt, and Ethiopia, despite initial persecution. It soon attracted gentile God-fearers, which led to a departure from Jewish customs, and, after the fall of Jerusalem which ended the Temple-based Judaism, Christianity slowly separated from Judaism.

War, Germany, sanctions, Erdogan, stats: feb19 Some 1.1 Million People Came to Germany From Ukraine in 2022, exceeds migrant influx from the Middle East around 2015

Some 1.1 million people arrived in Germany from Ukraine in 2022, exceeding the influx of migrants from the Middle East around 2015, Germany's federal statistical office said on Thursday.

Two thirds of the immigrants from Ukraine arrived in the first three months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, between March and May of last year, it said.

War: feb19 Russia Expels Four Austrian Diplomats in Tit-For-Tat Move

censorship, government, stats, readlater: feb19 European Parliament chiefs block public scrutiny of von der Leyen over Pfizer contract

Dutch MEP Robert Roos, COVID committee coordinator for the ECR group, called it a "disgraceful decision."

"Von der Leyen negotiated a multibillion dollar deal with EU taxpayer money. As the European Parliament, we should be able to hold her accountable. A secret backdoor meeting with only

the presidents of the political groups is not accountability," he said.

The top ranks of the European Parliament have slammed the door shut to a public cross-examination of Commission President Ursula von der Leyen over her personal role in negotiating a multibillion euro vaccine deal with Pfizer.

Last month, lawmakers in the Parliament's special committee on COVID-19 proposed to invite von der Leyen to answer questions on the EU's largest vaccine contract, signed at the height of the pandemic. It was in the run-up to this contract that she is reported to have exchanged text messages with Pfizer's Chief Executive Albert Bourla.

However, at a closed-door meeting Thursday of the Conference of Presidents (CoP) — which includes the heads of all the political groups and the Parliament's president — leaders refused the request to hold a public grilling. Instead they decided to ask von der Leyen to answer questions in private at some point in the future, watering down the invitation to almost nothing.

Two groups — the right wing European Conservatives and Reformists group and the far-right Identity and Democracy groups — pushed for more accountability for von der Leyen by requesting that she either address the full plenary or speak in front of the dedicated COVID panel.

And, following the meeting, a spokesperson for the Left group said: "It's good that she comes to talk about it in the CoP but we think Parliament should also have a public hearing with VDL on it, not just the Conference of Presidents."

The reaction from MEPs on the COVID-19 committee, which will now be cut out altogether, is clear: They're not happy.

Albert Bourla at the 2022 World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos| Fabrice Coffrini/AFP via Getty Images

Dutch MEP Robert Roos, COVID committee coordinator for the ECR group, called it a "disgraceful decision."

"Von der Leyen negotiated a multibillion dollar deal with EU taxpayer money. As the European Parliament, we should be able to hold her accountable. A secret backdoor meeting with only the presidents of the political groups is not accountability," he said.

COVID-19 committee vice chair, French MEP Michèle Rivasi of the Greens group, said that the top EU officials were trying to "keep it in the family."

Erdogan, war, sanctions: feb19 **truffle hunters targeted by jihadists on motorcycles, 68 killed. ISIS said to be assailant; deadliest attack by IS since January last year when they stormed a prison in the Kurdish-controlled northeastern city of Hasakeh**

At least 53 people were killed Friday in an ambush in central Syria blamed on the Islamic State group, state media reported, the deadiest attack by the jihadists in more than a year.

"Fifty-three citizens who were truffle hunting were killed during an attack by the terrorists of IS to the southwest of the town of Al-Sokhna" in the desert east of Homs, state television said.

The director of Palmyra hospital, Walid Audi, said those killed were 46 civilians and seven soldiers.

Audi told pro-government radio station Sham FM that their bodies had "been brought to the hospital after the ambush" that targeted dozens.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported the attack, which it said was carried out by jihadists on motorcycles who opened fire on the truffle hunters.

The jihadist group did not immediately claim the attack on its usual channels.

It was the deadliest attack by IS since January last year when they stormed a prison in the Kurdish-controlled northeastern city of Hasakeh in a bid to free fellow jihadists.

The resulting fighting inside the city killed 105 people, mostly civilians, as well as 268 jihadists.

Separately on Friday, the US Central Command said four American military personnel were injured in a blast during a raid that killed a senior IS leader in Syria.

The IS leader, identified as Hamza al-Homsi, was killed, while the US troops and a working dog were being treated at an American medical facility in Iraq, it added.

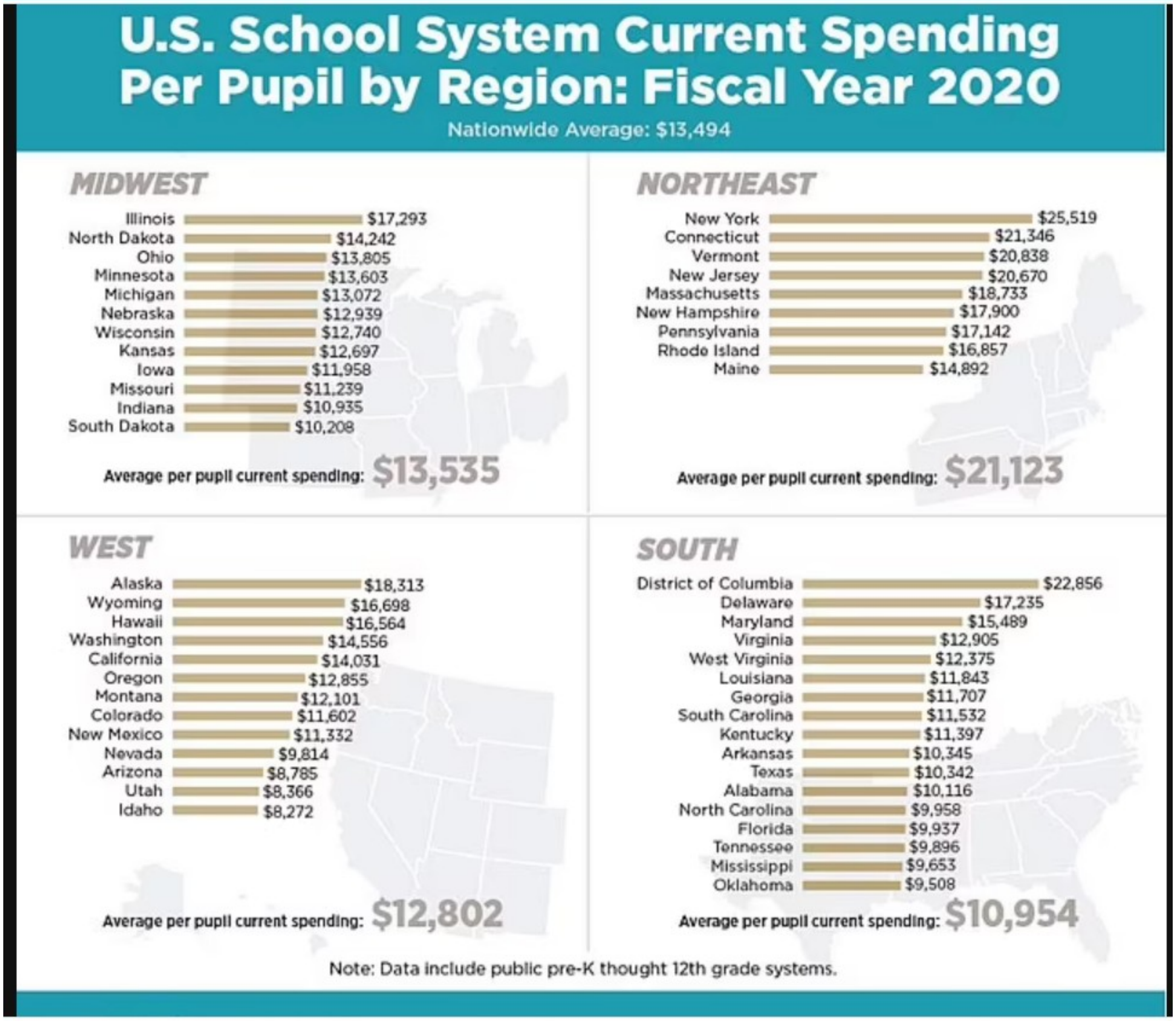
Since their defeat, mostly by US and Kurdish SDF forces, the ISIS remnants have tried to reestablish footholds in populated areas. Syria’s military, backed by Russian forces, have prevented them from doing so, but today’s attack underscores the persistence of the threat they represent.

This was the single deadliest attack in Syria since January 2022, when ISIS forces stormed a prison in al-Hasakeh in an attempt to free high-ranking ISIS prisoners. More than 100 were killed in that attack.

Where ARE things going wrong? Damning report finds there are 23 public schools in Baltimore where NONE of the children understand basic math - as parents blame Dem-led city's 'fraud and corruption'

Davida Allen said she was angry the CEO of Baltimore Public Schools, Sonja Santelises, was earning a base salary of $333,125 - which rose to $444,875 with allowances - yet students were still failing.

In August last year Baltimore City Schools committed to spending $21,000 per student thanks to a huge funding increase. US census data from 2020 indicates the expenditure per pupil in Maryland as a whole was $15,489



Vaccine, health, censorship, government: feb19

During the pandemic, suicide became the second leading cause of death for U.S. children between the ages of 10 and 14.

Mental health crisis among youth

Experts say mental health issues among children and adolescents have skyrocketed in recent years.

“I would say over the last 10 years, since I’ve been practicing as a general pediatrician, I have seen a shift both in the amount of patients and of all ages dealing with anxiety and depression. And their parents being concerned about this is a key issue,” said Dr.

Katherine Williamson, a pediatrician and spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics. “Even before the pandemic, we were seeing skyrocketing numbers of kids and adolescents dealing with mental health issues, and that has increased exponentially since the pandemic.”

Study finds 'huge' increase in children going to the emergency room with suicidal thoughts

Suicide became the second leading cause of death among children 10 to 14 during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mental health-related emergency room visits among adolescents 5 to 11 and 12 to 17 also jumped 24% and 31%, respectively.

Many parents feel helpless when their children have mental health issues because they don’t feel equipped to offer support in this area.

“They are unable to relieve [mental health issues] and address that as they could if they were struggling with their grades or other things that seem more traditional to for kids to struggle with,” said Allen Sabey, a family therapist at the Family Institute at Northwestern University.

Parents trying to “work out and look at and connect with their own feelings will give them important information about what feels off or OK for their kid,” he said.

Suicide rate highest among teens and young adults

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people age 15 to 24 in the U.S. Nearly 20% of high school students report serious thoughts of suicide and 9% have made an attempt to take their lives, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

“Teenagers and young adults have the highest rates of suicide compared to other ages,” Dr. Fleisher says. “The things that make them vulnerable are where they stand socially and where they stand developmentally.”

Developmentally, their judgment and decision-making abilities are still coming online, he says. The prefrontal cortex — the brain’s executive control center — doesn’t fully develop until one’s mid-20s.

That makes young people more impulsive, Dr. Fleisher says: "They're not going to weigh risks and consequences or values in quite the same way that older folks will.”

Socially, teens and young adults don’t have the same connections older adults do. Someone who is married, has a long-term partner or has children or grandchildren is in a different place socially than someone who is just coming into their own, living with roommates or alone.

The isolation of the pandemic exacerbated social disconnection even more.

Journal, Censorship, government: feb19

This one really stood out to me…I remember reading this book when I was a child..

Roald Dahl books rewritten to remove language deemed offensive (he wrote matilda and charlie and the chocolate factory)

When it comes to the books, though, it seems silly to target racism and misogyny because the reality is that almost all the adult characters in Dahl's books are scary and ugly. Children take pleasure in the macabre, bizarre, and scary, especially when humor and a happy outcome are involved. And for children, who have moral clarity before leftists get hold of them, a happy outcome means the good are rewarded and the bad are punished.

Perhaps it's that ultimate moral clarity that really explains why the wokerati have come after Dahl's writing (emphasis mine):

"Words matter," begins the discreet notice, which sits at the bottom of the copyright page of Puffin's latest editions of Roald Dahl's books.

"The wonderful words of Roald Dahl can transport you to different worlds and introduce you to the most marvellous characters. This book was written many years ago, and **so we regularly review the language to ensure that it can continue to be enjoyed by all today**."

…

By comparing the latest editions with earlier versions of the texts, **The Telegraph has found hundreds of changes to Dahl's stories.**

Language related to weight, mental health, violence, gender and race has been cut and rewritten.

In Matilda, a mention of Rudyard Kipling has been cut and Jane Austen added. It's Roald Dahl, but different.

One of the most bowdlerized books is *The Witches*, about a boy growing up in a coven of witches fully as unpleasant as the crones in *Macbeth*. The book has been cleaned up…a lot:

“A witch is always a woman”, went the 2001 version of the book. “I do not wish to speak badly about women. Most women are lovely. But the fact remains that all witches are women. There is no such thing as a male witch.”

That became, simply, **“A witch is always a woman. There is no such thing as a male witch.”**

The tweaks are endless:

Other alterations are about weight. **“Fat little brown mouse” becomes “little brown mouse”.**

“‘Here’s your little boy,’ she said. ‘He needs to go on a diet’”, becomes “Here’s your little boy.”

...

Elsewhere, Miss Trunchbull’s **“great horsey face” becomes simply her “face”.**

Color is especially absent. Any color:

Rather than “turning white,” a character turns “quite pale”….

...

In James and the Giant Peach, **the Cloud-Men have become Cloud-People, Miss Sponge is no longer “the fat one”, Miss Spider’s head is no longer “black” and the Earthworm no longer has “lovely pink” skin but “lovely smooth skin”.**

...

In Fantastic Mr Fox a description of tractors, saying that **“the machines were both black”, has been cut.** In the new Dahl world, it seems, neither machines nor animals can be described with a colour.

And it’s not just words. In *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, **the original illustrations have been changed so that Mike Teavee, with his 18 toy pistols slung about his body, no longer has any pistols** - which goes with the fact that the text doesn’t mention them anymore either.

War, china: Feb19 Blinken Warns China Against Providing Aid To Russia, Says Balloon

Surveillance Must "Never Again Occur" As Beijing Slams "Excessive Use Of Force", Offers "No Apology"

Blinken and China's top diplomat spar over spy balloon incident in Munich meeting

Wang Yi slams the United States' "excessive use of force" while Blinken warns such surveillance "must never again occur."

There were signs that Secretary of State Antony Blinken was operating under the assumption that a Munich meeting with Wang Yi (not shown) was highly likely. | Petr David Josek/AP Photo

By **PHELIM KINE** and **NAHAL TOOSI**
02/17/2023 05:27 PM EST
Updated: 02/18/2023 07:41 PM EST

Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned China's top diplomat on Saturday that the U.S. will not tolerate violations of its airspace after a Chinese spy balloon flew over North America, but received no apologies from Beijing.

Blinken met with Wang Yi, director of China's Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference. It was the administration's first face-to-face reckoning with the Chinese government since the balloon was discovered earlier this month and subsequently downed by the U.S. military off the coast of South Carolina.

History, rome, church, history, fall of rome, greece: **the exilarch was regarded by jews as the heir to the house of david, was noble within in sasanian empire (iran, 224–651).**

The exilarch was regarded by the Jewish community as the royal heir of the House of David and held a place of prominence as both a rabbinical authority and as a noble within the Persian court. Within the Sasanian Empire, the exilarch was the political equivalent of the *Catholicos* of the Christian Church of the East, and was thus responsible for community-specific organizational tasks such as running the rabbinical courts, collecting taxes from Jewish communities, supervising and providing financing for the Talmudic academies in Babylonia, and the charitable re-distribution and financial assistance to needy members of the exile community. The position of exilarch was hereditary, held in continuity by a family that traced its patrilineal descent from antiquity stemming from king David.[1][2][3]

The word *exilarch* is a Greco-Latin calque of the Hebrew *Rosh Galut* (ראש גלות), literally meaning 'head of the exile'.[5] The position was similarly called in Aramaic (ריש גלותא *Reysh Galuta* or *Resh Galvata*) and Arabic (رأس الجالوت *Raas al-Galut*. It was translated into Persian as سر جالوت.[6] The Jewish people in exile were referred to as *golah* (Jeremiah 28:6, 29:1) or *galut* (Jeremiah 29:22).

Development and organization[edit]

Although there is no mention about the office before the 2nd century AD, the Seder Olam Zutta alleges that the office of exilarch was established following the deportation of King Jeconiah and his court into exile in Babylon after the first fall of Jerusalem in 597 BC and augmented after the further deportations following the destruction of the kingdom of Judah in 587 BC. The history of the Babylonian exilarchate falls into two separate identifiable periods, before and after the beginning of the Arabic rule in Babylonia. Nothing is known about the office before the 2nd century, when it is first referenced in the Talmud, including any details about its origins. It can merely be said in general that the *golah*, the Jews living in compact masses in various parts of Babylon, tended gradually to unite and create an organization, and that this tendency, together with the high regard in which the descendants of the house of David living in Babylon were held, brought it about that a member of this house was recognized as "head of the *golah*." The dignity became hereditary in this house, and was finally recognized by the state, and hence became an established political institution, first of the Arsacid and then of the Sassanid empire.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exilarch

jews, history, rome: Antiquities of the Jews

Antiquities of the Jews (Latin: *Antiquitates Iudaicae*; Greek: Ἰουδαϊκὴ ἀρχαιολογία, *Ioudaikē archaiologia*) is a 20-volume historiographical work, written in Greek, by historian Flavius Josephus in the 13th year of the reign of Roman emperor Flavius Domitian which was around CE 93 or 94.[1] *Antiquities of the Jews* contains an account of the history of the Jewish people for Josephus' gentile patrons. In the first ten volumes, Josephus follows the events of the Hebrew Bible beginning with the creation of Adam and Eve.

The second ten volumes continues the history of the Jewish people beyond the biblical text and up to the Jewish War, or the First Jewish–Roman War (66 to 73 CE). This work, along with Josephus's other major work, *The Jewish War* (*De Bello Iudaico*), provides valuable background material for historians wishing to understand 1st-century CE Judaism and the early Christian period.[2]

Background[edit]

See also: Hellenistic Judaism

Beginning in 338 BCE, Alexander the Great began an invasion of the Persian Empire. In 333–332 BCE, Alexander's Macedonian forces conquered the Levant and Palestine. At the time, Judea was home to many Jews who had returned from exile in Babylon thanks to the Persians. At the partition of Alexander's empire in 323 BCE after Alexander's death, the territory was given to what would become Ptolemaic Egypt. Another of the Greek successor states, the Seleucid Empire, would conquer Judea from Egypt during a series of campaigns from 235–198 BCE. During both Ptolemaic and Seleucid rule, many Jews learned Koine Greek, especially upper class Jews and Jewish minorities in towns further afield from Jerusalem and more attached to Greek trading networks.[1] Greek philosophical ideas spread through Palestine as well. A Greek translation of the scriptures, the Septuagint, was also created during the third century BCE. Most Jews adopted dual names with both a Greek name and a Hebrew name, such as Jason and Joshua.[2] Still, many Jews continued to speak the Aramaic language, the language that descended from what was spoken during the Babylonian exile.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabean_Revolt

Intertestamental period

The **intertestamental period** (Protestant) or **deuterocanonical period** (Catholic and Eastern Orthodox) is the period of time between the events of the protocanonical books and the New Testament. Traditionally, it is considered to cover roughly four hundred years, spanning the ministry of Malachi (c. 420 BC) to the appearance of John the Baptist in the early 1st century AD. It is roughly contiguous with the Second Temple period (516 BC-70 AD) and encompasses the age of Hellenistic Judaism.

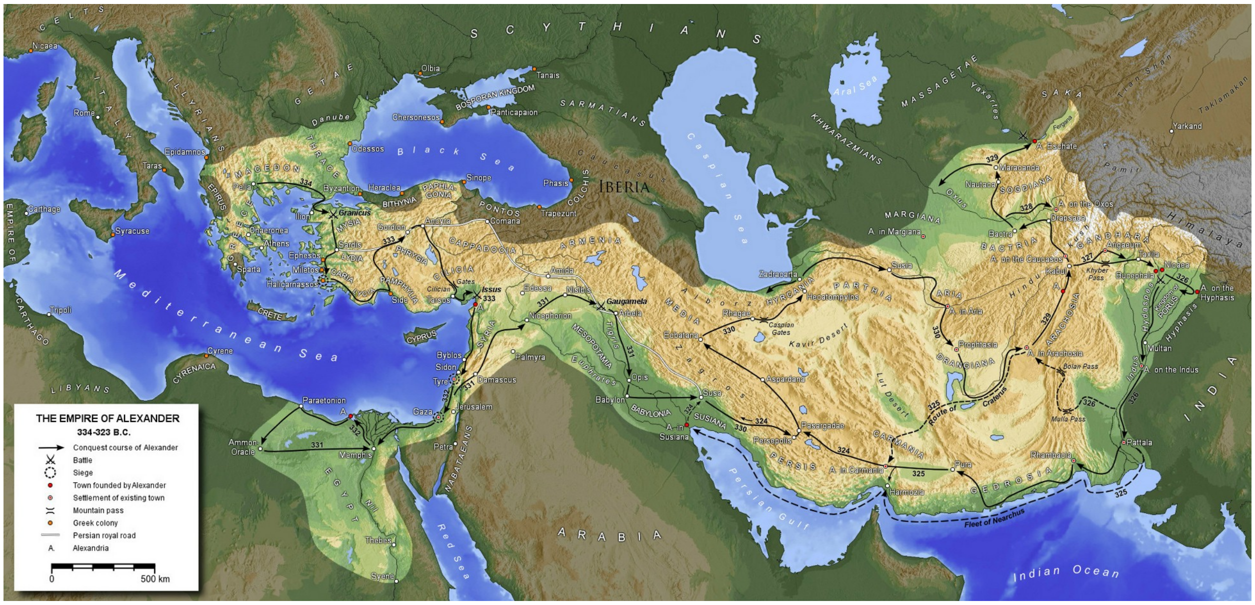
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intertestamental_period

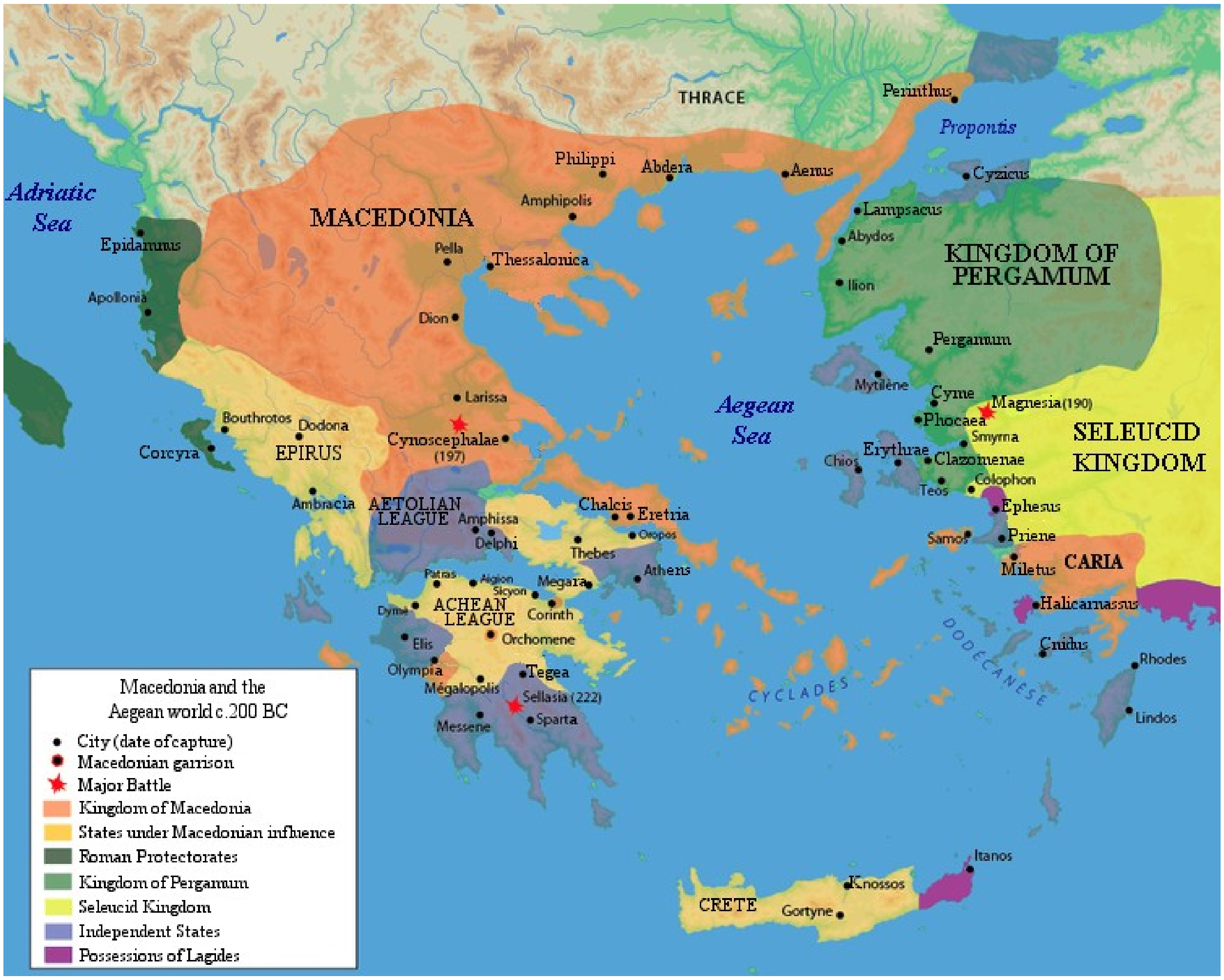
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonian_captivity

Hellenistic period: the Hellenistic period covers the time in Mediterranean history after Classical Greece, between the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC and the emergence of the Roman Empire, as signified by the Battle of Actium in 31 BC and the conquest

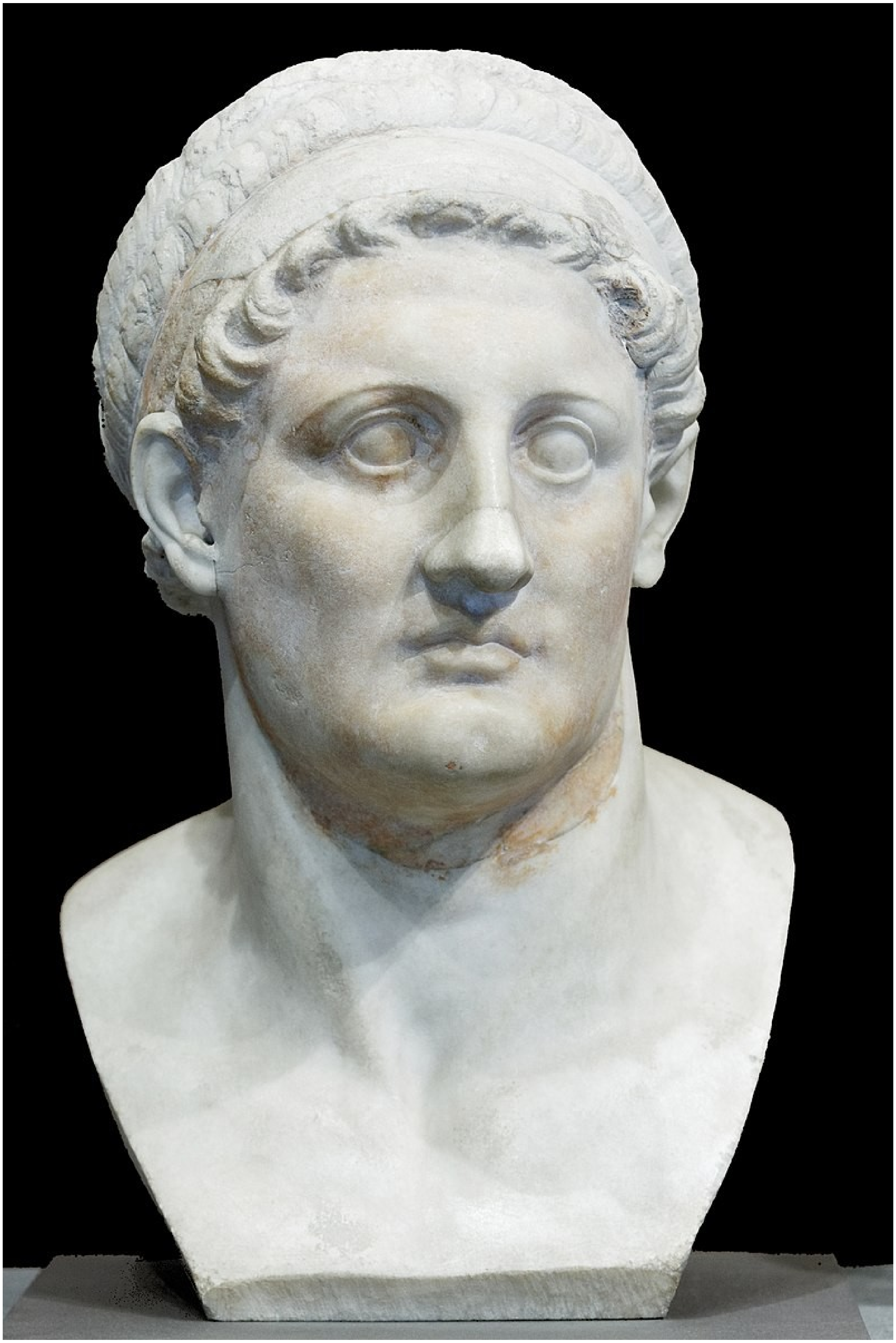
During the Hellenistic period, Greek cultural influence and power reached its peak in the Mediterranean and beyond. Prosperity and progress in the arts, literature, theatre, architecture, music, mathematics, philosophy, and science characterize the era. The Hellenistic period saw the rise of New Comedy, Alexandrian poetry, translation efforts such as the Septuagint, and the philosophies of Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Pyrrhonism. In science, the works of the mathematician Euclid and the polymath Archimedes are exemplary. The religious sphere expanded to include new gods such as the Greco-Egyptian Serapis, eastern deities such as Attis and Cybele, and a syncretism between Hellenistic culture and Buddhism in Bactria and Northwest India.

Alexander's empire at the time of its maximum expansion.


THE EMPIRE OF ALEXANDER
334-323 B.C.
Conquest course of Alexander
Battle
Siege
Town founded by Alexander
Settlement of existing town
Mountain pass
Greek colony
Persian royal road
A. Alexandria
0
500 km
S C Y T H I A N S
Black Sea
Caspian Sea
Aral Sea
Mediterranean Sea
Red Sea
Persian Gulf
Indian Ocean
ARABIA
INDIA
IBERIA
EGYPT
MACEDON
BACTRIA
SOGDIANA
PARTHIA
PERSIS
GEDROSIA
CARMANIA
MEDIA
MESOPOTAMIA
ARMENIA
CAPPADOCIA
SYRIA
Granicus
Issus
Gaugamela
Babylon
Susa
Persepolis
Pasargadae
Memphis
Ammon Oracle
Tyre
Gaza
Jerusalem
Damascus
Fleet of Nearchus
Route of Craterus
Himalaya
Hindu Kush


THRACE
Perinthus
Propontis
Adriatic Sea
Philippi
Abdera
Aenus
Cyzicus
Amphipolis
Lampsacus
MACEDONIA
Abydos
Epidamnus
Pella
Thessalonica
KINGDOM OF PERGAMUM
Ilion
Apollonia
Dion
Pergamum
Mytilene
Cyme
Larissa
Aegean Sea
Magnesia (190)
Bouthrotos
Dodona
Phocaea
SELEUCID KINGDOM
Smyrna
Corcyra
EPIRUS
Cynoscephalae (197)
Erythrae
Chios
Clazomenae
Colophon
Teos
Ambracia
AETOLIAN LEAGUE
Chalcis
Eretria
Amphissa
Ephesus
Delphi
Oropos
Thebes
Samos
Priene
Patras
Aigion
Megara
Athens
Miletus
CARIA
Sicyon
Dyme
ACHEAN LEAGUE
Corinth
Halicarnassus
Elis
Orchomene
DODECANESE
Cnidus
Rhodes
Olympia
Tegea
Megalopolis
CYCLADES
Sellasia (222)
Lindos
Messene
Sparta
Itanos
Knossos
CRETE
Gortyne
Macedonia and the Aegean world c.200 BC
City (date of capture)
Macedonian garrison
Major Battle
Kingdom of Macedonia
States under Macedonian influence
Roman Protectorates
Kingdom of Pergamum
Seleucid Kingdom
Independent States
Possessions of Lagides

Seleucus I Nicator



Portrait of Seleucus I Nicator, Roman artwork or the Imperial era made in a Syrian workshop after a Hellenistic model.Basileus of the Seleucid Empire Reign305[1] – September 281 BCPredecessorAlexander IVSuccessorAntiochus I Soter (co-ruler from c. 292 BC)
Bornc. 358 BC
Europus, Macedon
(modern-day Evropos, Greece)DiedSeptember 281 BC (aged c. 77)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic_period

Judea[edit]

Main article: Coele-Syria

Further information: Hellenistic Judaism and Hasmonean dynasty

During the Hellenistic period, Judea became a frontier region between the Seleucid Empire and Ptolemaic Egypt and therefore was often the frontline of the Syrian wars, changing hands several times during these conflicts.[79] Under the Hellenistic kingdoms, Judea was ruled by the hereditary office of the High Priest of Israel as a Hellenistic vassal. This period also saw the rise of a Hellenistic Judaism, which first developed in the Jewish diaspora of Alexandria and Antioch, and then spread to Judea. The major literary product of this cultural syncretism is the Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Bible from Biblical Hebrew and Biblical Aramaic to Koiné Greek. The reason for the production of this translation seems to be that many of the Alexandrian Jews had lost the ability to speak Hebrew and Aramaic.[80]

Rise of Rome[edit]

This section **needs additional citations for verification**. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *(February 2021) (Learn how and when to remove this template message)*

King Perseus of Macedon in front of Aemilius Paulus by Jean-François Pierre Peyron from 1802 (Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest).

Widespread Roman interference in the Greek world was probably inevitable given the general manner of the ascendancy of the Roman Republic. This Roman-Greek interaction began as a consequence of the Greek city-states located along the coast of southern Italy. Rome had come to dominate the Italian peninsula, and desired the submission of the Greek cities to its rule. Although they initially resisted, allying themselves with Pyrrhus of Epirus, and defeating the Romans at several battles, the Greek cities were unable to maintain this position and were absorbed by the Roman republic. Shortly afterward, Rome became involved in Sicily, fighting against the Carthaginians in the First Punic War. The result was the complete conquest of Sicily, including its previously powerful Greek cities, by the Romans.

After the Second Punic War, the Romans looked to re-assert their influence in the Balkans, and to curb the expansion of Philip V of Macedon. A pretext for war was provided by Philip's refusal to end his war with Attalid Pergamum and Rhodes, both Roman allies.[91] The Romans, also allied with the Aetolian League of Greek city-states (which resented Philip's power), thus declared war on Macedon in 200 BC, starting the Second Macedonian War. This ended with a decisive Roman victory at the Battle of Cynoscephalae (197 BC). Like most Roman peace treaties of the period, the resultant 'Peace of Flaminius' was designed utterly to crush the power of the defeated party; a massive indemnity was levied, Philip's fleet was surrendered to Rome, and Macedon was effectively returned to its ancient boundaries, losing influence over the city-states of southern Greece, and land in Thrace and Asia Minor. The result was the end of Macedon as a major power in the Mediterranean.

In less than twenty years, Rome had destroyed the power of one of the successor states, crippled another, and firmly entrenched its influence over Greece. This was primarily a result of the over-ambition of the Macedonian kings, and their unintended provocation of Rome, though Rome was quick to exploit the situation. In another twenty years, the Macedonian kingdom was no more. Seeking to re-assert Macedonian power and Greek independence, Philip V's son Perseus incurred the wrath of the Romans, resulting in the Third Macedonian War (171–168 BC). Victorious, the Romans abolished the Macedonian kingdom, replacing it with four puppet republics until it was formally annexed as a Roman province after yet another rebellion under Andriscus. Rome now demanded that the Achaean League, the last stronghold of Greek independence, be dissolved. The Achaeans refused and declared war on Rome. Most of the Greek cities rallied to the Achaeans' side, even slaves were freed to fight for Greek independence. The Roman consul Lucius Mummius advanced from Macedonia and defeated the Greeks at Corinth, which was razed to the ground. In 146 BC, the Greek peninsula, though not the islands, became a Roman protectorate. Roman taxes were imposed, except in Athens and Sparta, and all the cities had to accept rule by Rome's local allies.

The Attalid dynasty of Pergamum lasted little longer; a Roman ally until the end, its final king Attalus III died in 133 BC without an heir, and taking the alliance to its natural conclusion, willed Pergamum to the Roman Republic.[92] The final Greek resistance came in 88 BC, when King Mithridates of Pontus rebelled against Rome, captured Roman held Anatolia, and massacred up to 100,000 Romans and Roman allies across Asia Minor. Many Greek cities, including Athens, overthrew their Roman puppet rulers and joined him in the Mithridatic wars. When he was driven out of Greece by the Roman general Lucius Cornelius Sulla, the latter laid siege to Athens and razed the city. Mithridates was finally defeated by Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (Pompey the Great) in 65 BC. Further ruin was brought to Greece by the Roman civil wars, which were partly fought in Greece. Finally, in 27 BC, Augustus directly annexed Greece to the new Roman Empire as the province of Achaea. The struggles with Rome had left Greece depopulated and demoralised. Nevertheless, Roman rule at least brought an end to warfare, and cities such as Athens, Corinth, Thessaloniki and Patras soon recovered their prosperity.

Eventually, instability in the near east resulting from the power vacuum left by the collapse of the Seleucid Empire caused the Roman proconsul Pompey the Great to abolish the Seleucid rump state, absorbing much of Syria into the Roman Republic.[92] Famously, the end of Ptolemaic Egypt came as the final act in the republican civil war between the Roman triumvirs Mark Anthony and Augustus Caesar. After the defeat of Anthony and his lover, the last Ptolemaic monarch, Cleopatra VII, at the Battle of Actium, Augustus invaded Egypt and took it as his own personal fiefdom.[92] He thereby completed the destruction of the Hellenistic kingdoms and transformed the Roman Republic into a monarchy, ending (in hindsight) the Hellenistic era.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic_period

War, china: feb19 US Ends Search For 2 Airborne Objects Recently Shot Down Over Alaska And Lake Huron:" (That's not weird or suspicious...)", says zh in the intro

The U.S. Northern Command said Friday it recommended to conclude searches for two unidentified objects that were shot down in U.S. airspace earlier this month.

Stats, censorship, vaccine, health, government: feb19

Florida Surgeon General Warns Life-Threatening

VAERS Reports Up 4,400 Percent Since COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

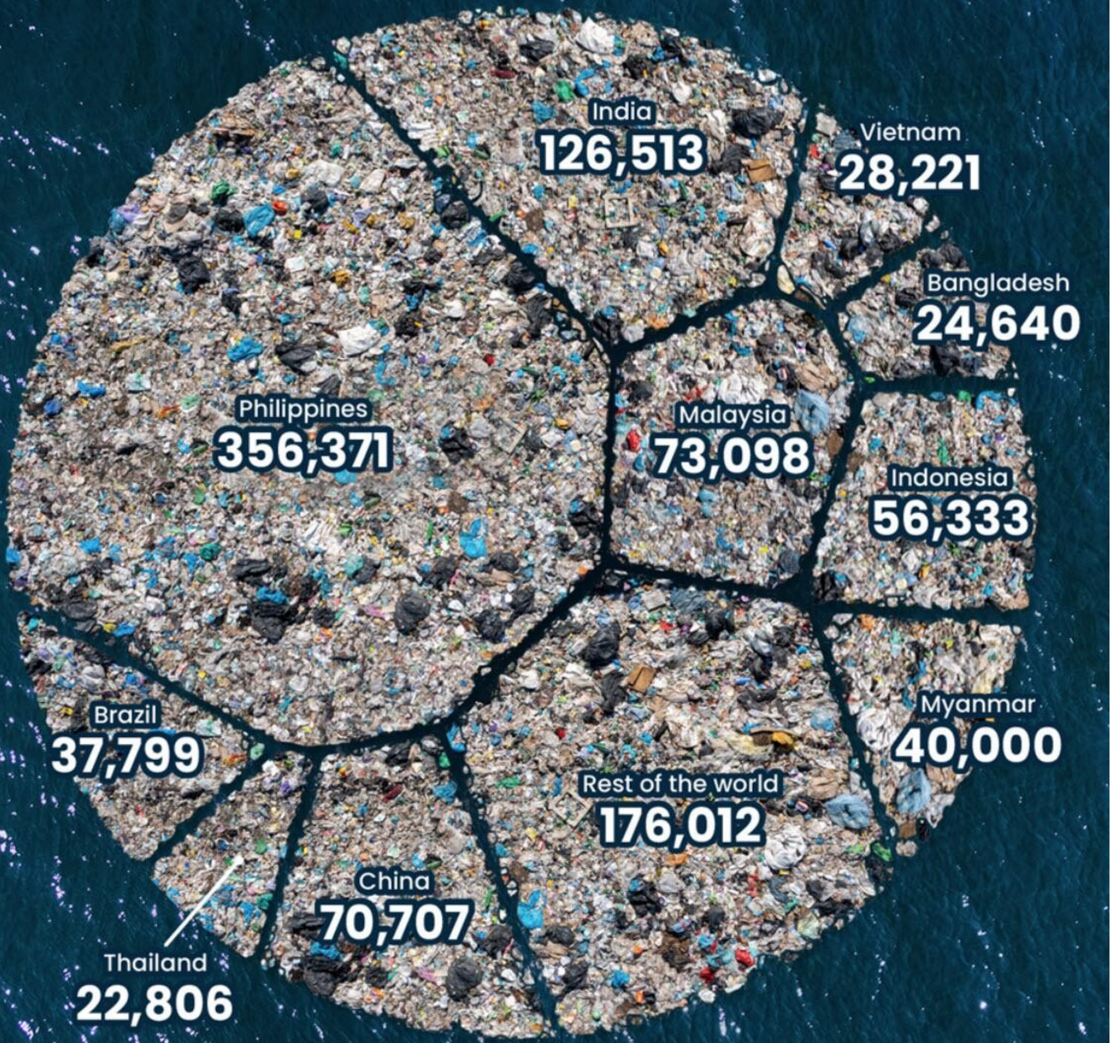
Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo is sounding the alarm about a 4,400 percent increase in life-threatening conditions reported in the state to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) since the 2021 rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines.

china, war: feb19 **Trudeau Responds To Leaked CSIS Files Saying Beijing Interfered In 2021 Election To Support A Liberal Minority**

Stats, planet: feb19 **biggest plastic pollutors**

Highest Ocean Plastic Waste Polluters

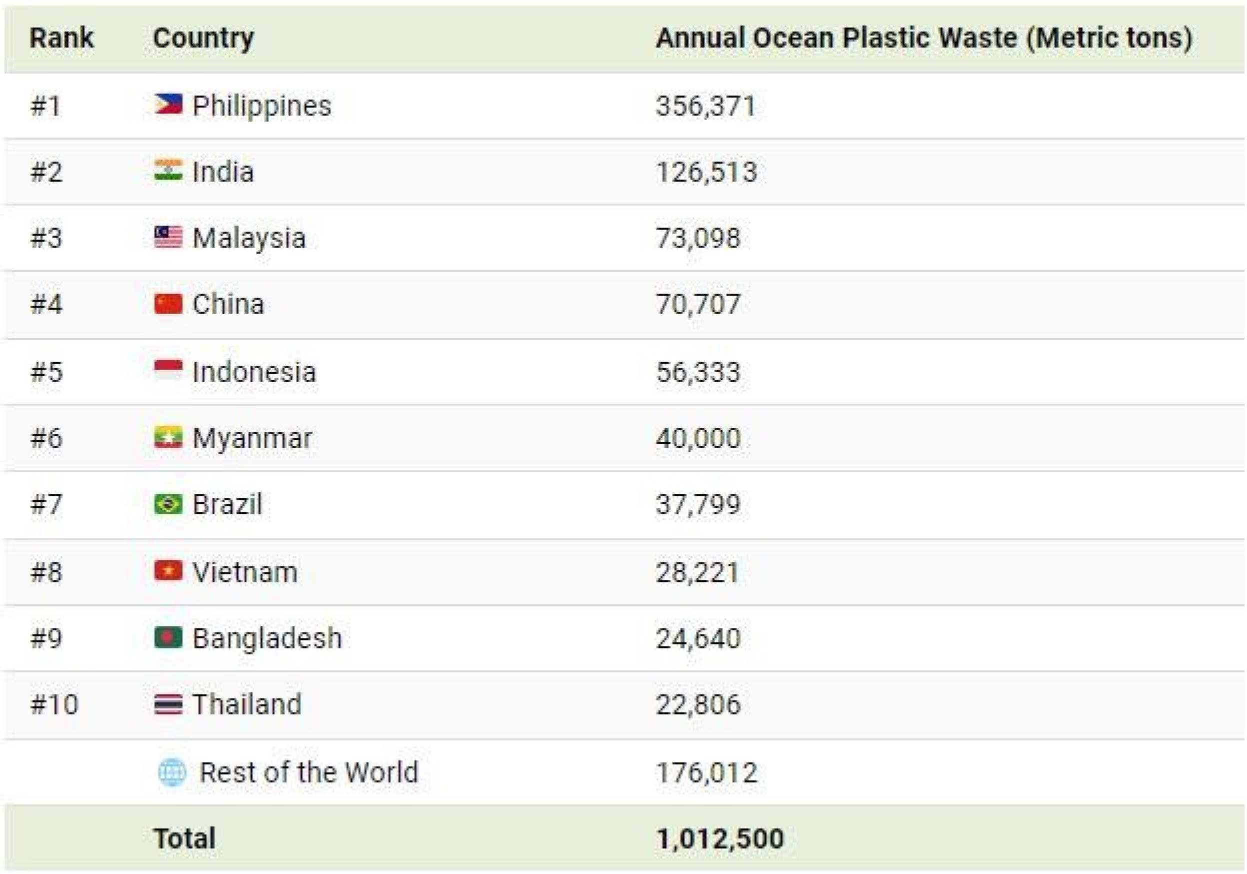
(annual estimation in metric ton)



It is estimated that 1 million metric tons of plastic waste enters the ocean every year, out of a total of 67.5 million metric tons.

This is particularly prevalent in tropical archipelago regions, which have a higher waste emission due to their relatively small land surface compared to the length of their coastline and high precipitation rates, which increase the likelihood of plastic waste being washed into the ocean.

Graphic: Louis Lugas
Source: *More than 1000 rivers account for 80% of global riverine plastic emissions into the ocean*, Lourens J. J. Meijer et al (2021) via science.org



Rank	Country	Annual Ocean Plastic Waste (Metric tons)
#1	Philippines	356,371
#2	India	126,513
#3	Malaysia	73,098
#4	China	70,707
#5	Indonesia	56,333
#6	Myanmar	40,000
#7	Brazil	37,799
#8	Vietnam	28,221
#9	Bangladesh	24,640
#10	Thailand	22,806
	Rest of the World	176,012
	Total	**1,012,500**

Holy roman empire, government, stats, history, church: Hundred Years' War

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hundred_Years%27_War

Auld Alliance

The **Auld Alliance** (Scots for "Old Alliance"; French: *Vieille Alliance*; Scottish Gaelic: *An Seann-chaidreachas*)[1] was an alliance between the kingdoms of Scotland and France against England made in 1295. The Scots word *auld*, meaning *old*, has become a partly affectionate term for the long-lasting association between the two countries. Although the alliance was never formally revoked, it is considered by some to have ended with the signing of the Treaty of Edinburgh in 1560.[2]

The alliance played a significant role in the relations among Scotland, France and England. The alliance was renewed by all the French and Scottish monarchs of that period except Louis XI.[3] By the late 14th century, the renewal occurred regardless of whether either kingdom was at war with England at the time.[4]

The alliance began with the treaty signed by John Balliol and Philip IV of France in 1295 against Edward I of England. The terms of the treaty stipulated that if either country were attacked by England, the other country would invade English territory. The 1513 Battle of Flodden, where the Scots invaded England in response to the English campaign against France, was one such occasion. Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, negotiated the renewal of the alliance in 1326. The alliance played an important role in the Wars of Scottish Independence, the Hundred Years' War, the War of the League of Cambrai, and the Rough Wooing.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auld_Alliance

church, history, holy roman empire: The Bohemian Reformation produced the first national church separate from Roman authority in the history of Western Christianity, the first apocalyptic religious movement of the early modern period, and the first pacifist Protestant church.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian_Reformation

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Schism

controversy within the church

Controversy within the Church

Main articles: Western Schism, Bohemian Reformation, and Hussites

Guy of Boulogne crowning Pope Gregory XI in a 15th-century miniature from Froissart's *Chroniques*

During the tumultuous 14th century, disputes within the leadership of the Church led to the Avignon Papacy of 1309–76,[367] also called the "Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy" (a reference to the Babylonian captivity of the Jews),[368] and then to the Great Schism, lasting from 1378 to 1418, when there were two and later three rival popes, each supported by several states.[369] Ecclesiastical officials convened at the Council of Constance in 1414, and in the following year the council deposed one of the rival popes, leaving only two claimants. Further depositions followed, and in November 1417, the council elected Martin V (pope 1417–31) as pope.[370]

Besides the schism, the Western Church was riven by theological controversies, some of which turned into heresies. John Wycliffe (d. 1384), an English theologian, was condemned as a heretic in 1415 for teaching that the laity should have access to the text of the Bible as well as for holding views on the Eucharist that were contrary to Church doctrine.[371] Wycliffe's teachings influenced two of the major heretical movements of the later Middle Ages: Lollardy in England and Hussitism in Bohemia.[372] The Bohemian movement initiated with the teaching of Jan Hus, who was burned at the stake in 1415, after being condemned as a heretic by the Council of Constance. The Hussite Church, although the target of a crusade, survived beyond the Middle Ages.[373] Other heresies were manufactured, such as the accusations against the Knights Templar that resulted in their suppression in 1312, and the division of their great wealth between the French King Philip IV (r. 1285–1314) and the Hospitallers.[374]

The papacy further refined the practice in the Mass in the Late Middle Ages, holding that the clergy alone was allowed to partake of the wine in the Eucharist. This further distanced the secular laity from the clergy. The laity continued the practices of pilgrimages, veneration of relics, and belief in the power of the Devil. Mystics such as Meister Eckhart (d. 1327) and Thomas à Kempis (d. 1471) wrote works that taught the laity to focus on their inner spiritual life, which laid the groundwork for the Protestant Reformation. Besides mysticism, belief in witches and witchcraft became widespread, and by the late 15th century the Church had begun to lend credence to populist fears of witchcraft with its condemnation of witches in 1484, and the publication in 1486 of the *Malleus Maleficarum*, the most popular handbook for witch-hunters.[375]

History, rome, church, stats, journal, readlater: Glossary of ancient Roman religion, included etymology of the word "hostia", which was apparently, at least what it describes on wikipedia, the word for 'animal sacrifice'.

H[edit]

hostia[edit]

Ritual implements

The *hostia* was the offering, usually an animal, in a sacrifice. The word is used interchangeably with *victima* by Ovid and others, but some ancient authors attempt to distinguish between the two.[255] Servius says[256] that the *hostia* is sacrificed before battle, the *victima* afterward, which accords with Ovid's etymology in relating the "host" to the "hostiles" or enemy (*hostis*), and the "victim" to the "victor."[257]

The difference between the *victima* and *hostia* is elsewhere said to be a matter of size, with the *hostia* smaller (*minor*).[258] *Hostiae* were also classified by age: *lactentes* were young enough to be still taking milk, but had reached the age to be *purae*; *bidentes* had reached two years of age[259] or had the two longer *(bi-)* incisor teeth *(dentes)* that are an indication of age.[260]

Hostiae could be classified in various ways. A *hostia consultatoria* was an offering for the purpose of consulting with a deity, that is, in order to know the will of a deity; the *hostia animalis*, to increase the force (*mactare*) of the deity.[261]

The victim might also be classified by occasion and timing. The *hostia praecidanea* was an "anticipatory offering" made the day before a sacrifice.[262] It was an advance atonement "to implore divine indulgence" should an error be committed on the day of the formal sacrifice.[263] A preliminary pig was offered as a *praecidanea* the day before the harvest began.[264] The *hostia praecidanea* was offered to Ceres a day in advance of a religious festival (*sacrum*, before the beginning of the harvest) in expiation for negligences in the duties of piety towards the deceased.[*clarification needed*] The *hostia praesentanaea* was a pig offered to Ceres during a part of the funeral rites conducted within sight of the deceased, whose family was thereby ritually absolved.[265] A *hostia succidanea* was offered at any rite after the first sacrifice had failed owing to a ritual impropriety (*vitium*).[266] Compare *piaculum*, an expiatory offering.

Hostia is the origin of the word "host" for the Eucharistic sacrament of the Western Church; see Sacramental bread: Catholic Church. See also *votum*, a dedication or a vow of an offering to a deity as well as that which fulfilled the vow.

The introduction is also, like exactly what i was looking for..

"For theonyms, or the names and epithets of gods, see List of Roman deities. For public religious holidays, see Roman festivals. For temples see the List of Ancient Roman temples. Individual landmarks of religious topography in ancient Rome are not included in this list; see Roman temple."

I've been scurrying around for more information on roman religion. All I could seem to run into was the official roman cult or something like that. Human sacrifice is the key, likely...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_deities

More reference to human sacrifice in the worship of the deity, which in christianity, is jesus

Blood of Christ, also known as the **Most Precious Blood**, in Christian theology refers to the physical blood actually shed by Jesus Christ primarily on the Cross, and the salvation which Christianity teaches was accomplished thereby, or the sacramental blood (wine) present in the Eucharist or Lord's Supper, which some Christian denominations believe to be the same blood of Christ shed on the Cross.

The Roman and Eastern Catholic Churches, Eastern Orthodox Church, the Oriental Orthodox churches, the Assyrian and Ancient Churches of the East, and Lutherans, together with high church Anglicans, know this as the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The Catholic Church uses the term *transubstantiation* to describe the change of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. The Eastern Orthodox Churches used the same term to describe the change, as in the decrees of the 1672 Synod of Jerusalem,[1] and the Catechism of St. Philaret (Drozdov) of Moscow.[2]

The Lutheran churches follow the teaching of Martin Luther in defining the presence of Christ in the eucharistic elements as sacramental union (often misconstrued as consubstantiation), meaning that the fundamental "substance" of the body and blood of Christ are literally present *alongside* the substance of the bread and wine, which remain present. Lutherans too believe in and teach the Real Presence.
Other Protestant churches reject the idea of the Real Presence; they observe eucharistic rites as simply memorials.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood_of_Christ consecration, or the idea, seems to potentially originate from the idea of sacrifice, because it describes it as: "setting apart" a person, as well as a building or object, for God

Christianity[edit]

Further information: Dedication § Dedication of churches

In Christianity, consecration means "setting apart" a person, as well as a building or object, for God. Among some Christian denominations there is a complementary service of "deconsecration", to remove a consecrated place of its sacred character in preparation for either demolition or sale for secular use.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consecration

Key word here is "could", as I'm just hypothesizing because I have just started looking into the topic.

The eucharist, as I've just learned now after searching on google, is: " the central act of Christian worship and is practiced by most Christian churches in some form"

That's just the first thing that comes up at the top of the page, but it's good enough for me. See how little I know about Christianity.

And this next qupoteds just further confirms my human sacrifice origins theory..Another one from Blood of Christ.

History[edit]

See also: Communion under both kinds

In the early Church, the faithful received the Eucharist in the form of consecrated bread and wine. Saint Maximus explains that in the Old Law the flesh of the sacrificial victim was shared with the people, but the blood of the sacrifice was merely poured out on the altar. Under the New Law, however, Jesus's blood was the drink shared by all of Christ's faithful. St. Justin Martyr, an early Church Father of the 2nd century, speaks of the Eucharist as the same body and blood of Christ that was present in his Incarnation.

Still don't know enough yet though..

So was just the last sacrifice? Is that what they're saying here?

In Catholic belief, the Blood of Christ is precious because it is Christ's own great ransom paid for the redemption of mankind. In this belief, as there was to be no remission of sin without the shedding of blood, the "Incarnate Word" not only offered his life for the salvation of the world, but he offered to give up his life by a bloody death, and to hang bloodless, soulless and dead upon the Cross for the salvation of humanity. Jesus is said to have given his life – his blood – for the sake of all humanity, atoning for every form of human sin.[7] The devotion to the Most Precious Blood is thus understood to be a call to repentance and reparation.[8]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_of_the_Most_Precious_Blood

The fact that after looking into the entirety of rome, reading for weeks about the subject, you still haven't read about human sacrfiice, means you're problably about to fill a massive hole in the puzzle in regards to understanding the essense of their religious practice, something you oddly haven't been able to find much information about yet. Human sacrififce, as we all know, is huge part of not just roman history, but throughout all human civilizations/....

And more here:

The term *Communion* is derived from Latin *communio* ("sharing in common"), translated from the Greek κοινωνία (*koinōnía*) in 1 Corinthians 10:16:

> The cup of blessing which we bless, **is it not the *communion* of the blood** of Christ? The bread which we break, is it **not the *communion* of the body** of Christ?
>
> — *1 Corinthians 10:16*

Communion[edit]

Use of the term *Communion* (or *Holy Communion*) to refer to the Eucharistic rite began by some groups originating in the Protestant Reformation. Others, such as the Catholic Church, do not formally use this term for the rite, but instead mean by it the act of partaking of the consecrated elements;[30] they speak of receiving Holy Communion at Mass or outside of it, they also use the term First Communion when one receives the Eucharist for the first time. The term *Communion* is derived from Latin *communio* ("sharing in common"), translated from the Greek κοινωνία (*koinōnía*) in 1 Corinthians 10:16:

> The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the *communion* of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the *communion* of the body of Christ?
>
> — *1 Corinthians 10:16*

It's like they're pretending to sacrifice by using jesus--the last man to be allowed to be sacrificed, or something....

Catholic Church[edit]

Main article: Eucharist in the Catholic Church

See also: Mass (liturgy)

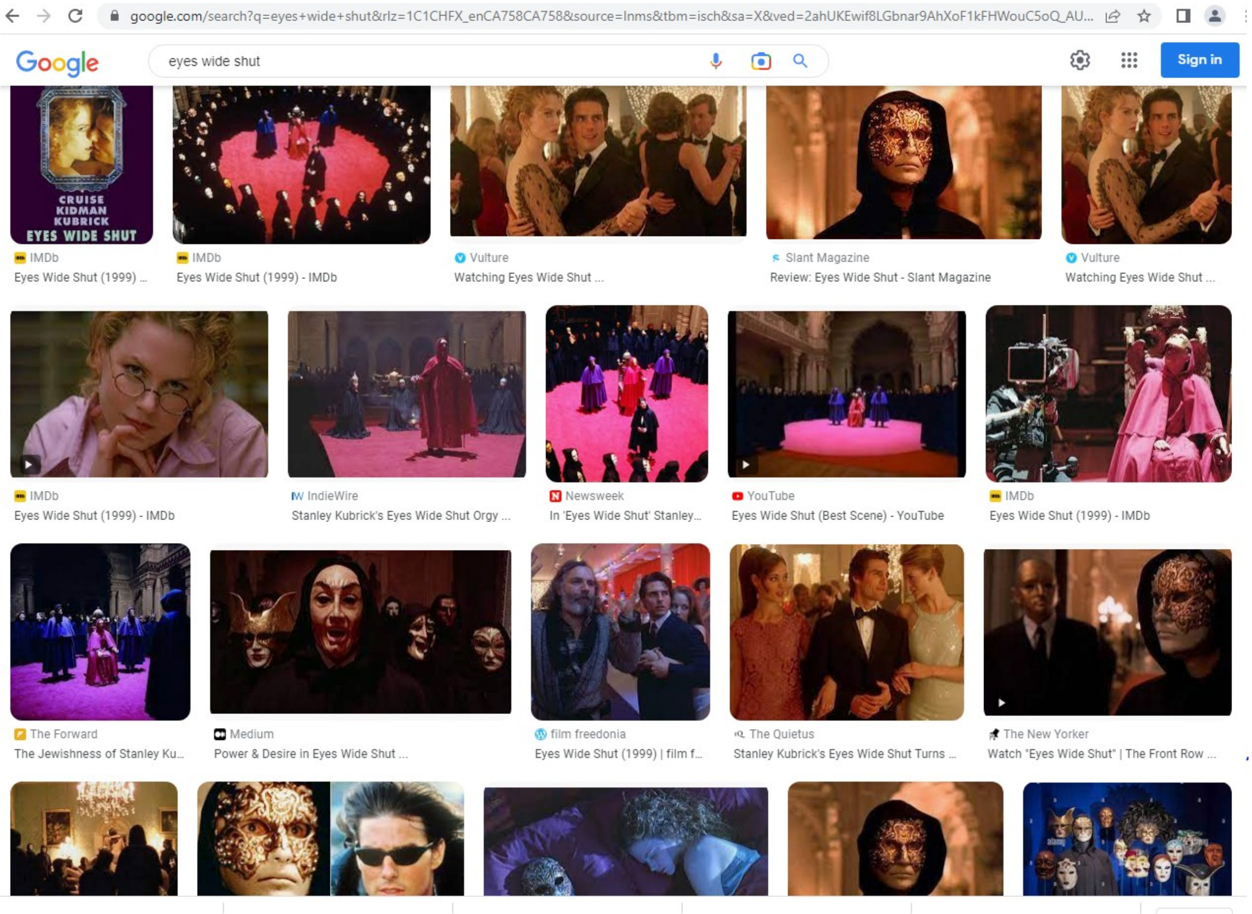
At a Solemn Tridentine Mass, the Host is displayed to the people before Communion.

In the Catholic Church the Eucharist is considered as a sacrament, according to the church the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life."[81] "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch."[82] ("Pasch" is a word that sometimes means Easter, sometimes Passover.)[83]

As a sacrifice[edit]

In the Eucharist the same sacrifice that Jesus made only once on the cross is made present at every Mass. According to Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The Eucharist is the very sacrifice of the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus which he instituted to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until his return in glory. Thus he entrusted to his Church this memorial of his death and Resurrection. It is a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet, in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us."[84]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucharist


google.com/search?q=eyes+wide+shut&rlz=1C1CHFX_enCA758CA758&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwif8LGbnar9AhXoF1kFHWouC5oQ_AU...
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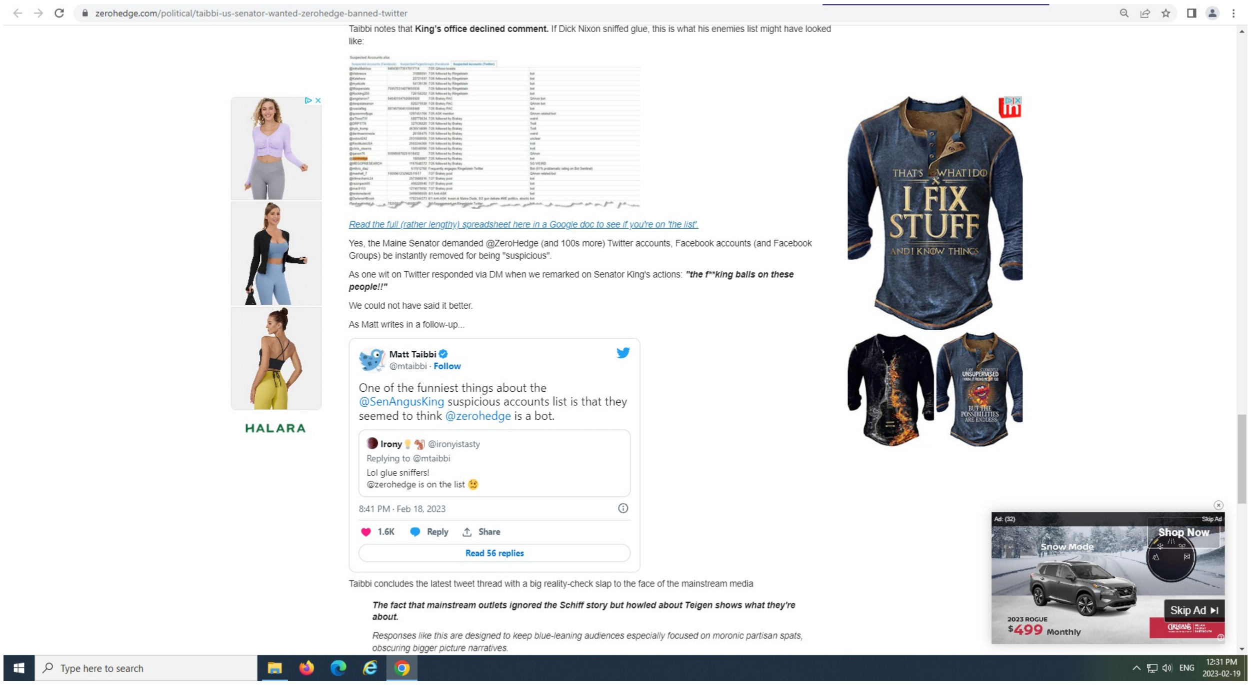
Sign in
CRUISE KIDMAN KUBRICK EYES WIDE SHUT
IMDb
Eyes Wide Shut (1999) ...
IMDb
Eyes Wide Shut (1999) - IMDb
Vulture
Watching Eyes Wide Shut ...
Slant Magazine
Review: Eyes Wide Shut - Slant Magazine
Vulture
Watching Eyes Wide Shut ...
IMDb
Eyes Wide Shut (1999) - IMDb
IndieWire
Stanley Kubrick's Eyes Wide Shut Orgy ...
Newsweek
In 'Eyes Wide Shut' Stanley...
YouTube
Eyes Wide Shut (Best Scene) - YouTube
IMDb
Eyes Wide Shut (1999) - IMDb
The Forward
The Jewishness of Stanley Ku...
Medium
Power & Desire in Eyes Wide Shut ...
film freedonia
Eyes Wide Shut (1999) | film f...
The Quietus
Stanley Kubrick's Eyes Wide Shut Turns ...
The New Yorker
Watch "Eyes Wide Shut" | The Front Row ...

Journal: feb22 Do they still do this? Was that what our eyes are shut to in the movie "eye's wide shut"—that human sacrifices have always been happening, and more, have never really stopped, even in todays highest echelons of society..


zerohedge.com/political/taibbi-us-senator-wanted-zerohedge-banned-twitter

Taibbi notes that **King's office declined comment.** If Dick Nixon sniffed glue, this is what his enemies list might have looked like:

Read the full (rather lengthy) spreadsheet here in a Google doc to see if you're on 'the list'.

Yes, the Maine Senator demanded @ZeroHedge (and 100s more) Twitter accounts, Facebook accounts (and Facebook Groups) be instantly removed for being "suspicious".

As one wit on Twitter responded via DM when we remarked on Senator King's actions: ***"the f**king balls on these people!!"***

We could not have said it better.

As Matt writes in a follow-up...

Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi · Follow

One of the funniest things about the @SenAngusKing suspicious accounts list is that they seemed to think @zerohedge is a bot.

Irony @ironyistasty
Replying to @mtaibbi
Lol glue sniffers!
@zerohedge is on the list

8:41 PM · Feb 18, 2023

1.6K Reply Share

Read 56 replies

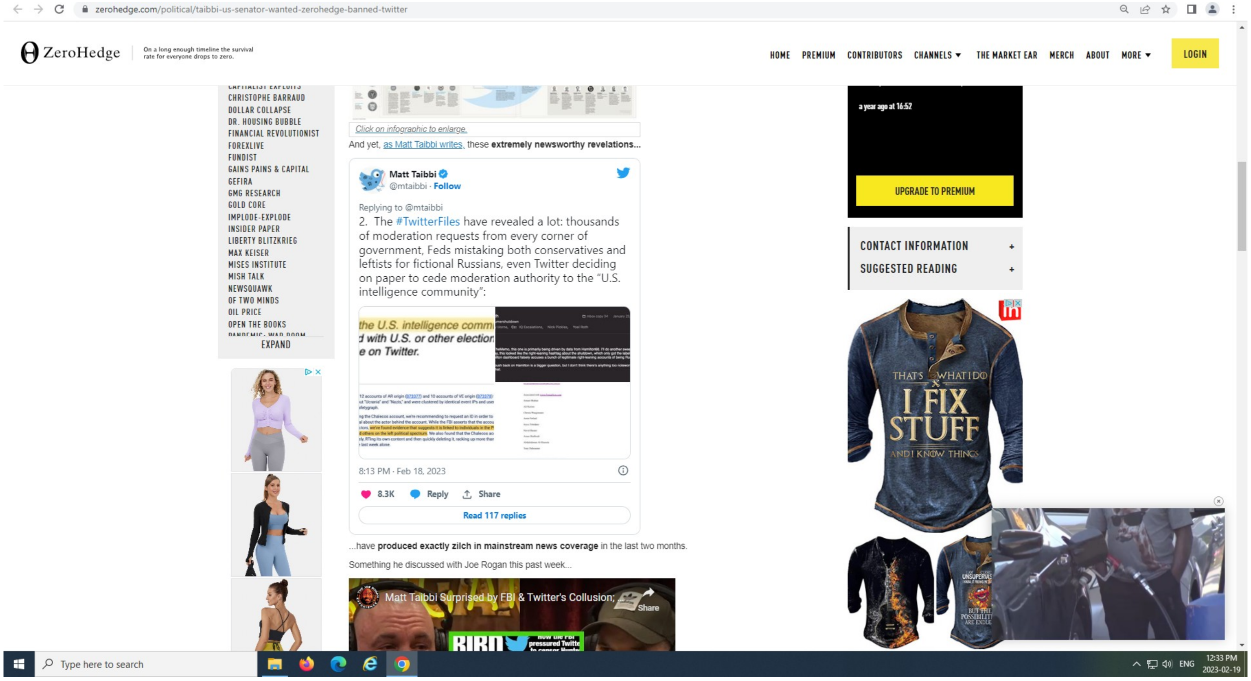
Taibbi concludes the latest tweet thread with a big reality-check slap to the face of the mainstream media

> ***The fact that mainstream outlets ignored the Schiff story but howled about Teigen shows what they're about.***
>
> *Responses like this are designed to keep blue-leaning audiences especially focused on moronic partisan spats, obscuring bigger picture narratives.*

Censorship, government: feb19 **Taibbi: US Senator Wanted ZeroHedge Banned From Twitter. politician calls for zh to be removed from twitter in latest twitter files revelations. actually matt taibbi tweet confirms**

Here's Maine Senator Angus King writing to Twitter to call a slew of accounts "suspicious" for reasons like:

- "**Rand Paul** visit excitement"
- "**Bot** (averages 20 tweets a day)"
- Being followed by **rival Eric Brakey**
- Or, my personal favorite: "**Mentions immigration.**"


zerohedge.com/political/taibbi-us-senator-wanted-zerohedge-banned-twitter
ZeroHedge
On a long enough timeline the survival rate for everyone drops to zero.
HOME
PREMIUM
CONTRIBUTORS
CHANNELS
THE MARKET EAR
MERCH
ABOUT
MORE
LOGIN
CHRISTOPHE BARRAUD
DOLLAR COLLAPSE
DR. HOUSING BUBBLE
FINANCIAL REVOLUTIONIST
FOREXLIVE
FUNDIST
GAINS PAINS & CAPITAL
GEFIRA
GMG RESEARCH
GOLD CORE
IMPLODE-EXPLODE
INSIDER PAPER
LIBERTY BLITZKRIEG
MAX KEISER
MISES INSTITUTE
MISH TALK
NEWSQUAWK
OF TWO MINDS
OIL PRICE
OPEN THE BOOKS
EXPAND
a year ago at 16:52
UPGRADE TO PREMIUM
CONTACT INFORMATION +
SUGGESTED READING +
THAT'S WHAT I DO
I FIX STUFF
AND I KNOW THINGS
Type here to search
ENG
12:33 PM
2023-02-19

Click on infographic to enlarge.

And yet, as Matt Taibbi writes, these **extremely newsworthy revelations...**

Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi · Follow

Replying to @mtaibbi

2. The #TwitterFiles have revealed a lot: thousands of moderation requests from every corner of government, Feds mistaking both conservatives and leftists for fictional Russians, even Twitter deciding on paper to cede moderation authority to the "U.S. intelligence community":

8:13 PM · Feb 18, 2023

8.3K Reply Share

Read 117 replies

...have **produced exactly zilch in mainstream news coverage** in the last two months.

Something he discussed with Joe Rogan this past week...

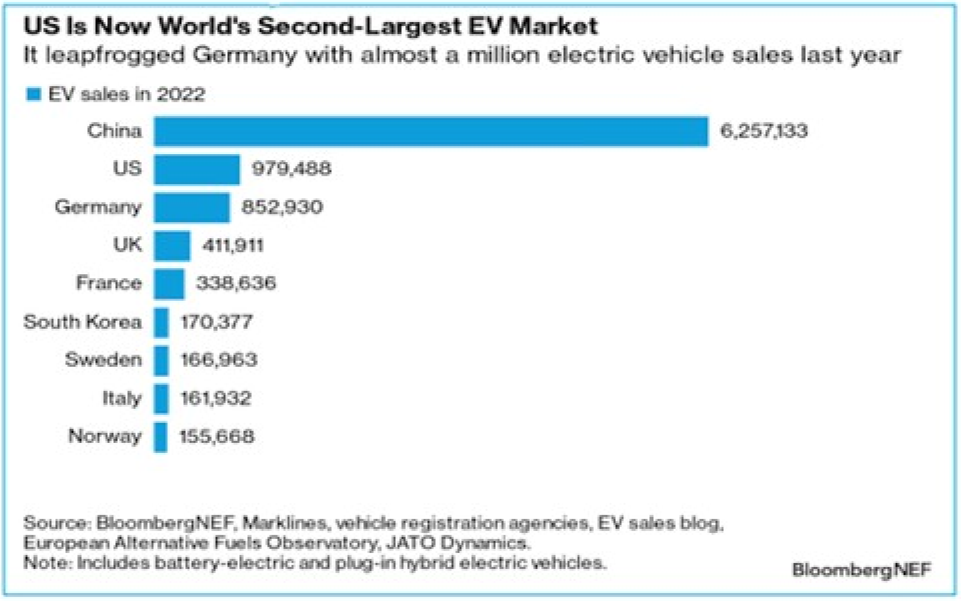
Matt Taibbi Surprised by FBI & Twitter's Collusion; ...

Journal: But again, this is just the establishments way of quietly informing the public that they are being watched and moderated by the U.S government, meaning: no different than how the communist Chinese block and censor their citizens on the internet--the very kind of government behaviour we are so quick to decry on the international stage, and even use as justification for the invasion and occupation of foriegn countries.

Stats, Markets, government, energy: feb19 **US Becomes World's Second-Largest EV Market**

China is the largest market for electric vehicles in the world. Germany was the second until the US just displaced Europe's largest economy as EV sales accelerated.

BloombergNEF data shows the US is now the world's second-largest EV market, shifting Germany down to the third spot. Last year, nearly one million EVs were sold in the US, compared with 650,000 in 2021.



US Is Now World's Second-Largest EV Market

It leapfrogged Germany with almost a million electric vehicle sales last year

Source: BloombergNEF, Marklines, vehicle registration agencies, EV sales blog, European Alternative Fuels Observatory, JATO Dynamics.
Note: Includes battery-electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

War, Erdogan: feb18 **Western Media Declares Earthquake Devastation A 'Boon' For Syrian President**

The editorial line adopted by these and several other western outlets is indistinguishable from the official stance of the US government.

referring to these quotes..

"A powerful earthquake last week catapulted Syria’s authoritarian president, Bashar al-Assad, into the global spotlight, creating an opportunity for him to inch further back onto the international stage through disaster diplomacy," writes Declan Walsh for the *New York Times* (NYT), before **lamenting how the Syrian leader "received a steady flow of sympathy, aid, and attention from other countries."**

"A tragedy for Syrians is a boon for Assad because nobody else wants to manage this mess," an analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London told the NYT.

Similarly, *Washington Post* writer Ishaan Tharoor warns that "natural sympathy for the Syrian plight may lead to a regime once ostracized by much of the international community coming out of the cold" before citing members of US and UK-based think tanks who claim Bashar al-Assad is “exploiting” the catastrophe to “rehabilitate his image.”

The Economist posits that the choice between helping Syrians or leaving them to continue suffering from the effects of western sanctions is a **"horrible dilemma."**

"Western governments are loth to channel money to Mr. Assad to help him rebuild; they are also anxious to avoid blocking that rebuilding entirely. In working out how to help the people living amid the devastation of Syria while not rehabilitating a blood-soaked regime, there are no easy answers," the historically pro-war outlet concludes.

Scientists reveal sea-ice hits new record low since 1979

Rome, history, church: **Zoroastrianism is an Iranian religion and one of the world's oldest organized faiths, based on the teachings of the Iranian-speaking prophet Zoroaster**

With possible roots dating back to the 2nd millennium BCE, Zoroastrianism enters recorded history around the middle of the 6th century BCE.[10] It served as the state religion of the ancient Iranian empires for more than a millennium (approximately from 600 BCE to 650 CE), but declined from the 7th century CE onwards as a direct result of the Arab-Muslim conquest of Persia (633–654 CE), which led to the large-scale persecution of the Zoroastrian people.[11] Recent estimates place the current number of Zoroastrians in the world at around 110,000–120,000[12] at most, with the majority of this figure living in India, Iran, and North America; their number has been thought to be declining.[13][14]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoroastrianism
The period of Sasanian rule is considered to be a high point in Iranian history[15] and in many ways was the peak of ancient Iranian culture before the conquest by Arab Muslims under the Rashidun Caliphate and subsequent Islamization of Iran.

The Sasanian Empire succeeded the Parthian Empire, and re-established the Persians as a major power in late antiquity alongside its neighbouring arch-rival, the Roman Empire (after 395 the Byzantine Empire).[11][12][13]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sasanian_Empire

fall of rome, church, history, readlater: Nicholas of Myra, seed of the Santa Claus legends, attended the council of niceae

Other remarkable attendees were Eusebius of Nicomedia; Eusebius of Caesarea, the purported first church historian; circumstances suggest that Nicholas of Myra attended (his life was the seed of the Santa Claus legends); Macarius of Jerusalem, later a staunch defender of Athanasius; Aristaces of Armenia (son of Saint Gregory the Illuminator); Leontius of Caesarea; Jacob of Nisibis, a former hermit; Hypatius of Gangra; Protogenes of Sardica; Melitius of Sebastopolis; Achilleus of Larissa (considered the

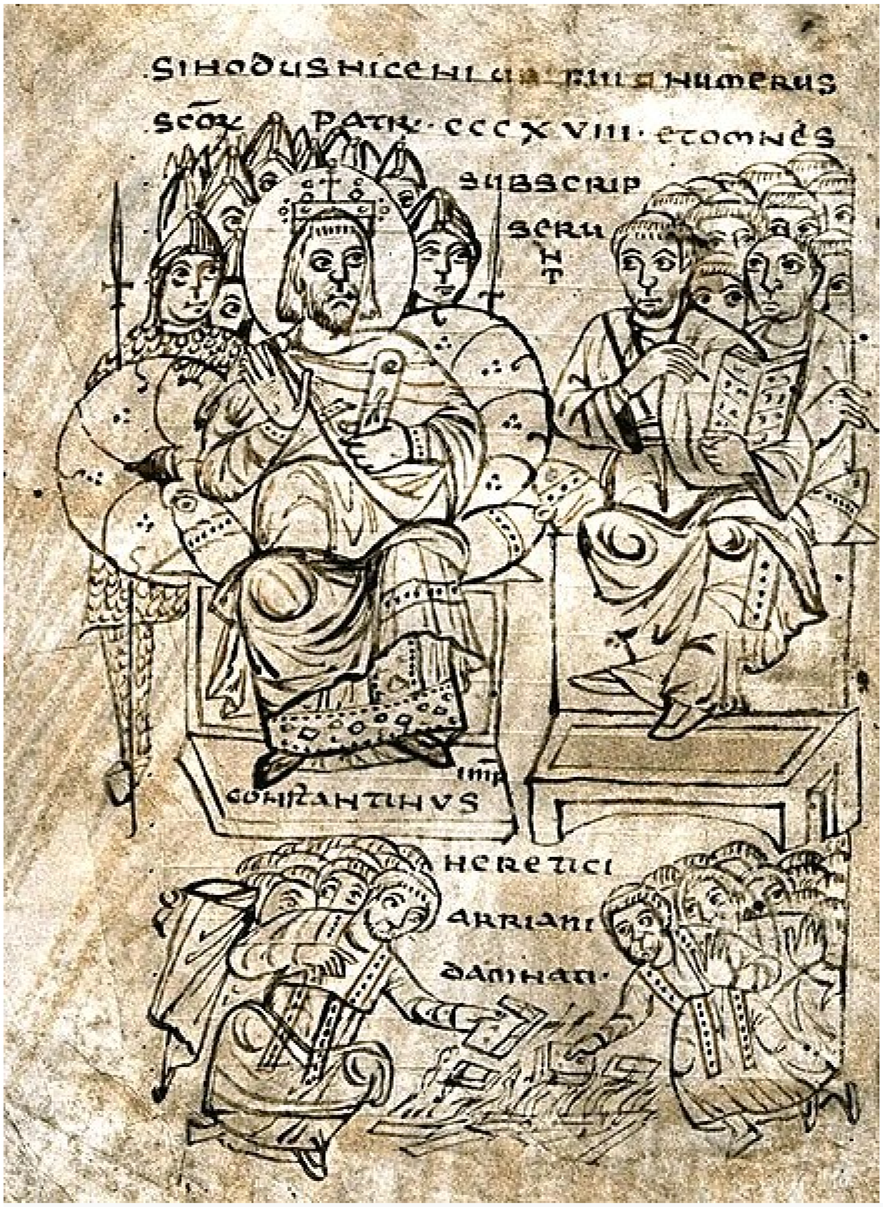
Athanasius of Thessaly);[37] and Spyridon of Trimythous, who even while a bishop made his living as a shepherd.[38] From foreign places came John, bishop of Persia and India,[39] Theophilus, a Gothic bishop, and Stratophilus, bishop of Pitiunt in Georgia. The Latin-speaking provinces sent at least five representatives: Marcus of Calabria from Italia, Cecilian of Carthage from Africa, Hosius of Córdoba from Hispania, Nicasius of Die from Gaul,[37] and Domnus of Sirmium from the province of the Danube. Athanasius of Alexandria, a young deacon and companion of Bishop Alexander of Alexandria, was among the assistants. Athanasius eventually spent most of his life battling against Arianism. Alexander of Constantinople, then a presbyter, was also present as representative of his aged bishop.[37]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Council_of_Nicaea
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Nicholas

council of nicaea was convened in response to heretic teachings, notably by Arius of Alexandria: "

Arian controversy[edit]

Main articles: Arius, Arianism, and Arian controversy


SINODUS NICENA
NUMERUS
SCOR PATR · CCCXVIII · ET OMNES
SUBSCRIP
SERU
NT
IMP
CONSTANTINUS
HERETICI
ARRIANI
DAMNATI ·

The synod of Nicaea, Constantine and the condemnation and burning of Arian books, illustration from a northern Italian compendium of canon law, c. 825

The Arian controversy arose in Alexandria when the newly reinstated presbyter Arius[53] began to spread doctrinal views that were contrary to those of his bishop, Alexander of Alexandria. The disputed issues centered on the natures and relationship of God (the Father) and the Son of God (Jesus). The disagreements sprang from different ideas about the Godhead and what it meant for Jesus to be God's Son. Alexander maintained that the Son was divine in just the same sense that the Father is, coeternal with the Father, else he could not be a true Son.[13][54]

Arius emphasized the supremacy and uniqueness of God the Father, meaning that the Father alone is almighty and infinite, and that therefore the Father's divinity must be greater than the Son's. Arius taught that the Son had a beginning and that he possessed neither the eternity nor the true divinity of the Father, but was rather made

"God" only by the Father's permission and power, and that the Son was rather the first and the most perfect of God's creatures.[13][54]

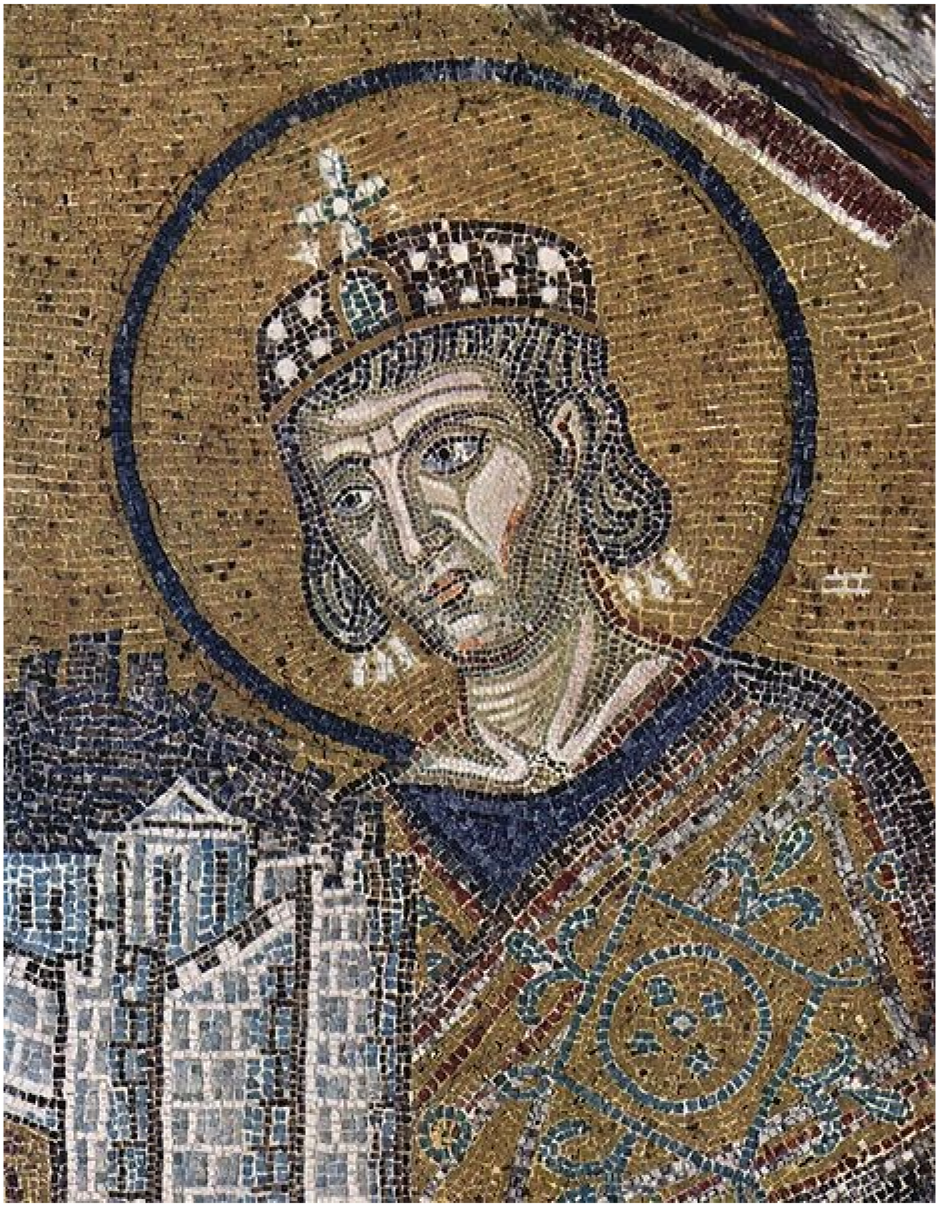
The Arian discussions and debates at the Council extended from about 20 May through about 19 June.[54] According to legendary accounts, debate became so heated that at one point, Arius was struck in the face by Nicholas of Myra, who would later be canonized.[55] This account is almost certainly apocryphal, as Arius would not have been present in the council chamber because he was not a bishop.[56]

Much of the debate hinged on the difference between being "born" or "created" and being "begotten". Arians saw these as essentially the same; followers of Alexander did not. The exact meaning of many of the words used in the debates at Nicaea were still unclear to speakers of other languages. Greek words like "essence" (*ousia*), "substance" (*hypostasis*), "nature" (*physis*), "person" (*prosopon*) bore a variety of meanings drawn from pre-Christian philosophers, which could not but entail misunderstandings until they were cleared up. The word *homoousia*, in particular, was initially disliked by many bishops because of its associations with Gnostics (who used it in their theology), and because their beliefs had been condemned at the 264–268 Synods of Antioch.

Arguments for Arianism[edit]

According to surviving accounts, the presbyter Arius argued for the supremacy of God the Father, and maintained that the Son of God was created as an act of the Father's will, and therefore that the Son was a creature made by God, begotten directly of the infinite eternal God. Arius's argument was that the Son was God's first production, before all ages, the position being that the Son had a beginning, and that only the Father has no beginning. Arius argued that everything else was created through the Son. Thus, said the Arians, only the Son was directly created and begotten of God; and therefore there was a time that he had no existence. Arius believed that the Son of God was capable of his own free will of right and wrong, and that "were He in the truest sense a son, He must have come after the Father, therefore the time obviously was when He was not, and hence He was a finite being",[57] and that he was under God the Father. Therefore, Arius insisted that the Father's divinity was greater than the Son's. The Arians appealed to Scripture, quoting biblical statements such as "the Father is greater than I" (John 14:28),[58] and also that the Son is "firstborn of all creation" (Colossians 1:15).[59]

Character and purpose[edit]



File:Byzantinischer Mosaizist um 1000 002.jpg

Constantine the Great summoned the bishops of the Christian Church to Nicaea to address divisions in the Church (mosaic in Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (Istanbul), c. 1000).

The First Council of Nicaea, the first general council in the history of the Church, was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great upon the recommendations of a synod led by Bishop Hosius of Corduba in the Eastertide of 325, or rather convened by Hosius and supported by Constantine.[18] This synod had been charged with investigation of the trouble brought about by the Arian controversy in the Greek-speaking east.[19] To most bishops, the teachings of Arius were heretical and dangerous to the salvation of souls.[20] In the summer of 325, the bishops of all provinces were summoned to Nicaea, a place reasonably accessible to many delegates. According to Warren H. Carroll, in the

Council of Nicaea, "the Church had taken her first great step to define revealed doctrine more precisely in response to a challenge from a heretical theology."[21]

Procedure[edit]

The Council was formally opened 20 May 325, in the central structure of the imperial palace at Nicaea, with preliminary discussions of the Arian question. Emperor Constantine arrived nearly a month later on 14 June.[51] In these discussions, some dominant figures were Arius, with several adherents. "Some 22 of the bishops at the Council, led by Eusebius of Nicomedia, came as supporters of Arius. But when some of the more shocking passages from his writings were read, they were almost universally seen as blasphemous."[4] Bishops Theognis of Nicaea and Maris of Chalcedon were among the initial supporters of Arius.

Eusebius of Caesarea called to mind the baptismal creed of his own diocese at Caesarea at Palestine, as a form of reconciliation. The majority of the bishops agreed. For some time, scholars thought that the original Nicene Creed was based on this statement of Eusebius. Today, most scholars think that the creed is derived from the baptismal creed of Jerusalem, as Hans Lietzmann proposes.[52]

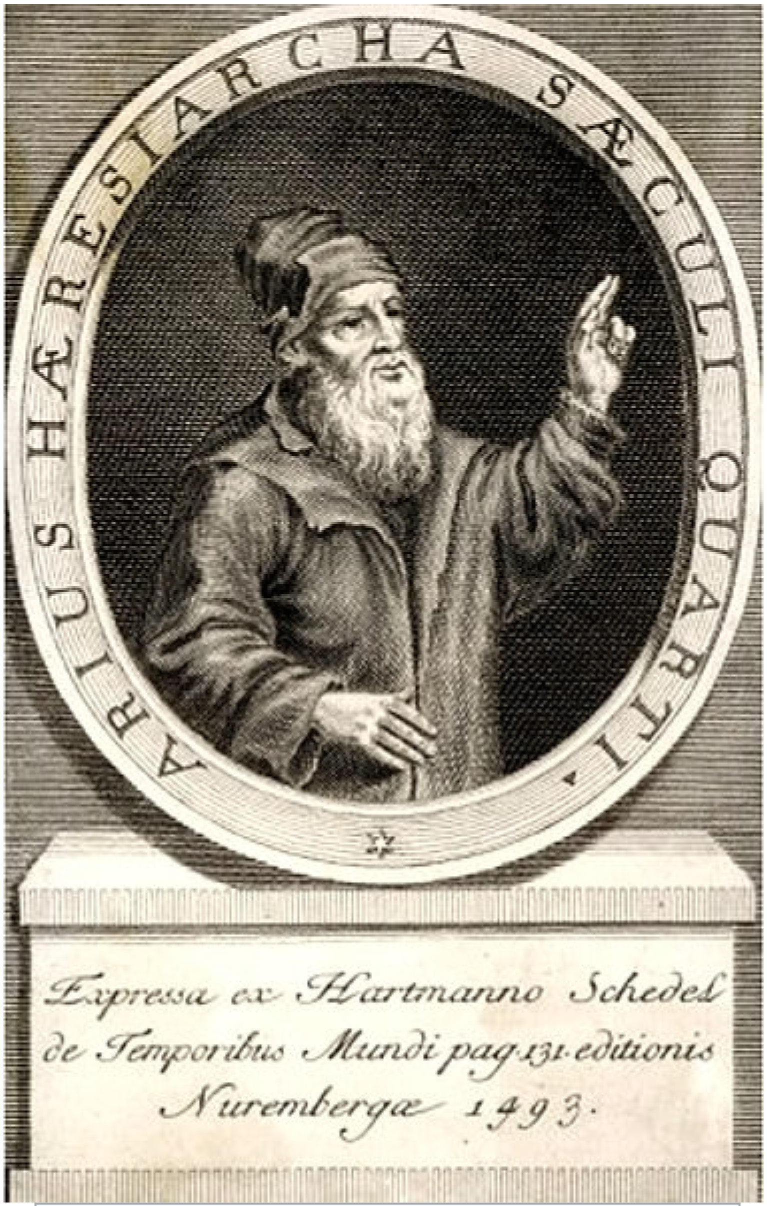
The orthodox bishops won approval of every one of their proposals regarding the creed. After being in session for an entire month, the Council promulgated on 19 June the original Nicene Creed. This profession of faith was adopted by all the bishops "but two from Libya who had been closely associated with Arius from the beginning".[21] No explicit historical record of their dissent actually exists; the signatures of these bishops are simply absent from the creed. The sessions continued to deal with minor matters until 25 August.[51]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Council_of_Nicaea

Canons of the Council of Nicaea - 325 can be specifically quoted mentioning "castration by barbarians". Why it was mentioned, I don't think matters...The point that it would even be mentioned at all is what's, I think at least, is what's truly important...

Journal, readlater, history: What came first: the chicken, or the egg?

For other uses, see Arius (disambiguation).


ARIUS HÆRESIARCHA SÆCULI QUARTI.
Expressa ex Hartmanno Schedel de Temporibus Mundi pag.131. editionis Nurembergæ 1493.

Arius arguing for the supremacy of God the Father, and that the Son had a beginning as a true Firstborn

Born	256 Ptolemais, Cyrenaica, Roman Empire (modern-day Tolmeita, Libya)
Died	336 (aged 80) Constantinople, Thracia, Roman Empire (modern-day Istanbul, Turkey)
Occupation	Presbyter
Notable work	*Thalia*
	Theological work
Era	3rd and 4th centuries AD
Language	Koine Greek

Tradition or movement	Arianism
Notable ideas	Subordinationism

Part of a series of articles on

Arianism

History and theology

- Arius
- Acacians
- Anomoeanism
- Arian controversy
- Arian creeds
- First Council of Nicaea
- Gothic Christianity
- Gothic Bible (*Codex Argenteus*)
- Lucian of Antioch
- Semi-Arianism

Arian leaders

- Acacius of Caesarea
- Aëtius of Antioch
- Demophilus of Constantinople
- Eudoxius of Antioch
- Eunomius of Cyzicus
- Eusebius of Nicomedia
- Eustathius of Sebaste
- George of Laodicea
- Wulfila

Other Arians

- Asterius of Cappadocia
- Auxentius of Milan
- Auxentius of Durostorum
- Constantius II
- Gothic persecution of Christians
- Fritigern
- Alaric I
- Artemius
- Odoacer
- Theodoric the Great

Modern semi-Arians

- Samuel Clarke
- Isaac Newton
- William Whiston

Opponents

- Peter of Alexandria
- Achillas of Alexandria
- Alexander of Alexandria
- Hosius of Corduba
- Athanasius of Alexandria
- Paul I of Constantinople
- Nicholas of Myrra

Christianity portal

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Arius (/əˈraɪəs, ˈɛəri-/; Koinē Greek: Ἄρειος, *Áreios*; 250 or 256 – 336) was a Cyrenaic presbyter, ascetic, and priest best known for the doctrine of Arianism.[1][2] His teachings about the nature of the Godhead in Christianity, which emphasized God the Father's uniqueness and Christ's subordination under the Father,[3] and his opposition to what would become the dominant Christology, Homoousian Christology, made him a primary topic of the First Council of Nicaea convened by Emperor Constantine the Great in 325.

After Emperors Licinius and Constantine legalized and formalized the Christianity of the time in the Roman Empire, Constantine sought to unify the newly recognized Church and remove theological divisions.[4] The Christian Church was divided over disagreements on Christology, or the nature of the relationship between the first and second persons of the Trinity. Homoousian Christians, including Athanasius of Alexandria, used Arius and Arianism as epithets to describe those who disagreed with their doctrine of coequal Trinitarianism, a Christology representing God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son as "of one essence" ("consubstantial") and coeternal.

Negative writings[*jargon*] describe Arius's theology as one imputing there was a time before the Son of God existed—that is, when only God the Father existed. Despite concerted opposition, Arian Christian churches persisted for centuries throughout Europe (especially in various Germanic kingdoms), the Middle East, and North Africa. They were suppressed by military conquest or by voluntary royal conversion between the fifth and seventh centuries.

The Son's precise relationship with the Father had been discussed for decades before Arius's advent; Arius intensified the controversy and carried it to a Church-wide audience, where others like Eusebius of Nicomedia proved much more influential in the long run. In fact, some later Arians disavowed the name, claiming not to have been familiar with the man or his specific teachings.[5][6] However, because the conflict between Arius and his foes brought the issue to the theological forefront, the doctrine they said he proclaimed—though he had definitely not originated—is generally labeled as "his".

The Arian controversy[edit]

Main article: Arianism

Beginnings[edit]

The Trinitarian historian Socrates of Constantinople reports that Arius sparked the controversy that bears his name when Alexander of Alexandria, who had succeeded Achillas as the Bishop of Alexandria, gave a sermon stating the similarity of the Son to the Father. Arius interpreted Alexander's speech as being a revival of Sabellianism, condemned it, and then argued that "if the Father begat the Son, he that was begotten had a beginning of existence: and from this it is evident, that there was a time when the Son was not. It therefore necessarily follows, that he [the Son] had his substance from nothing."[13] This quote describes the essence of Arius's doctrine.

Socrates of Constantinople believed that Arius was influenced in his thinking by the teachings of Lucian of Antioch, a celebrated Christian teacher and martyr. In a letter to Patriarch Alexander of Constantinople Arius's bishop, Alexander of Alexandria, wrote that Arius derived his theology from Lucian. The express purpose of the letter was to complain about the doctrines that Arius was spreading, but his charge of heresy against

Arius is vague and unsupported by other authorities. Furthermore, Alexander's language, like that of most controversialists in those days, is quite bitter and abusive. Moreover, even Alexander never accused Lucian of having taught Arianism; rather, he accused Lucian *ad invidiam* of heretical tendencies—which apparently, according to him, were transferred to his pupil, Arius.[14] The noted Russian historian Alexander Vasiliev refers to Lucian as "the Arius before Arius".[15]

Origen and Arius[edit]

Like many third-century Christian scholars, Arius was influenced by the writings of Origen, widely regarded as the first great theologian of Christianity.[16] However, while both agreed on the subordination of the Son to the Father, and Arius drew support from Origen's theories on the *Logos*, the two did not agree on everything. Arius clearly argued that the *Logos* had a beginning and that the Son, therefore, was not eternal, the Logos being the highest of the Created Order. This idea is summarized in the statement "there was a time when the Son was not." By way of contrast, Origen believed the relation of the Son to the Father had no beginning, and that the Son was "eternally generated".[17]

Arius objected to Origen's doctrine, complaining about it in his letter to the Nicomedian Eusebius, who had also studied under Lucian. Nevertheless, despite disagreeing with Origen on this point, Arius found solace in his writings, which used expressions that favored Arius's contention that the *Logos* was of a different substance than the Father, and owed his existence to his Father's will. However, because Origen's theological speculations were often proffered to stimulate further inquiry rather than to put an end to any given dispute, both Arius and his opponents were able to invoke the authority of this revered (at the time) theologian during their debate.[18]

Arius emphasized the supremacy and uniqueness of God the Father, meaning that the Father alone is infinite and eternal and almighty, and that therefore the Father's divinity must be greater than the Son's. Arius taught that the Son had a beginning, contrary to Origen, who taught that the Son was less than the Father only in power, but not in time. Arius maintained that the Son possessed neither the eternity nor the true divinity of the Father, but was rather made "God" only by the Father's permission and power, and that the Logos was rather the very first and the most perfect of God's productions, before ages.[19][20]

Initial responses[edit]

The Bishop of Alexandria exiled the presbyter following a council of local priests. Arius's supporters vehemently protested. Numerous bishops and Christian leaders of the era supported his cause, among them Eusebius of Nicomedia, who baptized Constantine the Great.[21]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arius

church, history: the codex sassoon, oldest hebrew bible existing, named after a member of the sassoon family, who was the last legal private owner before it was obtained by recognized jewish museum

Damascus Pentateuch

2 languages

- Article
- Talk
  - Read
  - Edit
  - View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Page from *Damascus Pentateuch*, Exodus 25:23-35

The **Damascus Pentateuch** (Hebrew: כֶּתֶר דַּמֶּשֶׂק ***Keter Dameseq*** or **Crown of Damascus**) or **Codex Sassoon 507** is a 10th-century Hebrew Bible codex, consisting of the almost complete Pentateuch,[1] the Five Books of Moses. The codex was copied by an unknown scribe, replete with Masoretic annotations. The beginning of the manuscript is damaged: it starts with Genesis 9:26, and Exodus 18:1–23 is also missing. In 1975 it was acquired by the Jewish National and University Library, Jerusalem (from 2008 "National Library of Israel").[2] The codex was published in a large, two-volume facsimile edition in 1978.[3]

It is distinct from the 13th-century Damascus Crown (*Damascus Keter*) of Spanish origin, a manuscript containing 24 canonical books. It is also distinct from the privately-owned Codex Sassoon 1053.

Vaccine, government, censorship: feb18 **New Medical Codes For COVID Vaccination Status Raise Concerns Among Experts**

New medical diagnosis codes for COVID-19 immunization status have been added in the United States.

Family Health
Vaccination Entrance
Enter on Coney Island Ave.
Vaccination Entrance
Main Entrance
Pediatrics

One code is for being “unvaccinated for COVID-19.”

That code “may be assigned when the patient has not received at least one dose of any COVID-19 vaccine,” the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which implemented the new codes in 2022, states in a document outlining the codes.

Another code is for being partially vaccinated or having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine but not having received enough doses to meet the CDC’s definition of fully vaccinated.

The goal of the codes is “to track people who are not immunized or only partially immunized,” according to the CDC.

Experts say the codes don’t fit with the International Classification of Diseases, which has diagnoses for diseases and reasons for health care visits.

“**They’re treating nonvaccination as if this is a hazardous exposure that therefore merits being recorded as a medical exposure**,” Dr. Harvey Risch, professor emeritus of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health, told The Epoch Times. “That’s never been done to my knowledge.”

The CDC did not respond to requests for comment for this article.

Proposal

The CDC proposed adding the codes to the international classification in September 2021.

“**People have now been having immunizations for a number of months, and these provide protection for people who are immunized, but there has been interest expressed in being able to track people who are not immunized or who are only partially immunized**,” Dr. David Berglund, a CDC medical officer, said during a meeting that went over the proposal.

“At the current time, there can be considered to be a significant modifiable risk factor for morbidity and for mortality and it can be of interest for clinical reasons, as well as being a value for public health reasons, to be able to track this.”

COVID-19 hospitalization and death rates are higher among the unvaccinated, according to data published by the CDC. The data do not take into account key factors such as age or prior infection, and other figures show the vaccinated being hospitalized or dying at higher rates in some states.

The proposal was backed by meeting participants during the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) Coordination and Maintenance Committee meeting.

“**I definitely think we would support this**,” Kristin Balint, a supervisor at Trinity Health, said. “**We are currently seeing physicians documenting unimmunized for COVID-19 in our records.**”

Jeanne Yoder, representing the Defense Health Agency, envisioned adding additional codes later to indicate if a person was not vaccinated against each successive variant.

The organizations of the people who backed the proposal either did not respond to requests for comment or declined inquiries.

Codes Added

Three codes were added to the classification system on April 1, 2022.

Z28.310 is for being unvaccinated. Z28.311 is for being partially vaccinated. Z28.39 is for “other underimmunization status.” All fell under a new sub-sub category, “Underimmunization for COVID-19 status.”

*Read more **here...***

Ai, tech: feb18 Those Who 'Master' Artificial Intelligence, Synthetic Biology Will Be "Master Of The World": Klaus Schwab

War: feb18 No Military Winner Likely In Ukraine Conflict, Will End In Future Negotiations: Gen. Milley

War, middle east: feb18 Israeli-Owned Tanker Reportedly Attacked By Iranian Drones In Persian Gulf

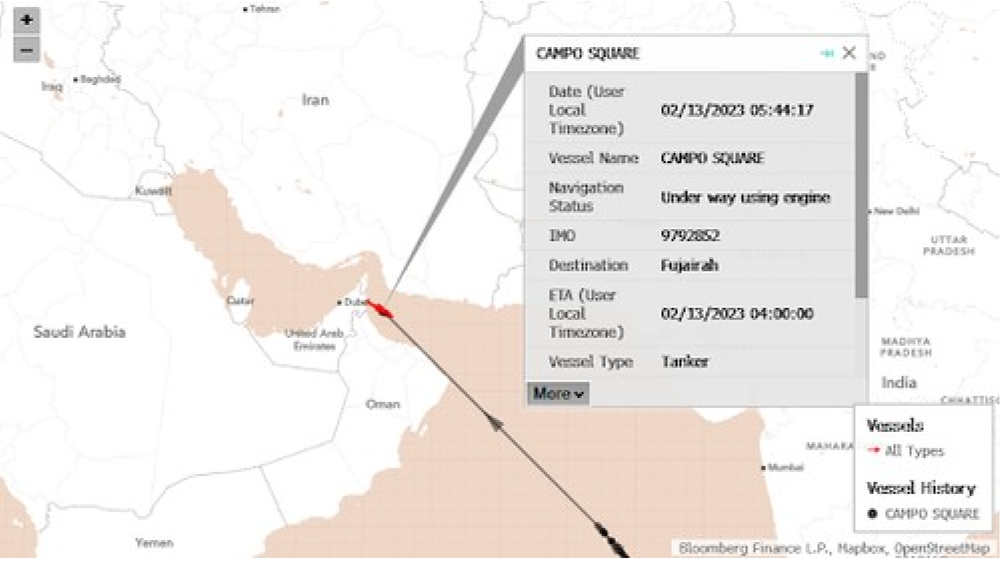
Israeli media on Friday revealed a major incident in the Persian Gulf involving an alleged attack on an Israeli owned oil tanker. The BBC's Persian language service was the first to allude to it, while the Saudi newspaper *Elaph* also reported it, and the reports indicate it occurred last week but is only now being revealed.

"Foreign officials said on Friday evening that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps launched **a Shahed 136-type drone in the Persian Gulf towards the Campo Square oil tanker**, which is owned by Israeli businessman Eyal Ofer," *Israel National News Arutz Sheva* reports.

The tanker sails under the Liberian flag, but Israeli defense officials presented the attack as a retaliation attempt for past alleged Israeli operations against Iran, and described no injuries.

It's not the first instance of such an alleged Iranian drone operation against tankers in these waters, with a November incident also believed an IRGC military operation to target Israeli shipping.

The Islamic Republic and Israel have long been in a de facto state of war, especially given prior years' mysterious sabotage incidents of military sites inside Iran, as well as **assassinations of top Iranian nuclear scientists**.



CAMPO SQUARE

Date (User Local Timezone)	02/13/2023 05:44:17
Vessel Name	CAMPO SQUARE
Navigation Status	Under way using engine
IMO	9792852
Destination	Fujairah
ETA (User Local Timezone)	02/13/2023 04:00:00
Vessel Type	Tanker

More
Vessels
All Types
Vessel History
CAMPO SQUARE
Tehran
Baghdad
Iraq
Iran
Kuwait
Qatar
Dubai
United Arab Emirates
Saudi Arabia
Oman
Yemen
New Delhi
UTTAR PRADESH
MADHYA PRADESH
India
MAHARA
Mumbai

Bloomberg Finance L.P., Mapbox, OpenStreetMap

Concerning the November incident wherein a projectile hit a tanker off the coast of Oman, the AP noted at the time, "While no one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, suspicion immediately fell on Iran. Tehran and Israel have been engaged in a **years long shadow war** in the wider Middle East, with some drone attacks targeting Israeli-associated vessels traveling around the region."

Stats, censorship, government, vaccine, health: feb18 The AMA Said 'Trust Your Doctor' On Smoking; Yes, Bayer Promoted Heroin for Children -- Here Are The Ads That Prove It;

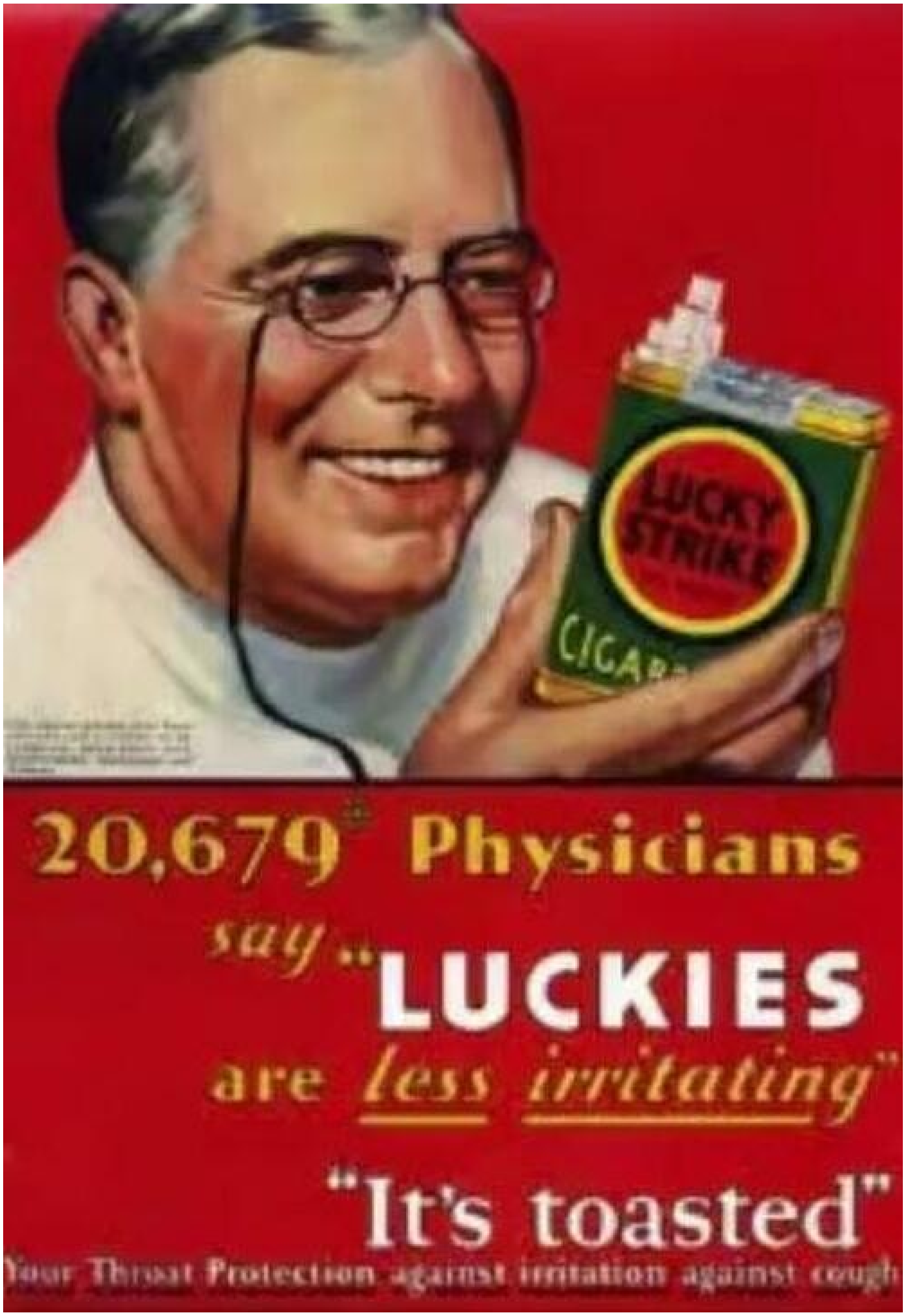
Authored by Kevin Homer via The Brownstone Institute,

The American Medical Association (AMA) urges physicians to promote COVID-19 vaccines and bivalent boosters.

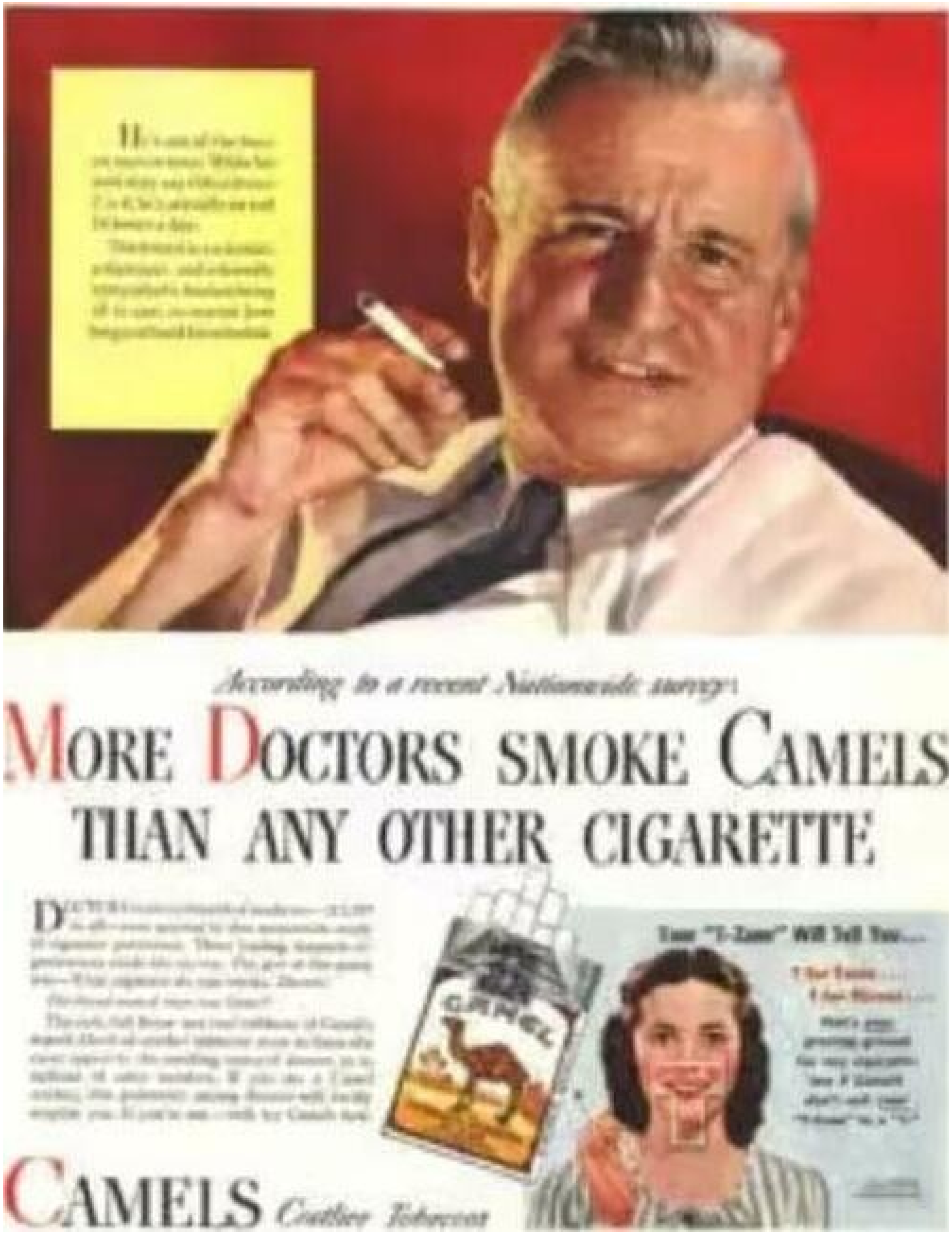
The AMA even supplies members with social media talking points and strategies to deal with vaccine detractors.

It is not the first time that my profession has endorsed a product that may be hazardous to your health.

For most of the 20th century, the AMA turned a blind eye toward the dangers of tobacco use. During the 1930s, 40s and 50s, tobacco companies paid handsomely to advertise cigarettes in AMA’s journal, *JAMA*. In a 1948 editorial minimizing the ill effects of smoking and justifying tobacco advertising in its publications, *JAMA* noted that “cigarette business is a tremendous business,” as if the size of the bottom line can mitigate a conflict for an organization founded for the “betterment of public health.”


LUCKY STRIKE
CIGAR
20,679* Physicians
say "LUCKIES
are less irritating"
"It's toasted"
Your Throat Protection against irritation against cough

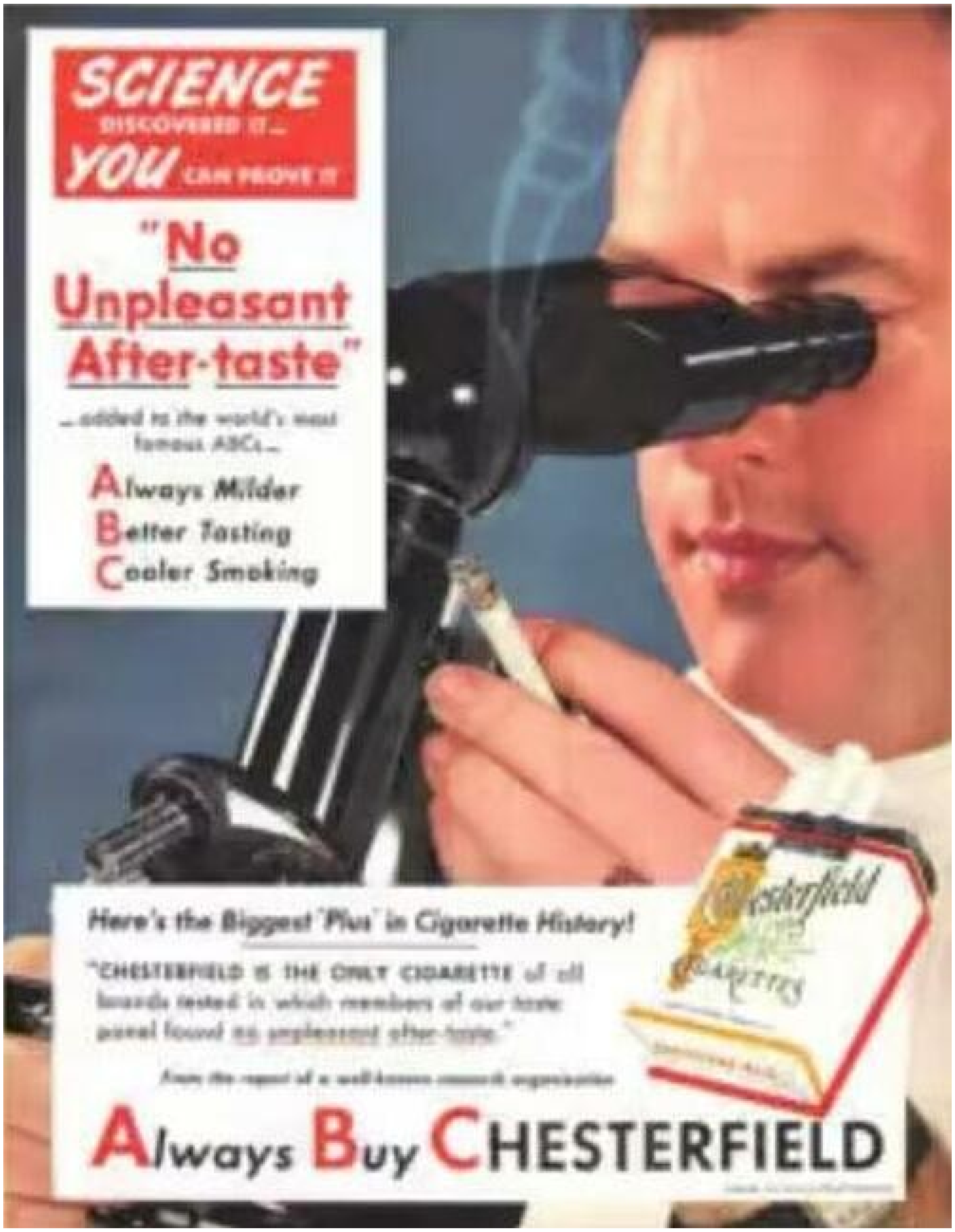
The connection between smoking and lung cancer was recognized early in the century. At the same time, the AMA became increasingly dependent on money generated by tobacco sales. Tobacco companies sponsored meetings of medical societies, setting up their booths alongside exhibitions of the latest medical treatments. Free cartons were distributed at physician meetings. **Cigarette makers even paid for publication of pseudoscientific reports claiming the health benefits of their products.**


According to a recent Nationwide survey:
MORE DOCTORS SMOKE CAMELS
THAN ANY OTHER CIGARETTE
Your "T-Zone" Will Tell You...
T for Taste...
T for Throat...
CAMELS Costlier Tobaccos

Doctors who opposed smoking faced ridicule from their colleagues. Dr. Alton Ochsner, a renowned surgeon and sentinel voice warning of the dangers of tobacco, began publishing on the connection between smoking and lung cancer in the early 1940s. His 1954 book *Smoking and Cancer: A Doctor's Report* was negatively reviewed in prominent medical journals, characterized as a medieval model of logic that belongs in the nonscience section of a library. Prior to his appearance on *Meet the Press*, Dr. Ochsner was told he could not discuss the relationship between smoking and lung cancer on air.

Yet the mounting evidence was hard to ignore. In 1954, *JAMA* stopped accepting cigarette advertisements and published an editorial rebuking tobacco company advertising practices. But five years later, a *JAMA* editorial was still skeptical of the evidence linking smoking to cancer, and a 1961 *Nebraska State Medical Journal* editorial dismissed the evidence as merely “statistical.” Tobacco companies continued to sponsor state medical meetings as late as 1969. By then most people were aware of the dangers of smoking.

In 1964, the Surgeon General concluded that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer and other life-limiting health conditions. The next year, a warning label was required on packages of cigarettes. By 1971, the government banned cigarette advertisements on television and radio. Instead of taking the lead against an obvious threat to public health, the AMA asked for time and money to study the effects of tobacco.


SCIENCE DISCOVERED IT…
YOU CAN PROVE IT
"No Unpleasant After-taste"
…added to the world's most famous ABCs…
Always Milder
Better Tasting
Cooler Smoking
Here's the Biggest 'Plus' in Cigarette History!
"CHESTERFIELD IS THE ONLY CIGARETTE of all brands tested in which members of our taste panel found no unpleasant after-taste."
From the report of a well-known research organization
Always Buy CHESTERFIELD
Chesterfield
CIGARETTES

Between 1964 and 1976, the AMA received more than $20 million from the tobacco industry to fund research. Instead of using the money for smoking cessation programs, many of the funded studies focused on ways to make a safer cigarette. To keep money flowing into its Education and Research Foundation the AMA delayed, stating in a confidential 1971 report that, “AMA is not prepared to make any statement regarding termination of the smoking-health research program.” The report went on to complain that tobacco companies are “in arrears on 1970 contributions.” The dependency on tobacco money created a political alliance between doctors and cigarette makers as their lobbyists joined forces in Washington.

The delay benefitted tobacco sales and maintained the AMA’s “research” payments, but it angered Dr. Ochsner, who accused the AMA of being derelict. The AMA called Dr. Ochsner’s position “extreme.” But name-calling could not stall the inevitable conclusion any longer. In 1978 the AMA finally agreed with what most people had already realized: smoking causes lung cancer, and many other health problems. The romance with big tobacco was over.

Or was it?

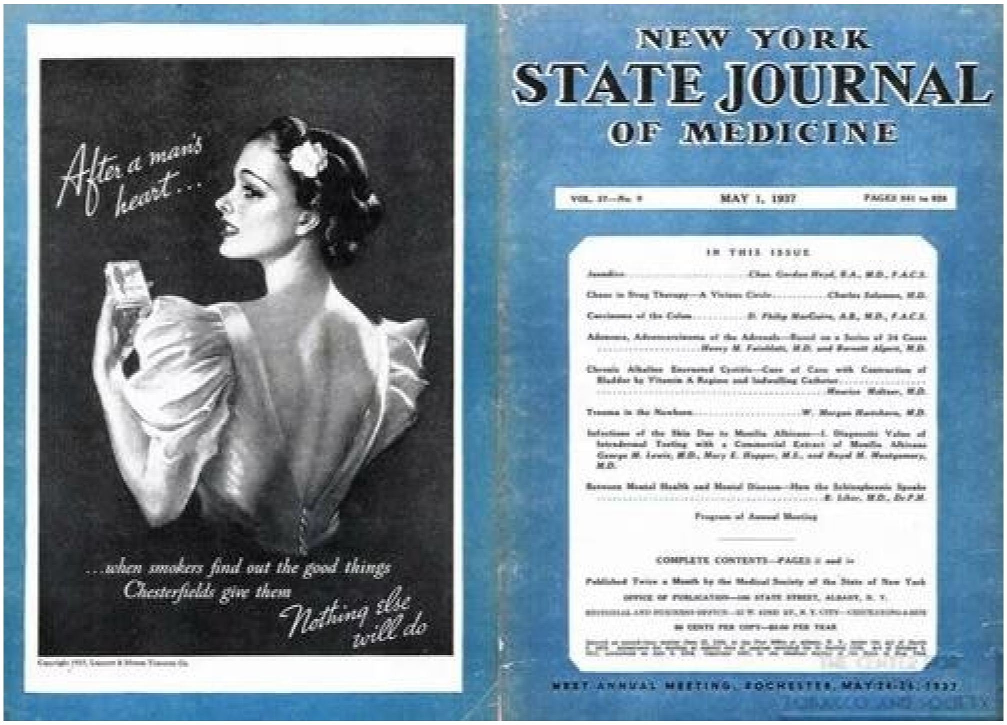
As late as 1982, *JAMA* publications were warned to steer clear of “politically sensitive” topics like tobacco use. After most of a century of being on the tobacco dole, the AMA could not make a clean break. The AMA portfolio contained investments in tobacco companies until the late 1990s.

In 1998, the tobacco industry settled lawsuits filed by state governments with a massive Master Settlement Agreement. In exchange for perpetual annual payments and tight regulatory control, the tobacco industry could continue to sell its products protected from future lawsuits brought by participating states and jurisdictions.

But who really benefitted from the Tobacco Settlement? Only 2.6 percent of the money has been used for smoking prevention and cessation programs. Some states have used the tobacco money to fill budget gaps. South Carolina gave money to tobacco farmers affected by a drop in prices. Altria Group, a global tobacco company, is on the *US News & World Report* 10 best-performing stocks list. Altria, Phillip Morris, and British American Tobacco have all grown annual dividends consecutively since the settlement. According to Dr. Ed Anselm, “The most addictive thing about tobacco is money.”

Tobacco use remains the number one preventable cause of death in the United States. In the first fifty years after the Surgeon General’s 1964 report, more than 20 million Americans died of smoking. How many of these deaths would have been prevented if doctors had not been conflicted by financial entanglements with the tobacco industry?

Money blinds objectivity. When money drives decisions, controverting evidence is ignored, dissenting voices are ridiculed, open debate is suppressed, talking points are distributed, conclusions are delayed, and people die from a product with liability protection.


After a man's heart...
...when smokers find out the good things Chesterfields give them
Nothing else will do
NEW YORK
STATE JOURNAL
OF MEDICINE
MAY 1, 1937
IN THIS ISSUE

The *New York State Journal of Medicine* published a retrospective of tobacco's relationship to medicine in its December 1983 issue. Flipping through the pages is enlightening. Surrounding the articles describing the greed and politics of Big Tobacco are advertisements from medicine's new love—Big Pharma. Doctors have exchanged one bedfellow for another.

By endorsing irrelevant COVID-19 vaccines and poorly tested bivalent boosters, the AMA is pushing a product without concern for its potential negative health effects. Like before, the medical profession lags behind public opinion. According to recent Rasmussen Reports, 7 percent of vaccinated individuals report a major side effect, and nearly half of Americans believe that COVID-19 vaccines have caused unexplained deaths, about the same proportion who believed that smoking caused cancer in the 1960s while the AMA was studying the issue.

A conflicted profession cannot honestly evaluate data. Nowadays, the pharmaceutical business is a tremendous business. An organization benefitting from product sales cannot be trusted to evaluate that product.

If doctors could not recognize the health dangers of tobacco for most of the last century, why should we trust them when they say novel vaccines are safe and effective?

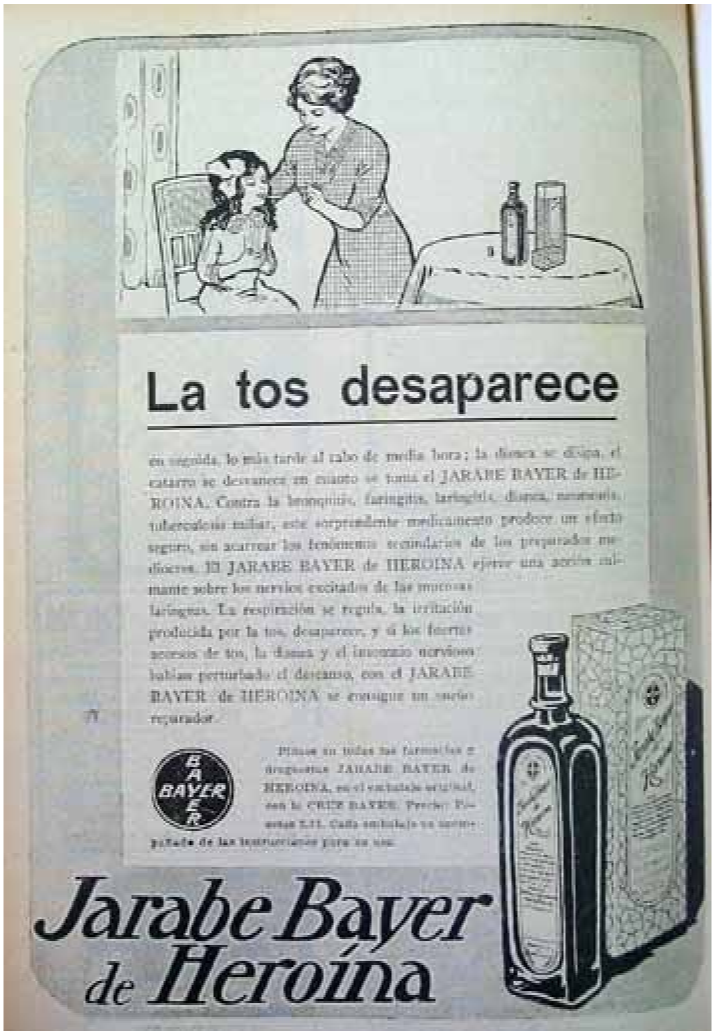
Yes, Bayer Promoted Heroin for Children -- Here Are The Ads That Prove It

Jim Edwards
Nov 17, 2011, 11:58 AM

It's not news that Bayer, the venerable German drug company, made its first fortunes in the late 1890s when it commercialized both aspirin and heroin as cough, cold and pain remedies. Many people have seen the sepia images of vintage Bayer's "Heroin" brand medicine bottles. But it's less widely known that Bayer promoted heroin for use in *children* suffering from coughs, colds and "irritation" as late as 1912, according to an anti-Bayer watchdog group. (See the ads below.)

That was years after reports first began to surface in 1899 that patients were developing a "tolerance" for Heroin, and that addicts in the U.S. were clamoring for more, according to this history of the drug.

The children's campaign ran in Spanish newspapers, according to the Coalition Against Bayer Dangers, a longtime company gadfly, which unearthed the forgotten images two days ago. One ad, urging the use of "Heroina" to treat bronchitis in kids, shows two unattended children reaching for a bottle of the opiate across a kitchen table. Another shows a mom spoon feeding it to her sickly little girl. "La tos desaparece," the ad says -- "the cough disappears":



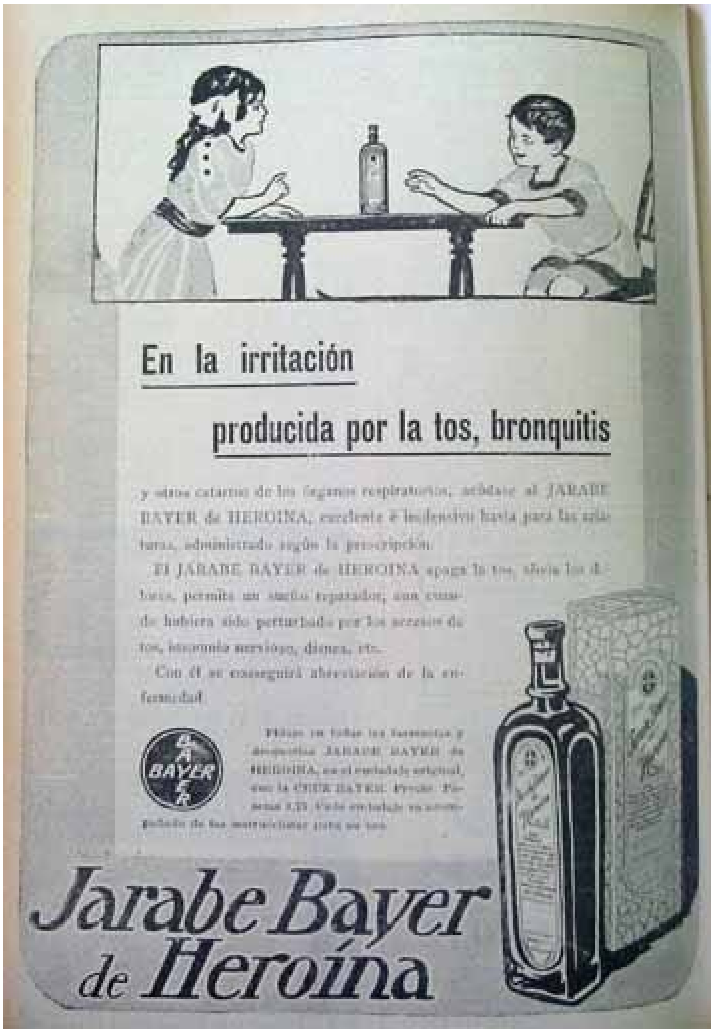
La tos desaparece

Jarabe Bayer de Heroína

Heroin was restricted to prescription-only use in the U.S. in 1914 and eventually banned by the nascent FDA altogether in 1924, except under very strict medical conditions.

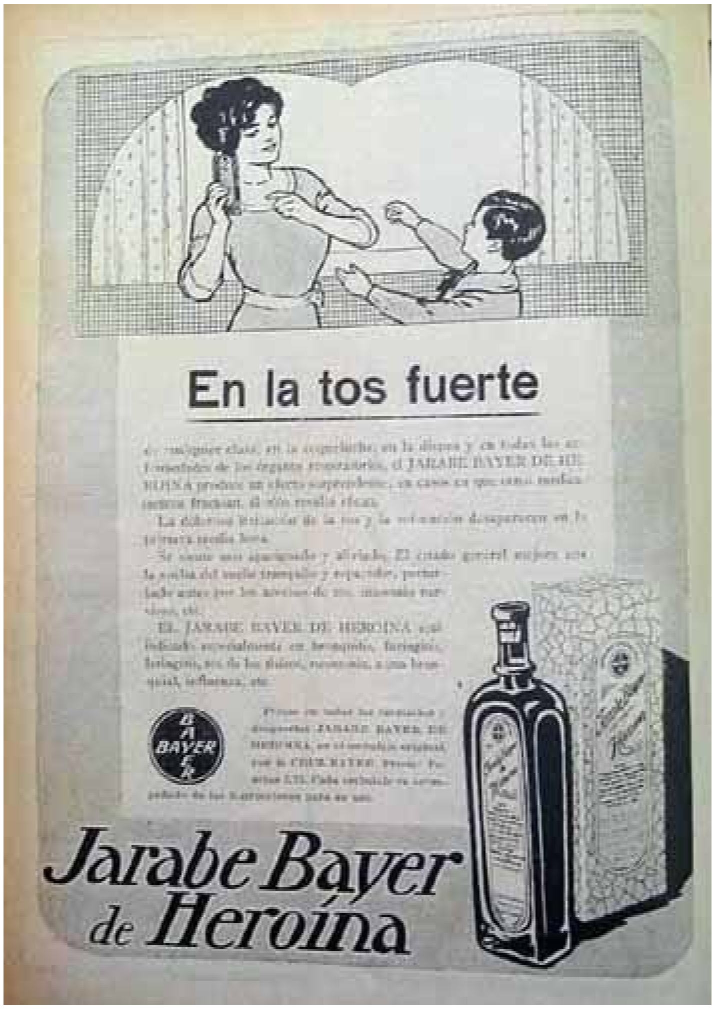
Sure, it's a blast from the past that says nothing about Bayer's corporate culture today. But their sudden re-appearance is a chilling reminder of what life was like in the early 20th Century when companies were permitted to sell anything to anyone, no matter how dangerous, regardless of the consequences.

Bayer's "Heroina," for "irritation" and "bronchitis"


En la irritación
producida por la tos, bronquitis
BAYER
Jarabe Bayer de Heroína

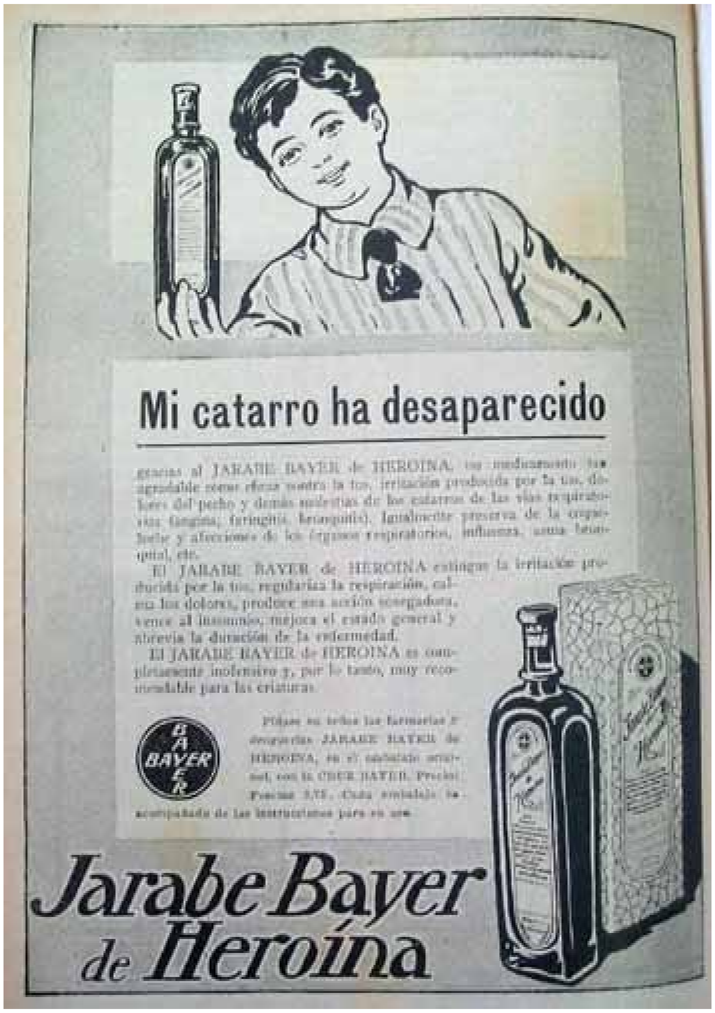
No adult supervision required!

That kid really, really wants that bottle of Heroin


En la tos fuerte
BAYER
Jarabe Bayer de Heroína

"En la tos fuerte" and "Jarabe Bayer de Heroina" translate roughly as "Bayer Heroin strong cough syrup."

My catarrh has disappeared!



Mi catarro ha desaparecido

gracias al JARABE BAYER de HEROINA, un medicamento tan agradable como eficaz contra la tos, irritación producida por la tos, dolores del pecho y demás molestias de los catarros de las vías respiratorias (angina, faringitis, bronquitis). Igualmente preserva de la coqueluche y afecciones de los órganos respiratorios, influenza, asma bronquial, etc.

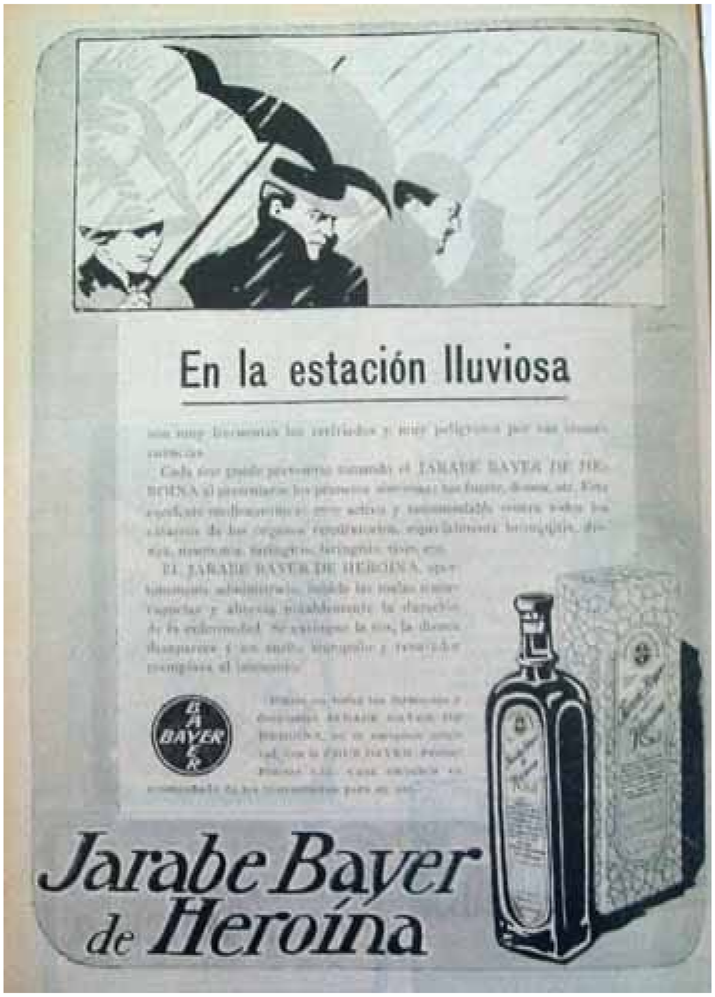
El JARABE BAYER de HEROINA extingue la irritación producida por la tos, regulariza la respiración, calma los dolores, produce una acción sosegadora, vence al insomnio, mejora el estado general y abrevia la duración de la enfermedad.

El JARABE BAYER de HEROINA es completamente inofensivo y, por lo tanto, muy recomendable para las criaturas.

Pídase en todas las farmacias y droguerías JARABE BAYER de HEROINA, en el embalaje original, con la CRUZ BAYER. Precio: Pesetas 3,75. Cada embalaje va acompañado de las instrucciones para su uso.

Don't try this at home, kids!

Heroin: It's not just for the children

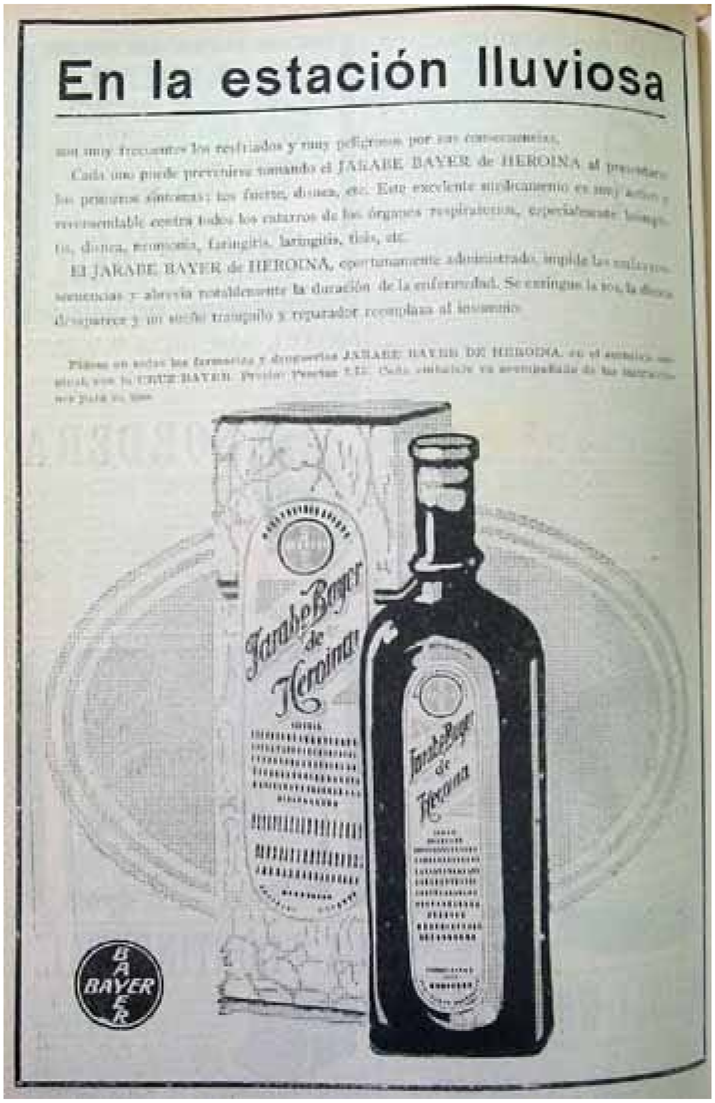

En la estación lluviosa
BAYER
Jarabe Bayer de Heroína

The kids' campaign was part of a larger Spanish-language push by Bayer.

Hi honey, here's your smack!

After a hard day's work, a man is welcomed home by his wife with a spoonful of high-quality dope.

Don't know why there ain't no sun up in the sky ...



En la estación lluviosa

son muy frecuentes los resfriados y muy peligrosos por sus consecuencias.

Cada uno puede prevenirse tomando el JARABE BAYER de HEROINA al presentarse los primeros síntomas: tos fuerte, disnea, etc. Este excelente medicamento es muy activo y recomendable contra todos los catarros de los órganos respiratorios, especialmente bronquitis, disnea, neumonía, faringitis, laringitis, tisis, etc.

El JARABE BAYER de HEROINA, oportunamente administrado, impide las malas consecuencias y abrevia notablemente la duración de la enfermedad. Se extingue la tos, la disnea desaparece y un sueño tranquilo y reparador reemplaza al insomnio.

One of the few that actually was charges, exposed, and went to jail.

This ad touts "Heroina" for coughs and colds brought on by rainy weather.

Shkreli is the co-founder of the hedge funds Elea Capital, MSMB Capital Management, and MSMB Healthcare;[5] the co-founder and former chief executive officer (CEO) of the pharmaceutical firms Retrophin and Turing Pharmaceuticals (now Vyera Pharmaceuticals); and the former CEO of start-up software company Gödel Systems, which he founded in August 2016.[6]

In September 2015, Shkreli was widely criticized when Turing obtained the manufacturing license for the antiparasitic drug Daraprim and raised its price by 5,455% (from US$13.50 to $750 per pill). In 2017, Shkreli was charged and convicted in federal court on two counts of securities fraud and one count of conspiring to commit securities fraud, unrelated to the Daraprim controversy.[7] He was sentenced to seven years in federal prison and up to $7.4 million in fines.[8] In the civil case he was fined a further $64.6 million to be given to victims nationwide.

Prior to May 2022, Shkreli was held at the low-security federal prison in Allenwood, Pennsylvania, with an expected release date in September 2022.[9][10][11] On May 18, 2022, it was announced that Shkreli had been released early.[12][13]

Early life[edit]

Shkreli was born in Coney Island Hospital in the New York City borough of Brooklyn on March 17, 1983, to Albanian immigrant parents.[14][15] His parents were Roman Catholic, and he said his religion has been "a guiding post" for him, although he supposedly does not believe in God.[16] His parents immigrated to the United States and worked as janitors.[17] He, his two sisters, and his brother grew up in a working-class community in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn.[3][18][19] By most accounts, Shkreli was raised Catholic and attended Sunday school as a child.[20] Shkreli attended Hunter College High School. Sources differ on whether Shkreli graduated from Hunter[19] or whether he was expelled before his senior year and received the credits necessary for his high school diploma through City-As-School High School.[21][22] He ended up in a program that placed him in an internship at Wall Street hedge fund Cramer, Berkowitz and Company when he was 17.[18][23] Shkreli received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Baruch College in 2004.

Shkreli told *Vanity Fair* that he developed an interest in chemistry when a family member suffered from treatment-resistant depression.[15]

Daraprim price-hike controversy[edit]

On August 10, 2015, in accordance with Shkreli's business plan, Turing acquired Daraprim (pyrimethamine), a medication approved by the FDA in 1953,[59] from Impax Laboratories[60] for US$55 million.[61] The drug's most prominent use as of late 2015 was as an anti-malarial[62] and an antiparasitic, in conjunction with leucovorin and sulfadiazine,[63] to treat patients with both AIDS-related and AIDS-unrelated toxoplasmosis.[64]

The patent for Daraprim had expired, but no generic version was available.[65] The Turing–Impax deal included the condition that Impax remove the drug from regular wholesalers and pharmacies,[62] and so in June 2015, two months before the sale to Turing was announced, Impax switched to tightly controlled distribution.[23] In keeping with its strategy for pricing in the face of limited competition, Turing maintained the closed distribution.[57] The *New York Times* said that the deal "made sense only if Turing planned to raise the price of the drug substantially."[23]

On September 17, 2015, Dave Muoio of *Healio*, an in-depth clinical information website for health care specialists,[66] reported on a letter from the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the HIV Medicine Association to executives at Turing,[67] questioning a new pricing for Daraprim.[64] The price of a dose of the drug in the U.S. market increased by a factor of 56 (from US$13.50 to US$750 per pill) overnight.[68]

The price increase was initially criticized, jointly, by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the HIV Medicine Association,[62][67] by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America,[69] and soon thereafter by presidential candidates Hillary Clinton,[70] Bernie Sanders,[71] and Donald Trump.[72]

A subsequent organized effort called on Turing to return pricing to pre-September levels and to address several matters relating to the needs of patients, an effort that garnered endorsements from more than 160 medical-specialty and patient-related organizations (as of December 2015, 164 organizations from 31 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico).[73][74]

In response to the controversy, the record label Collect Records publicly ended its business relationship with Shkreli, who had invested in the company.[75]

In a September 2015 interview with *Bloomberg Markets*, Shkreli said that despite the price increase, patient co-pays would actually be lower, that many patients would get the drug at no cost, that Turing had expanded its free drug program, and that it sold half of its drugs for one dollar.[76] He defended the price hike by saying, "If there was a company that was selling an Aston Martin at the price of a bicycle, and we buy that company and we ask to charge Toyota prices, I don't think that that should be a crime."[77][78]

A few days later, Shkreli announced that he planned to lower the price by an unspecified amount, "in response to the anger that was felt by people."[44] But in late November, Turing reversed course and said it would not lower the price after all.[79]

Following a request by Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Elijah Cummings for details of Turing Pharmaceuticals' finances and price-setting practices in September 2015,[80][81] the company hired four lobbyists from Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney with backgrounds in health care legislation and pharmaceutical pricing.[82][83] In addition to lobbyists, Shkreli hired a crisis public relations firm to help explain the pricing decision.[84]

On October 22, 2015, Mark L. Baum, CEO of Imprimis Pharmaceuticals, announced that his company would provide a combination product containing pyrimethamine (the active ingredient in Daraprim) and leucovorin at "$1-a-pill" as a cheaper and more efficient alternative to Daraprim.[85] This product was intended to be used alongside sulfadiazine in the standard protocol to treat toxoplasmosis typically seen in AIDS patients.[64]

Baum said, "This is not the first time a sole supply generic drug – especially one that has been approved for use as long as Daraprim – has had its price increased suddenly and to a level that may make it unaffordable." He announced the availability of the compounded replacement for Daraprim as a part of a larger corporate program, "Imprimis Cares." to make "novel and customizable medicines available to physicians and patients at accessible prices." Imprimis began selling its compounded, orally taken formulations of pyrimethamine and leucovorin at US$99 for a 100 count bottle, essentially a dollar a dose.[85]

On November 23, 2015, Turing announced that the company would not reduce the list price of Daraprim, but said it planned instead to negotiate volume discounts of up to 50% for hospitals.[86] Turing issued a statement that it was not as important to cut the list price as to reduce the cost to hospitals, where most patients get their initial treatment. The company pledged that no patient needing Daraprim would ever be denied access.[79]

Infectious disease specialists and patient advocates, including Tim Horn of the Treatment Action Group and Carlos del Rio of the HIV Medicine Association, said Turing's actions were insufficient, given that patients initially treated for days at a hospital typically have to continue the treatment for weeks or months after leaving.[87]

Not even a seven-year sentence for securities fraud can keep **Martin Shkreli** from allegedly engaging in the machinations that earned him the nickname “Pharma Bro.”

“The plaintiffs have shown that Shkreli has used a prison phone to discuss highly relevant company business and that he knew in doing so that those communications should have been but would not be preserved,” the 11-page ruling states. “Shkreli’s use of the prison phone to discuss business development constitutes intentional spoliation and warrants sanctions.”

https://lawandcrime.com/high-profile/pharma-bro-martin-shkreli-gets-a-slap-on-the-wrist-for-using-contraband-phone-to-discuss-pharma-business-behind-bars/

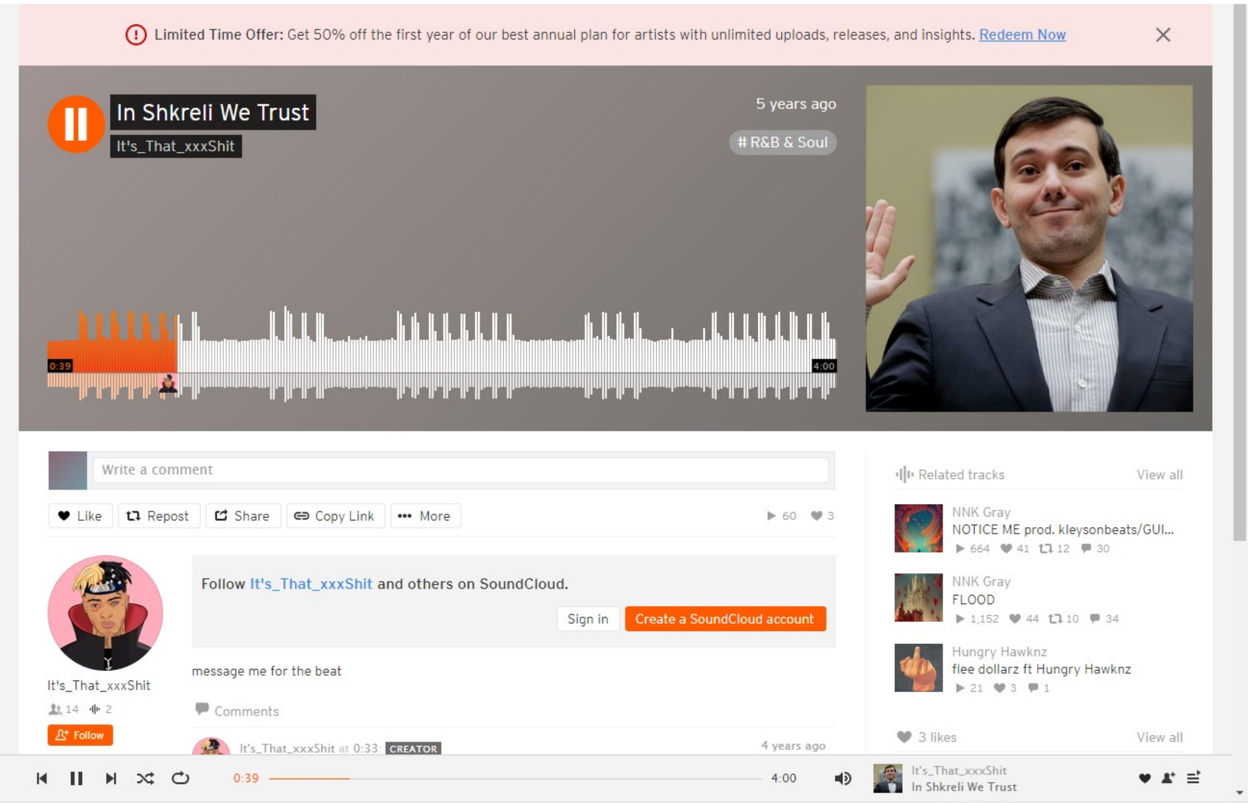
And apparently word had it that he was using a wsb account intermittently throughout his entire sentence. I remember seeing conversations about it back in 2019. You could only imagine the amount of peple iwlling to pay anything just t speak to him. The guy even had his own youtube channel where he would go on for hours sometimes, completely live..

https://www.reddit.com/r/wallstreetbets/comments/etj48u/martin_shkreli_jailhouse_phone_call/

journal: feb22 The worst part about this story isn’t so much the nature of the crime, but that it seemed like he was being used as a scapegoat in an industry already rife with whitecollar crime.

The truth is, people like skereli have been sucking money out of the medical research industry through complex financial fraud for decades, and few have been held accountable.

Not defending the guy. He was the one that chose to put himself in the spotlight, but it’s just the truth. Recent examples, from Biogen, to Cassava Science, only scratch the surface of a much larger problem. He actually talked about this a lot if you watch some of his interviews and podcasts.



Limited Time Offer: Get 50% off the first year of our best annual plan for artists with unlimited uploads, releases, and insights. Redeem Now

Follow It's_That_xxxShit and others on SoundCloud.

message me for the beat

In Shkreli We Trust
It's_That_xxxShit
5 years ago
# R&B & Soul
0:39
4:00
Write a comment
Like
Repost
Share
Copy Link
More
60
3
It's_That_xxxShit
14
2
Follow
Sign in
Create a SoundCloud account
Comments
It's_That_xxxShit at 0:33: CREATOR
4 years ago
Related tracks
View all
NNK Gray
NOTICE ME prod. kleysonbeats/GUI...
664 41 12 30
NNK Gray
FLOOD
1,152 44 10 34
Hungry Hawknz
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21 3 1
3 likes
View all
0:39
4:00
It's_That_xxxShit
In Shkreli We Trust

https://soundcloud.com/bsr_edits/in-shkreli-we-trust

Stats, health, government: feb18 **australia: number of Lyrica prescriptions filled in the country went**

from 36,000 in 2012 to 4,000,000 in 2018, an increase of over 10,000%

Lyrica “Gets Its Claws Into Your Soul”

Lyrica, a drug manufactured by Pfizer, was initially developed to treat epilepsy. Since that time, it’s been prescribed off-label to treat pain and anxiety — often with disastrous results.

High-profile cases of the drug’s devastating effects have emerged in Australia, where use of the drug has skyrocketed of late; the number of Lyrica prescriptions filled in the country went from 36,000 in 2012 to 4,000,000 in 2018, an increase of over 10,000%.

A correspondingly high human toll is being paid as the drug predominates; Christalla Andreadis, a 52-year-old prescribed Lyrica after a car accident, declared the drug “gets its claws into your soul” while describing the devastating and addictive nature of Lyrica (the generic name for which is Pregabalin).

In addition to suicidal thoughts, use of Lyrica has been associated with respiratory depression; slowed breathing can be dangerous on its own, and the chance of fatality only increases when the user is elderly, has a pre-existing lung condition, or uses Opioids in combination with Lyrica.

Online Addiction Counseling

BetterHelp - Professional Therapy, 100% Online

Get professional help from an addiction and mental health counselor from BetterHelp via phone, video, or live-chat.
Take the Quiz. Get Matched. Begin Therapy.

GET STARTED

Paid Advertising. We may receive advertising fees if you follow links to the BetterHelp site.

Other side effects have been reported; one mother described her daughter's descent into Lyrica addiction, characterizing her as a once effervescent young woman who began to lose both her spark and control of her behavior — often falling asleep while standing up and acting in other erratic ways — before tragically dying of an overdose in 2020.

And Lyrica isn't just creating problems in Australia. Gabapentinoids (a class of drugs of which Lyrica is a member) are incredibly common in the US; Lyrica itself cost Medicare $2.1 billion in 2016, as more than 850,000 Medicare beneficiaries were prescribed the drug in that year alone.

When asked by reporters about the dangers of Lyrica, manufacturer Pfizer punted; the pharmaceutical giant denied ownership of the drug — despite their branding being plainly visible on Lyrica's packaging — and passed the buck to Viatris, a company Pfizer created in 2020.

There's now a growing curiosity about what exactly Pfizer knew about the destructive and addictive potential of Lyrica while they were spending millions to market the drug to doctors and to an unsuspecting public; perhaps unsurprisingly, it's not the first time Pfizer has found themselves in hot water because of Lyrica.

Pfizer's Lied About Lyrica Before

The US Department of Justice fined Pfizer $2.3 billion for breaking the law in how it promoted 4 of its drugs, including Lyrica, in 2009. At the time, the settlement was the largest health care fraud payout in history. To date, it's the second largest.

Pfizer faced allegations of paying kickbacks to doctors for prescribing their drugs, making false claims about Pfizer drugs, and promoting off-label use of drugs like Lyrica; it’s illegal for drug companies like Pfizer to promote use of their drugs for reasons not approved by the FDA.

A similarly aggressive and unscrupulous marketing strategy was used in Australia; Pfizer pumped millions into “educational” events for doctors (where drug companies often get to bend the laws around courting medical professionals to their breaking point, shamelessly “wining and dining” care providers in an attempt to get their proprietary medications into as many prescription pads as possible).

Some elected officials have tried to force Pfizer to answer for their behavior when it comes to Lyrica; Senator Ron Wyden, the current chair and then-ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, wrote then-Pfizer CEO Ian Read in 2018 to ask Read why Pfizer had hiked the price of Lyrica multiple times, sometimes by as much as 145%, to the detriment of taxpayers who are prescribed the medication.

Read, for his part, had previously insisted that companies like Pfizer don’t make too much money. Pfizer had well over $41 billion in revenue last year and is expecting $26 billion just from COVID-19 vaccine sales alone in 2021.

They Don’t Take It Like Medicine

If the above reports aren’t bad enough, Buzzfeed News reported in 2017 that Lyrica was “the drug of choice to treat rampant depression, anxiety, and PTSD” in a Greek refugee camp. That Lyrica was (and possibly still is) distributed so widely to refugees may help explain the enormously high rate of suicidal ideation among the demographic; The Washington Post reported the results of a survey that found 41% of a certain subset of refugees have contemplated suicide, and suicidal thoughts are a possible side effect of Lyrica. Other factors most certainly contribute to this troubling statistic — it’s a near certainty that Lyrica use isn’t helping, however.

One observer of Lyrica use within the refugee camp told a reporter that “Life here is hard. Some people take the pill,” going on to say that refugees “do not take [Lyrica] as medicine … they take it like drugs.”

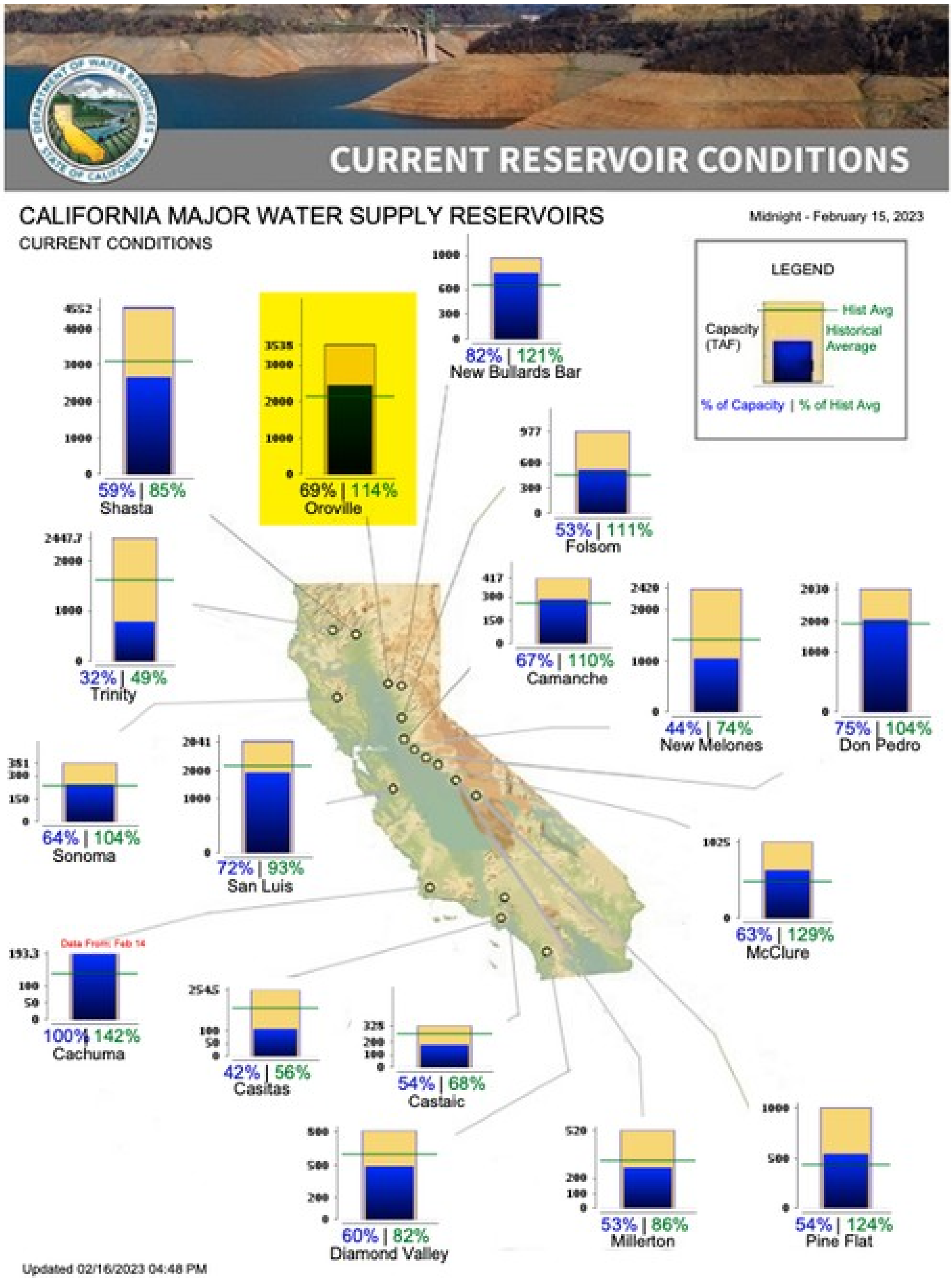
Many people across the world, both Americans and Australians, are doing the same. Only time will tell if public outcry over the actions of companies like Pfizer and the harmful overprescription of drugs like Lyrica will be enough to motivate the elected officials who have failed to rein in drug companies, or the drug companies themselves, who often flood Congress and candidates with donations, to change their ways.

War, sanctions, government, planet: feb18 **australia: number of Lyrica prescriptions filled in the country went from 36,000 in 2012 to 4,000,000 in 2018, an increase of over 10,000%**

'Nature Heals Itself': Lake Oroville's Epic Rise After Conveyor Belt Of Atmospheric Rivers

Los Angeles Times photographers have published stunning before and after photos of Lake Oroville, one of California's largest reservoirs, on the State Water Project, to only reveal nature has healed itself -- not humans or insane 'green' taxes pushed by progressive Democrats who virtue signal about saving the planet.

As of Thursday, the California Department of Water Resources' data showed the current water level at Lake Oroville was 69% of its capacity on Wednesday — up from 28% just two months ago. The State Water Project is a network of reservoirs, canals, and dams that supplies water to 27 million people.



Last summer, Lake Oroville's water levels fell dangerously low (read: here & here). But a conveyor belt of atmospheric rivers dumped trillions of gallons of rain on the state early this year that helped fill up the once drought-stricken reservoir.

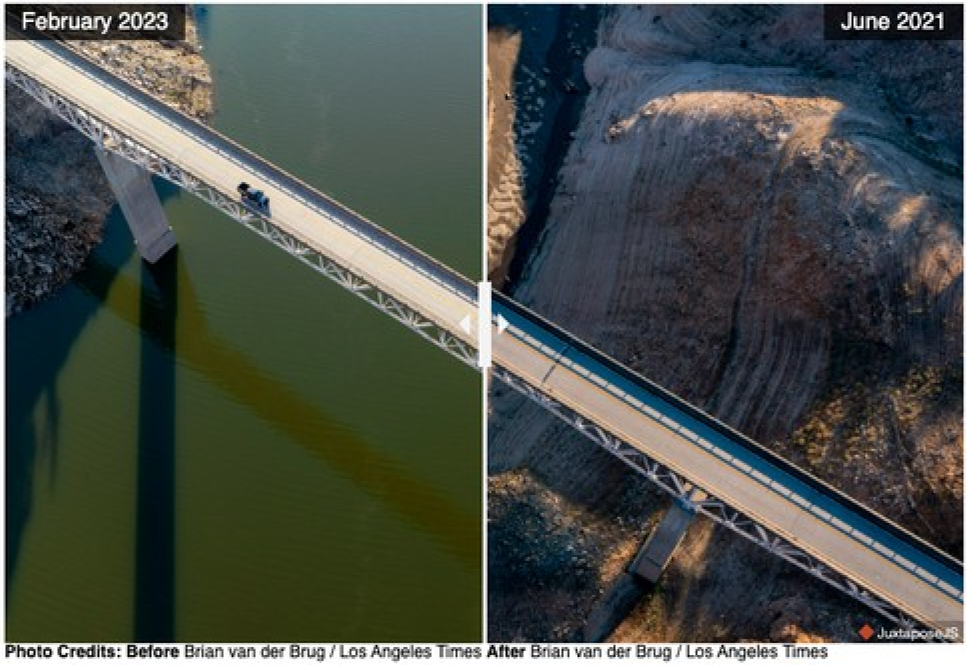

February 2023
June 2021
JuxtaposeJS

Photo Credits: Before Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times **After** Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times

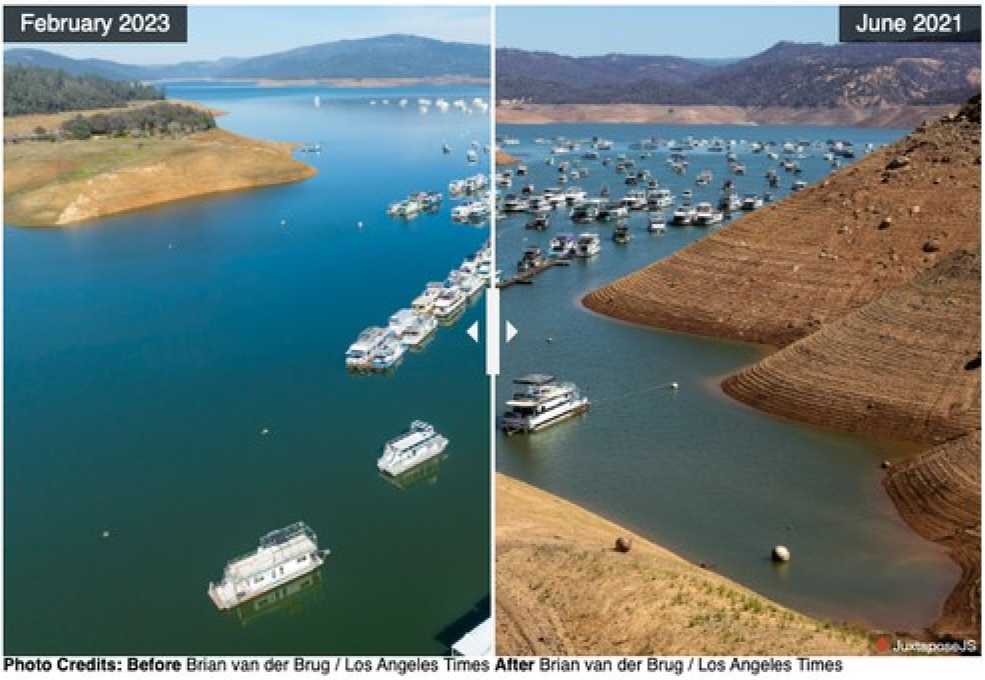

February 2023
June 2021
JuxtaposeJS

Photo Credits: Before Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times **After** Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times

And there's more good news: deep snowpack this year in California, the Great Basin, and the Colorado River Basin will provide even more water in the months ahead to alleviate severe drought conditions.

10 hours ago

remove link

It has been that way for 4000 million plus years.

Delusional is believing that 200 years of human moderate activity will make any difference

play_arrow92play_arrow6

ZIRPdiggler
10 hours ago

remove
link

You coulda just said "4 billion"

play_arrow31play_arrow

WEFparasites
9 hours ago

remove
link

No Zee is more right. Most people are incapable of understanding how much a billion, much less a million of something really is.

play_arrow26play_arrow2

bunsw7
8 hours ago

remove
link

1/4000th of a Gazillion.

play_arrow17play_arrow

Regicidal Tendencies
9 hours ago

remove
link

Ya, but 4000 million plus is moarer.

play_arrow24play_arrow

MadBrewer
8 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

Up voted for moarer is betterer.

Cheers

play_arrow16play_arrow2

Regicidal Tendencies
7 hours ago

remove
link

Tanx!

play_arrow6play_arrow1

Ura Bonehead
PREMIUM
8 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

"4 billion" is nothing to a Washington climate elite. That's a 10 foot high private wall... at EACH of your 5 mansions, an armed security detail, a fleet of private jets, and a month for the whole entourage at the Ritz in Davos.

play_arrow13play_arrow

ZeeMasterOfPuppets
6 hours ago

remove
link

In my language a billion is a million of millions. But, point Taken!

play_arrow2play_arrow

EndeavorLewis
2 hours ago

remove
link

Your language may be the only thing unaffected by inflation - "million of millions", i.e., 10e6*10e6 = 10e12, or trillions in our language. But like I implied, our language has been affected by inflation.

play_arrowplay_arrow

G7Hedge
PRO
1 hour ago

remove
link

lol

play_arrowplay_arrow

reddy kilowatt
9 hours ago

remove
link

CO2: *it's what plants crave*

play_arrow37play_arrow

Z Free
9 hours ago

remove
link

Bingo! ESG policies only make problems

play_arrow8play_arrow1

WEFparasites
9 hours ago

remove
link

Without CO2, all plant life on Earth would be dead.

Suck on that climatards.

play_arrow16play_arrow

krda
9 hours ago

remove
link

Without the Industrial Revolution, all life on Earth would have died out in a couple of million years. CO2 levels have been declining for a couple of hundred million years and that's the point where they would have fallen low enough for plant life to die. And when plant life does, so does animal life.

Environmentalism is literally a death cult.

play_arrow12play_arrow1

Z Free
8 hours ago

remove
link

Saturn Death Cult

play_arrow5play_arrow1

brunski60
9 hours ago

remove
link

Human activity is likely linked to a more hospitable climate after the last ice age.

play_arrow5play_arrow

krda
9 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

The best evidence for human effects on the climate is that New York isn't buried under a mile of ice right now. We're well overdue for a new Ice Age and something has prevented it so far.

The Environmentals are literally demanding that we cause another Ice Age which will bury much of the environment under massive glaciers and kill off masses of animal species.

play_arrow6play_arrow2

Maxamillia
7 hours ago

remove
link

It's Weather Warfare. Your Avatar Tells Us all we need 2 know about U.

NEXT PLEASE...

play_arrowplay_arrow2

Westsidekilla
7 hours ago

remove
link

What a crisis

play_arrow1play_arrow

SteinBerg
5 hours ago

remove
link

why not 4000 billion ?

play_arrow1play_arrow

Show More Replies

NeverDemRino
10 hours ago

remove
link

Don't worry, the CA WEF Rats will open the spillways and drain them so that they can return to claiming Global Warming is killing us all.

play_arrow41play_arrow

Zork
10 hours ago

remove
link

They will need to flood the delta so we don't make some lousy mosquito extinct.

play_arrow12play_arrow

FurnitureFireSale

9 hours ago

remove
link

Im kind of hoping we will have a levee blowout like in 97 or whenever the last El Nino was... It would be interesting.

play_arrow4play_arrow

FurnitureFireSale
9 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

I was going to say this. The enviros will make the bureaucrats waste the water.

I just realized, if somone would offer me a can of Delta Smelt I would totally buy it. I'm a big time prepper...

play_arrow11play_arrow

MadBrewer
9 hours ago

remove
link

I catch them to use for bait.

Cheers

play_arrow5play_arrow1

debt_slave_1029384756
9 hours ago

remove
link

FEEMA is busy getting funds to Commiefornia to build uninterrupted, direct spillways from the mountains to the Pacific.

Also that 'splains why there's no money for OH/PA.

□□□□ □□□□□

□□

and □ you can shove your vaccine mandates up your ASS □

play_arrow10play_arrow

corndog
2 hours ago

remove
link

Since when is there not enough money for anything? (reading When Money Dies. I recommend it)

play_arrow1play_arrow

Silly Wabbit
10 hours ago

remove
link

Knowing California, they will probably open the flood gates and let all the water flow to the Pacific.

play_arrow31play_arrow

Arthor Bearing
54 minutes ago

remove
link

One lake has increased its water level because it happens to sit under this atmospheric conveyor. What about the entire rest of the American southwest? How about Great Salt Lake? ******* monkeys, so easy to manipulate.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Christianman
10 hours ago

remove
link

Intelligent design by an intelligent Creator, Jesus Christ!

play_arrow29play_arrow4

Race Car to Hell
9 hours ago

remove
link

Galaxies best terrarium, won lots of prizes at the fair.

play_arrow5play_arrow1

AZ Man
10 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

Same thing happened 3 years ago. As a matter of fact, the spillway was overflowing and was compromised and had to be repaired.

Then they released all of that water for no good reason other than so that they can create a crisis that they must "fix" through draconian legislation.

They want to control all agriculture like the good communists they are.

play_arrow28play_arrow

2pac
PREMIUM
9 hours ago

remove
link

CA rainfall does not have a normal distribution.

Gets below "average" 9/10 years then el nino and you get above average 1/10 years.

Makes for great fear-mongering as long as your audience dosn't understand math.

play_arrow23play_arrow

strych10
9 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

But any sample you pick randomly where n=30+ will have a standard distribution.

This is proof that math is racist. Because reasons. If you disagree, you're a bigot.

play_arrow5play_arrow

2pac
PREMIUM
9 hours ago

remove
link

The distribution of the sample mean will have a normal distirbution - but not the underlying distrbution.

play_arrow1play_arrow

strych10
9 hours ago

remove
link

Ah, yes. Thanks for the correction.

The Central Limit Theorem is one of those things I was assured I'd use all the time and basically haven't touched, or even really thought about, since Stats.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Boomhauer
4 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

We ate at El Nino's 8-10 beers ago.

The wet bar was to die for.

play_arrow1play_arrow

deep-state-retired
10 hours ago

remove
link

Funny how the Earth mocks environmental alarmists.

play_arrow22play_arrow

Golden Showers
9 hours ago

remove
link

God mocks people with egos.

Because God has a sense of humor. And he did your mom.

play_arrow1play_arrow5

Herbert C. Noodleman
10 hours ago

remove
link

Libs gotta get busy letting that water out back to the ocean or they can't keep raising the price of water and preventing farming.

play_arrow18play_arrow

SafeAndEffective
10 hours ago

remove
link

It would be fun to have someone who lived 5000 years tell us all how ridiculous we all are. But they would probably get on Facebook and become a complete tard.

play_arrow16play_arrow1

Sheep in Wolf's Clothing
10 hours ago

remove
link

Facebook brain rot is a thing.

play_arrow8play_arrow

Dr. Hosé Tortilla

9 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

x

play_arrowplay_arrow7

Dr. Hosé Tortilla
9 hours ago

remove
link

I'm enlightened, so when I say you are all ridiculous, cringe and pathetic what I get are downvotes and hateful replies

play_arrow1play_arrow14

SafeAndEffective
9 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

I'll give you a participation trophy if you wish. In the form of a downvote. Well done for showing up.

play_arrow5play_arrow

Vaccine, censorship, government: feb18 US Says Government, Not Moderna, Should Face COVID-19 Vaccine Lawsuit

Stats, government: feb18 Oakland Bicyclists Targeted By 'Dooring' Attacks Leave Two Hospitalized

US Says Government, Not Moderna, Should Face COVID-19 Vaccine Lawsuit

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, FEB 18, 2023 - 12:00 AM

Authored by Zachary Stieber via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

The U.S. government is asserting that it, not Moderna, should face a lawsuit **that alleges the company committed patent infringement with its COVID-19 vaccine.**

The Moderna headquarters in Cambridge, Mass., on Nov. 30, 2020. (Maddie Meyer/Getty Images)

The government said the court should allow it to "relieve Moderna of any liability for patent infringement resulting in performance of the '-0100 contract and to transfer to the United States any liability for the manufacture or use of the inventions claimed in the patents-in-suit resulting from the authorized and consented acts."

Liability did not refer to an admission of patent infringement, the filing said, but "having legal responsibility for any acts that may constitute the alleged infringement."

Arbutus Biopharma and Genevant Sciences sued Moderna in 2022 in federal court in Delaware, alleging Moderna in its vaccine used "breakthrough technology" that Arbutus had already created and patented.

Moderna later filed for dismissal, arguing that under federal law, any infringement claims relating to inventions being used "by or for the government" and with "**the authorization and consent of the government" must be handled in the Court of Federal Claims.**

The first prong was satisfied in the 2020 contract between Moderna and the U.S. Army—the ’-0100 contract—which stated in part that the agreement was “for the United States government … and the U.S. population,” Moderna said. The second prong, the company said, was met by the insertion of a regulation stating the government “authorizes and consents to all use and manufacture, in performing this contract or any subcontract at any tier, of any invention described in and covered by a United States patent.”

In his ruling rejecting Moderna’s attempt to dismiss the case, U.S. District Judge Mitchell Goldberg said the allegations against Moderna indicated the development and sale of the vaccines was primarily for the benefit of the vaccine’s recipients. The U.S. government was an incidental beneficiary, he said. Under legal precedent, the law, 1498, does not cover inventions with an incidental benefit.

“**While discovery may reveal that all, some, or none of the alleged infringing activity was ‘for the Government,’ the limited record appropriate for consideration at this stage does not allow me to make any such determination**,” Goldberg, a George W. Bush appointee, said. The judge also declined to find that Moderna met the standard for having the government’s authorization and consent, in part because the government had not filed any papers in support of the company.

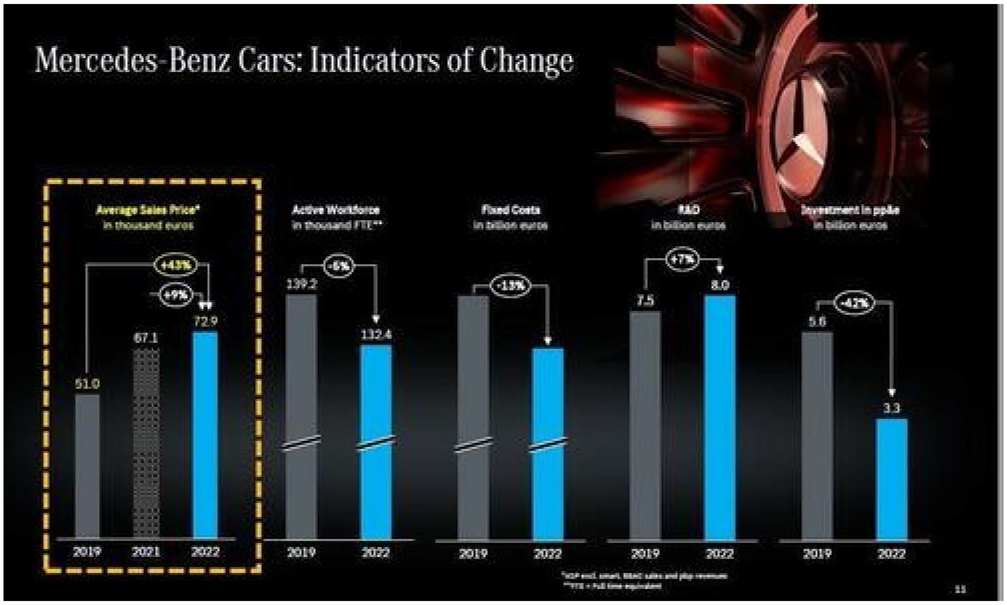
In the new statement of interest, government lawyers made clear they are backing Moderna.

Stats, markets, inflation: feb18 The average monthly payment for a new car has soared to a record $777, nearly doubling from late 2019

Mercedes-Benz Hikes Vehicle Prices By 43% As Only Rich Can Afford

Mercedes-Benz might be returning to the days when corporate executives and only the affluent could afford to roll down the street in German luxury.

That's because a new Benz reached the average price of €72,900 ($76,590) in 2022, a 43% increase over 2019, Bloomberg Opinion Chris Bryant pointed out in a tweet.



"That chimes with the carmaker's push even further upmarket by focusing on top-end models like the S-Class sedan to bolster profits. The company has been working through pent-up demand after chip shortages curbed production last year," Bloomberg said.

The German automaker appears to be taking a different path versus the last decade of providing entry-level models for the average person.

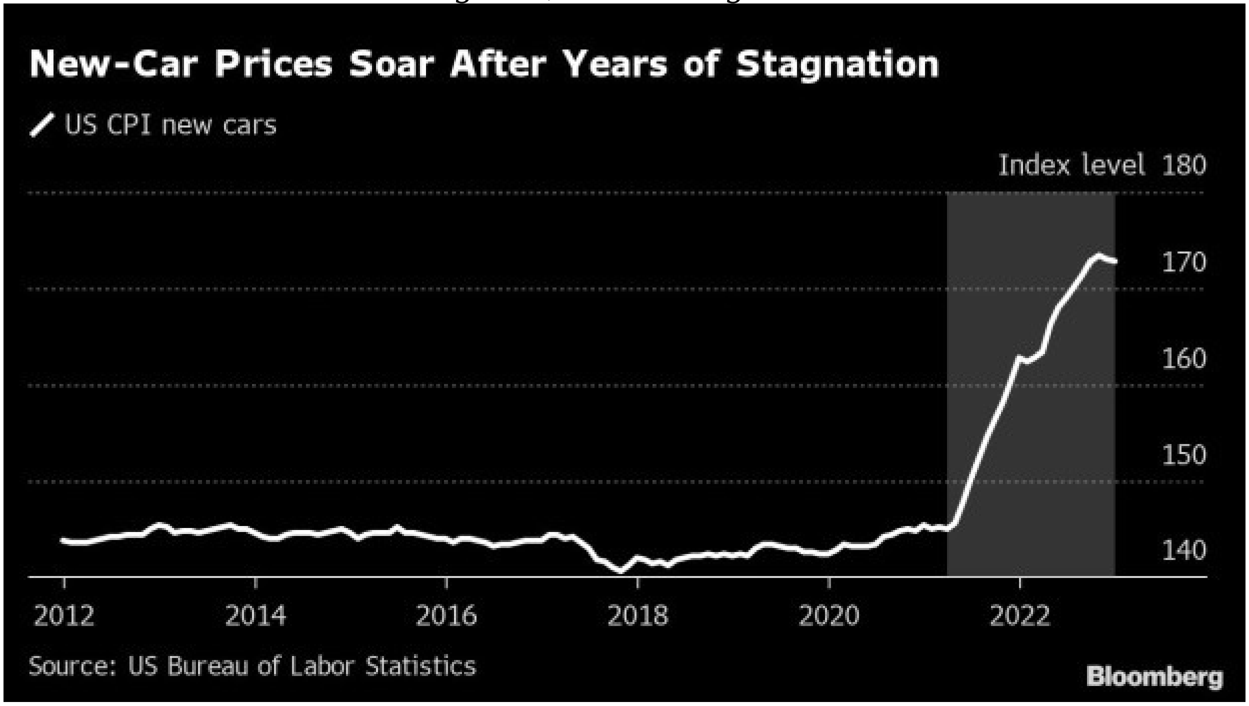
Bloomberg also pointed out:

Mercedes isn't alone. Around the world, manufacturers are reaping the benefits of selling fewer but more expensive cars. In the US, average monthly payments for a new car nearly doubled from late 2019. And as battery-powered vehicles tend to cost more than the average combustion-engine car, the shift to EVs may make the affordability crisis even worse.

Earlier this week, we said shiny new vehicles are out of reach for many Americans.

New Cars Are Only for the Rich Now as Automakers Rake In Profits

David Welch and Keith Naughton, Bloomberg News


New-Car Prices Soar After Years of Stagnation

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

(Bloomberg) -- A shiny new car in the driveway has been an emblem of middle-class prosperity for generations. But for the typical American family, it’s now a distant dream.

The average monthly payment for a new car has soared to a record $777, nearly doubling from late 2019, according to Kelley Blue Book owner Cox Automotive. That’s almost a sixth of the median after-tax income for US households. Even used models have climbed to $544 a month on average.

The sticker shock extends well beyond the US, where inflation is a thorny a political issue for President Joe Biden as the 2024 election looms. In Europe, prices are flirting with records. Used-car prices soared in Japan last year, and in China, a rapid push to electric vehicles means consumers will have to pay more in some cities.

At the root of the problem is automakers' new mantra: Keep inventory lean and price tags fat. Three years after the pandemic triggered a global shortage of semiconductor chips and crippled car manufacturing, Ford Motor Co., General Motors Co. and their overseas rivals are notching big profits. Even as the chip crunch shows signs of easing, they're pledging to keep production in check.

And because electric vehicles cost about 25% more than the average car, the shift to plug-ins is about to make the affordability crisis even worse. Add soaring interest rates to the mix, and new cars — like home ownership and a college education — are fast becoming the domain of the rich.

"The idea of a new car in every American's driveway is not the world we live in," said Charlie Chesbrough, a senior economist at Cox.

Sky-High Payments

For a decade, the average new-car payment in the US bumped along at roughly $400 a month. That's about as much as the typical American household can shell out and still meet other major expenses, said Jonathan Smoke, chief economist at Cox. But it crossed that mark in November 2019 and has been soaring ever since.

The average price for a new vehicle in the US has jumped to almost $50,000, up 30% since 2019, according to JPMorgan. Though prices have retreated somewhat in recent weeks as production recovers, the pullback isn't enough for most consumers to comfortably buy a new car. The average price of a used car, meanwhile, now stands at about $27,000, Cox data show.

Read more: Americans fall behind on car payments at a higher rate than 2009
Manufacturers are reaping the benefits of selling fewer but more expensive cars. Last year, automakers sold about 13 million vehicles in the US, down 8% from 2021 and the lowest in a decade. But Ford's gross profit rose 4.4% in 2022 from a year earlier, while GM's adjusted earnings grew by about $200 million to reach $14.5 billion. Margins for some manufacturers are expected to narrow this year amid global economic weakness.

In Europe, meanwhile, new-car prices are at all-time highs and still climbing, according to data from ING Research. Vehicle shortages drove used-car prices up in Japan through most of last year. China's economic slump has kept prices at bay, but major cities are making it difficult to register internal-combustion vehicles amid a push toward EVs, which tend to be more expensive.

Keeping Inventories Low

It's a sea change from the business model that defined car manufacturing for decades: Run plants at full tilt and then use deep discounts to move the metal. In the US, automakers customarily carried 60 to 100 days of inventory. These days, manufacturers are targeting about half that much to lower overheads and keep prices high.

"We'll never go back to the inventory levels that we were at in the past," GM Chief Executive Officer Mary Barra told investors last year.

Her rival, Ford CEO Jim Farley, has said he doesn’t want to pay for billions of dollars in inventory or offer discounts and other incentives to offload it. Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. have vowed to attempt the same strategy.

“You’re not going to see most manufacturers go back to where it was three or four years ago,” Judy Wheeler, vice president of US vehicle sales for Nissan, said in an interview. “We’ll keep that supply and demand in a level state.”

There are some signs, though, that consumer pain will ease slightly as supply-chain snarls abate. Ford Chief Financial Officer John Lawler said this month that he expects new-car prices to fall 5% in 2023 as automakers dial up the discounts, while Nissan’s Wheeler predicted prices will drop toward “a more normal level.” Tesla Inc. and Ford slashed prices on electric vehicles.

Short-Lived Relief

Dealers are skeptical that automakers will keep inventories in check, said Rhett Ricart, whose Columbus, Ohio-based Ricart Automotive Group is a major dealer of Ford, Nissan and Chevrolet models.

“They all talk about 30 to 45 days’ supply of cars. They won’t do it,” Ricart said in an interview. “These chips aren’t a big issue any more. Car wars is back.”

But any recovery in supply is likely to happen in fits and starts. Barra and Jack Hollis, executive vice president of sales for Toyota Motor North America, see the industry getting enough chips to sell 15 million vehicles in the US this year, which is about 12% below where sales were three years ago. Hollis said there could be more than 4 million vehicles’ worth of pent-up demand from the chip shortage, keeping prices from falling fast.

“We will have another year with a supply-constrained sales number,” Hollis said. “Prices keep rising. It’s clear that demand is still outstripping supply.”

For used cars, Cox’s Smoke sees prices falling only 4% this year, in part because automakers have not been leasing as much. That translates to fewer recent-model cars coming back to market.

Sercy Sanders has been riding the bus in Pittsburgh ever since the transmission blew on his 2006 Acura TL in early January. When the cost of repairing it was more than the car was worth, Sanders got pre-approved for a loan from his credit union and set out to find a 2016 Honda Accord for under $17,000. But he found nothing for less than $19,000 and now is looking at models that are over a decade old.

“That’s just the way it may have to be if I want to stay in my price range and not have too high a monthly car bill,” said Sanders, 48, a customer service representative and single dad of two high schoolers. “It’s very frustrating. I wanted a newer vehicle that I felt would be more reliable. With an older used car, you just never know what you’re going to get.”

And for those looking for a new car at a budget price, the options are limited. Domestic automakers stopped building compact cars in the US because they couldn’t make money on them.

The dearth of cheaper models means more new cars are being snapped up by affluent consumers. Nearly 30% of the market is from households with annual income of more than $150,000, up from 22% in 2016, said Mark Wakefield, managing director at consulting firm AlixPartners.

“You’ve seen a move to more wealthy people buying cars,” Wakefield said. “The bottom part of the market sort of fell out.”

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War, Erdogan, middle east: feb17 US Troops Kill 'ISIS Official' Involved in Planning Prison Breaks in Syria

Islam, stats ,censorship: feb17 TikTokers Jailed as Iraq Targets 'Decadent Content'

Dancing to Iraqi pop made TikTok personality Om Fahad a hit among tens of thousands of followers, but now she is in prison, caught up in a state campaign targeting "decadent content".

The young Iraqi woman using that pseudonym was sentenced early this month to half a year behind bars for the light-hearted video clips that show her in tight-fitting clothes.

A new government campaign aims to cleanse social media platforms of content that breaches Iraqi "mores and traditions", the interior ministry announced in January.

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-11757053/TikTokers-jailed-Iraq-targets-decadent-content.html

War, Erdogan: feb17 NATO Chief Urges Turkey to Let Nordic Pair Join Quickly

ANKARA (AP) — NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Thursday urged Turkey to ratify the applications of Finland and Sweden to join the military organization, repeating his claim that the Nordic neighbors have done enough to satisfy Ankara's demands that they crack down on extremism.

At a news conference in Ankara standing alongside Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Stoltenberg also condemned the burning of the Muslim holy book, the Quran, at a protest in Sweden but he said that this is not illegal in Europe.

Alarmed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine a year ago, Finland and neighboring Sweden abandoned decades of nonalignment and applied to join the alliance. All 30 NATO members approved their applications, and 28 have ratified their accession. Only Turkey and Hungary have failed to do so.

Stoltenberg and most allies have long said that both the Nordic neighbors should join at the same time, but in recent days NATO's top civilian official has soften his stance amid Turkey's reluctance to ratify Sweden's accession.

"My position is that both can be ratified now. But the main issue is not whether they are ratified together, the main issue is that Finland and Sweden are ratified as soon as possible," he told reporters in Ankara.

TURKEY ACCUSES THE GOVERNMENT IN STOCKHOLM OF BEING TOO SOFT ON GROUPS IT DEEMS TO BE TERROR ORGANIZATIONS OR EXISTENTIAL THREATS, INCLUDING KURDISH GROUPS. EARLIER THIS MONTH, CAVUSOGLU SAID ANKARA HAS FEWER PROBLEMS WITH FINLAND JOINING.

"IT WOULD NOT BE A REALISTIC APPROACH TO SAY THAT SWEDEN HAS FULLY FULFILLED ITS OBLIGATIONS," CAVUSOGLU SAID THURSDAY. "AT THE MOMENT, WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE CONCRETE STEPS WE WANT."

WITH CRACKING DOWN ON EXTREMISM A LIKELY VOTE-WINNER IN ELECTIONS SCHEDULED IN TURKEY FOR MAY — ALTHOUGH THE POLLS MIGHT BE DELAYED DUE TO THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE THAT ROCKED TURKEY AND SYRIA LAST WEEK, KILLING ALMOST 40,000 PEOPLE — THE RHETORIC FROM ANKARA HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY HEATED.

IN RECENT WEEKS, TURKISH PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN HAS EXPRESSED ANGER AT A SERIES OF SEPARATE DEMONSTRATIONS IN STOCKHOLM. IN ONE CASE A SOLITARY

ANTI-ISLAM ACTIVIST BURNED THE QURAN OUTSIDE THE TURKISH EMBASSY, WHILE IN AN UNCONNECTED PROTEST AN EFFIGY OF ERDOGAN WAS HANGED.

“I understand and I share the pain because I personally regard the burning of the holy book as a disgraceful act,” Stoltenberg said, but he also praised Sweden for being “able to prevent other (protests) with the burning of the Quran.”

“Not all acts which are disgraceful or immoral or provocative are illegal, but it is important to have a strong position and that is what we have seen daily from the Swedish government,” the former Norwegian prime minister said.

Hungary has not publicly raised any substantial objections to either country joining NATO, but it has chosen to push back its ratification date for their applications three times.

Markets, government, stats: feb17 Lebanon Teeters on the Edge as Currency Loses Nearly 100 Percent of Its Value

Banks Attacked in Beirut as Lira Plummets to New Lows

War, Africa: feb17 UPDF recalls 4,000 reservists, ahead of their deployment in the SOMALIA

The Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) has called up reservists under the age of 55 for training ahead of their deployment in the Somalia Peacekeeping Mission, Defence Spokesperson Felix Kulayigye, said in a statement yesterday.

Reservists have been directed to report to centres in different parts of the country for the short mobilisation exercise that will end on February 18. The deputy Defence spokesperson, Col Deo Akiiki, told this publication that the reservists will be deployed in “two battle groups”.

“We hereby inform the public that the UPDF – Reserve Force will conduct a call-up exercise of UPDF Veterans for a peacekeeping mission. The exercise is expected to run from 15 February to 18 February 2023 and will be conducted in various centres all over the country, by different teams from the UPDF and will be supported by RDCs and DISOs of the area where that particular centre is located,” Brig Kulayigye said in a statement.

The UPDF veterans must have their discharge certificate and a national identity card in order to be qualified for the mission. They must be 55 years of age or younger, in good health, and physically fit.

Once recruited, Col Akiiki clarified, the able-bodied reservists or veterans will form part of Uganda Battle Groups XXXIX and XI.

At the end of the exercise on February 18, successful veterans will be transported to the Peace Support Training Centre, PSO-Singo, Nakaseke District.
Asked whether the capacity of the active force is stretched that the military is turning to veterans for the key peace keeping mission, Col Akiiki said the measure is part of the military’s efforts to engage its veterans and will be implemented within the law.

Stats, Africa, government: feb17 Welcome to Africa:" Senegal Police Smash Car, Forcibly Remove Opposition Leader"

Senegal police smash car, forcibly remove opposition leader

By BABACAR DIONEyesterday

1 of 12

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Police in Senegal smashed the window of a car in which a top opposition leader was sitting and forced him from the vehicle Thursday, marking the latest unrest surrounding a likely challenger to the ruling party in elections next year.

Videos recorded by his driver and posted on social media by his supporters showed police physically removing Ousmane Sonko from the back seat of his car after he appeared in a Dakar court.

Authorities later escorted the 46-year-old politician to his residence, according to Senegalese media. Sonko's supporters saw the incident as the latest attempt to cut short his political career, including his likely presidential candidacy in 2024.

Sonko finished third in Senegal's 2019 presidential election and has called on President Macky Sall to say publicly that he won't seek a third term.

The opposition leader was in court as part of a civil lawsuit against him by Senegal's tourism minister for defamation and public insults. The case stems from accusations that Sonko made against the minister during a news conference late last year. A judge on Thursday postponed the trial until next month.

Stats, Africa, war: feb17 At least 6 million Nigerians affected by the extremist insurgency in northeastern Nigeria need $1.3 billion in aid this year, according to the U.N. office in Nigeria.

War, government: eb17 america seems to be having trouble maintaining discipline with

national guard troops served with mission of defended southern border **https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2023/02/16/a-year-on-pentagons-border-mission-investigation-still-missing/**

Stats, censorship, government: feb17 Blinkin takes issue with indonesia's law that bans citizens from having sex outside marriage and prohibiting cohabitation between unmarried couples.

Blinken Conveys U.S. Concern Over Indonesia Criminal Code

By Reuters

|

Feb. 16, 2023, at 12:30 p.m.

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FILE PHOTO: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks to the media prior to meetings at the State Department in Washington, U.S., on February 7, 2023. Olivier Douliery/Pool via REUTERS**REUTERS**

By Kanishka Singh and Rami Ayyub

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed Washington's concern about certain provisions in Indonesia's new criminal code in a call Thursday with the country's foreign minister, Retno Marsudi, the State Department said.

War: feb17 Five Held for Alleged Violent Bid to Overthrow Serbian Leader

The protesters gathered in front of the presidency building in downtown Belgrade, carrying banners that read “Kosovo is the heart of Serbia,” “No surrender,” and “Betrayal of Kosovo is betrayal of Russia!”

Journal, government, markets: feb17 As Cash Runs Out, Pakistan Introduces Bill to Unlock IMF Funds

Stats, islam, middle east, china, censorship, government: feb17 China, Iran Call on Afghanistan to End Restrictions on Women

BEIJING (AP) — China and Iran have urged mutual neighbor Afghanistan to end restrictions on women’s work and education.

The call came in a joint statement Thursday issued at the close of a visit to Beijing by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi during which the two sides affirmed close economic and political ties and their rejection of Western standards of human rights and democracy.

Since taking over Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban has banned women and girls from universities and schools after the sixth grade and forced out those in elected offices and other prominent positions.

“The two sides ... called on the Afghan rulers to form an inclusive government in which all ethnic groups and political groups actually participate, and cancel all discriminatory measures against women, ethnic minorities and other religions,” the statement said, adding that the U.S. and its NATO allies “should be responsible for the current situation in Afghanistan.”

Markets, sanctions, Russia, war: feb17 potential russian aluminum tariff coming soon

A potential aluminum shortage could be rearing its ugly head once again. This will prove especially true if the U.S. goes ahead with a proposed move to shut out all Russian aluminum unilaterally. Currently, the plan is to accomplish this via a tariff of up to 200%.

Last year there were rumors that the LME may ban Russian metals causing a massive aluminum shortage. At the time, the decision hinged on fears that Russian metal may flood into the LME as a market of last resort should sanctions shut Russia out of global trade. In the end, the LME decided not to proceed with an outright ban, preferring to follow government guidelines regarding sanctions. In the interim, the flood of Russian metal has yet to materialize.

That said, significant deliveries are beginning to turn up in Asia. The above post reports details nearly 110,000 tons delivered into Gwangyang in South Korea this month by Glencore. This is a portent of what’s to come if China cannot absorb all the metal Rusal is pumping out.

It remains to be seen if this is indicative of a disconnect between the LME (increasingly Russian in makeup) and global non-Russian market prices. In the end, it will depend on how deliveries increase over time. Certainly, the trend holds the potential for the LME’s aluminum price to decline below the global average. This would be similar to how the LME’s nickel price continues to diverge from the global nickel market, albeit the reasons would be different.

Take the fact that the LME 3-month aluminum price has eased since earlier this month, yet the M.W. premium has increased. This is evidence that, while demand is expected to ease in the face of recessionary pressures, metal remains tight and an aluminum shortage is possible. Meanwhile, the rising M.W. premium suggests consumers are concerned they could end up trapped between cooling demand and rising input costs. Ultimately, this could put processors under margin pressure in the months ahead.

By Stuart Burns

War: feb17 US to Give Czechs $200 Million to Modernize Army, Compensate Ukraine Aid

Belarus Says Will Join Ukraine Offensive 'Only' if Attacked

Stats, energy, Russia, government: Analysts Predict 42% Decline In Russian Oil Production By 2035

Feb17

War: feb17 Rheinmetall to Produce 300,000 Gepard Anti-Aircraft Tank Rounds for Ukraine

Rheinmetall has been awarded a contract to manufacture 300,000 rounds for the Gepard anti-aircraft tanks used by the Ukrainian Army.

The German defense ministry order is valued in the "low three-digit million-euro range."

Half of the ammunition will be Armor Piercing Discarding Sabot – Tracers (APDS-T) featuring increased armor penetration.

The other 150,000 rounds will be High Explosive Incendiary – Tracer (HEI-T).

"Rheinmetall is currently creating additional medium-caliber ammunition production capacity, which is due to go into operation in summer 2023," the company stated in a press release.

"In building this new production line, Rheinmetall is responding to sharply increased global demand."

The first batch of APDS-T ammunition will arrive in Ukraine by the summer of 2023, while production for the HEI-T rounds will commence in mid-2024.

The Gepard Tank

Developed by Krauss-Maffei Wegmann, the Gepard is a heavily-armored German mobile air defense system based on the chassis of the Leopard main battle tank.

Equipped with twin Oerlikon KDA 35-millimeter guns, each can carry 320 rounds of ready-to-fire, anti-aircraft ammunition.

The tank is fitted with independent search and tracking radars that provide 360-degree scanning and simultaneous target-tracking capability.

Stats, Germany, history, holy roman empire, journal, readlater: Rheinmetall, Founded 13 April 1889; 133 years ago, is a german arms manufacturer...looking into their history would provide a swift reference point for understanding germany during the time of world wars.

They were forced to shutdown due to the armistice after germany lost the war, but restarted operations in the 1930's. Yet, and I've never seen this before, the Wikipedia isn't able to name the specific dates of the company's major acquisitions.   It just says "at some point". Strange.

Rheinmetall was founded in 1889. Banker and investor Lorenz Zuckermandel[2] (1847–1928) was one of the founders and the first chairman of the supervisory board. It manufactured steel products, including armaments.

During the post-WWI disarmament of Germany, the company diversified, but by the 1930s armament manufacture resumed. In 1933, it acquired A. Borsig GmbH, which manufactured locomotives.[3]

At some point it bought the Swiss firm **Oerlikon Contraves**, which it later renamed Rheinmetall Air Defence.

At some point it bought the Swiss firm **Oerlikon Contraves Pyrotec**, which it later renamed RWM Schweiz.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rheinmetall

Journal, war, government: feb17 uhh...okay: more than 10,000 ukrainians have been sent to Britain over the last year to turn them into soldiers in the war against Russia.

Under the tutelage of forces from Britain, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway, among others, the Ukrainians will be taught over five weeks about the laws of armed conflict, urban and trench warfare, weaponry and battlefield medicine.

Britain's government said on Thursday it aims to double the number taught in 2023 to 20,000, across a handful of locations around the country.

The move is one part of a ramping-up of support for Ukraine, after NATO alliance officials met the previous day to plot more assistance for Kyiv. Britain is sending 14 Challenger tanks and hundreds more missiles.

War, Erdogan, Russia, government: feb17 Israel Top Diplomat on First Kyiv Trip Since Russia Invasion

Foreign Minister Eli Cohen arrived in Kyiv on Thursday on the first visit to Ukraine by an Israeli minister since the Russian invasion nearly a year ago, his office said.

Cohen "will make an official visit today to Kyiv, during which he will meet President (Volodymyr) Zelensky and Foreign Minister (Dmytr) Kuleba," the Israeli foreign ministry said in a statement after his arrival in the Ukrainian capital.

Israel has ties with both Russia and Ukraine, which have been tested since Moscow's invasion of its neighbour.

Israel provided Ukraine with intelligence to tackle Iran-made drones deployed by Russia, but has employed a wary approach to Moscow due Russia's military activity in Syria, where Israel has carried out hundreds of air strikes since civil war broke out in 2011.

War, Erdogan, middle east: feb17 turkish fund raising campaign, incuding many tops names in the country, from turkish airlines to the nations central bank, raises 6 billion for earthquake relief efforts

A Turkish fund-raising campaign has raised more than $6 billion (115.1 billion Turkish liras) for victims of last week's devastating earthquakes, according to *Anadolu Agency*.

Several television channels joined forces to hold the Türkiye One Heart campaign. Donors included politicians, companies, state institutions and individual citizens.

Turkey’s Central Bank was the biggest donor, pledging $1.6 billion, while other banks such as Ziraat and Vakif promised $1 billion and $637 million respectively.

The country’s flagship carrier Turkish Airlines and defense firm Baykar contributed $106 million each (2 billion liras) to the campaign.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, members of the cabinet, opposition leaders and several celebrities made large donations.

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Blinken to visit Turkey as quake death toll nears 42,000

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The New Arab Staff & Agencies

The funds will be collected by Turkey’s Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency and the Turkish Red Crescent.

The series of earthquakes and aftershocks, the worst of which was 7.8 in magnitude, rocked southeastern Turkey and northwestern Syria on 6 February. Nearly 42,000 people have died, although the death toll is expected to rise.

Thousands of structures across the affected regions have collapsed and entire neighbourhoods have been wiped out, sparking anger against the Erdogan government for allowing construction that lacked proper implementation of building standards.

War, government: Oil-Rich Norway Donates $7.4 Billion in Aid to Ukraine

Government, history, Russia: feb17 “The forced displacement of the Chagossians and ongoing abuses amount to crimes against humanity committed by a colonial power against an indigenous people,” human rights watch

“The manner in which the Chagossian community was removed from the Territory in the 1960s and 1970s, and the way they were treated, was wrong and we look back with deep regret," the government said at the time.

The Chagos Islands are the heart of the British Indian Ocean Territory, some 6,000 miles southeast of London and home to the U.S. Navy base at Diego Garcia. The base was built in the 1970s and provides what American authorities have described as "an all but indispensable platform" for security operations in the Middle East, South Asia and East Africa.

ADVERTISEMENT

But Diego Garcia has been the source of controversy for decades because the islands were home to about 1,500 people when discussions about the base began in the 1960s. In addition, the islands historically had been administered as a dependency of Mauritius, a U.K. territory that was then moving toward independence.

https://apnews.com/article/politics-united-kingdom-states-government-human-rights-watch-london-ceec69da01789c3e321ddffc1085c23d

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War, Africa: feb17 US Launches Another Airstrike in Somalia, Claims 5 al-Shabaab Killed

US Launches Another Airstrike in Somalia, Claims 5 al-Shabaab Killed

The strike is the second known airstrike in Somalia this monthby Dave DeCamp Posted onFebruary 16, 2023CategoriesNewsTagsSomalia

US Africa Command (AFRICOM) announced it launched an airstrike in Somalia against al-Shabaab on Wednesday, the second known US airstrike in the country this month.

Iran, middle east, sanctions, war: feb17 iranian sanctions, even though they explicity state medical to be excluded, are still hampering irans medical system. UN experts said this week

that US sanctions on Iran are causing more deaths of Iranians with thalassemia, a congenital blood disorder that requires specialized medicine. “The lack of access to medication has resulted in many more deaths,” two UN experts, Alena Douhan and Obiora C. Okafor, said, according to a press release put out by the UN on Tuesday.

UN experts said this week that US sanctions on Iran are causing more deaths of Iranians with thalassemia, a congenital blood disorder that requires specialized medicine.

“The lack of access to medication has resulted in many more deaths,” two UN experts, Alena Douhan and Obiora C. Okafor, said, according to a press release put out by the UN on Tuesday.

“Since the re-imposition of sanctions against Iran by the US in 2018, over-compliance with sanctions has escalated, affecting the import of life-saving iron-regulating medicines for Iranian thalassemia patients. This not only violates their right to health, but also results in increased complications and mortality rates,” Douhan and Okafor said.

War, Russia, china: feb17 Ukraine Shoots Down 'Decoy' Russian Balloons As Moldova, Romania Report High-Altitude Objects

*"The balloons were launched to detect & **exhaust our air defense forces**."*

Following last week's balloon shootdown incidents over the United States, there have been a slew of fresh reports involving high-altitude balloon activity over eastern Europe, including incidents involving **objects over Moldova, Romania, as well as potential 'weaponized' balloons over Ukraine**.

"Ukraine's army has said Russia fired 36 cruise missiles on Thursday, a day after six apparently radar-reflecting balloons were spotted over Kyiv," BBC reports. Ukraine authorities have said the balloon activity is related to a change in Russian tactics, which have of late included sending wind-propelled reflective balloons over the capital and other cities in order to provoke an anti-air response.

Illustrative: A Russian military high-altitude balloon being launched. Source: The Drive/TV ZVEZDA

"These objects could carry radar reflectors and certain reconnaissance equipment," Ukrainian air force spokesman Yurii Ihnat said. **"The balloons were launched to detect and exhaust our air defense forces."**

The military further described that most balloons had been shot down, and they are intentionally designed to be picked up on radar as decoys.

"Balloons with reflectors have also been spotted over the eastern region of Dnipropetrovsk in recent days," BBC continues, also referencing photographs which surfaced on social media in recent days.

Tiny Moldova was among those earlier this week to close its airspace due to an unidentified object, now believed to be a balloon, and Romania even **scrambled fighter jets in response to "an object resembling a weather balloon was spotted at a height of around 11,000 ft (3,350m),"** according to official statements.

In a briefing, Romania's defense ministry said the object wasn't a threat upon closer review, and the it had "characteristics similar to a weather balloon" - but had been picked up on radar and warranted investigation.

Via Telegram: deflated balloon tied to a reflector, believed used by the Russian military to trigger Ukrainian air defense.

The dispatched jets had surveyed the area for about 30 minutes, but "did not confirm the presence of the aerial target, neither visually nor on the onboard radars," and afterward returned to base without incident, defense officials said.

Stats, war, sanctions, Erdogan, censorship, china, government: feb17 NATO Chief Admits: "War Didn't Start In February Last Year, The War Started In 2014"

With the one-year anniversary of Russia's Feb.24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine just around the corner, NATO secretary general Jens Stoltenberg this week issued some surprising words regarding the history and origin of the conflict. In essence he **finally admitted an important truth**, which is of course extremely rare among top Western officials these days.

Whereas prior to these fresh remarks by Stoltenberg, US and NATO officials including major media, have framed the invasion exclusively as merely one man's (Putin) 'unprovoked' naked aggression bent on enlarging an 'expansionist Russia', Stoltenberg now much belatedly admits **"the war didn't start in February last year. *The war started in 2014*."**

Here's what the NATO chief said during a briefing to reporters, and in front of cameras, as also transcribed and published to NATO's official website...

"The other thing I will say is that the war didn't start in February last year. **The war started in 2014**. And since 2014, NATO Allies have provided support to Ukraine, with **training, with equipment, so the Ukrainian Armed Forces were much stronger in 2022, than they were in 2020, and 2014**. And of course, that made a huge difference when President Putin decided to attack Ukraine," Stoltenberg said.

Below are some essential facts and a much-needed trip down memory lane concerning the lead-up to Feb 2022 to understand what we and other independent voices have been saying for years, and what Stoltenberg has just now very belatedly and reluctantly admitted:

- The current Ukrainian government was created in 2014 after a violent, American-backed coup against the elected President Viktor Yanukovich. The so-called "Maidan Revolution" painted itself as pro-EU and liberal, but relied on ultranationalist terror militias such as Right Sector for its muscle.
  - Profile: Ukraine's ultra-nationalist Right Sector - BBC News
- Ukraine's new government has banned the Russian language in schools and businesses, even though it is spoken by most of the residents in the Donbas region as their first language (and throughout other parts of the country as well):
  - New law stokes Ukraine language tensions - France 24
- Pre-February 2022, Ukraine had already lost about 14,000 lives fighting to prevent the ethnically Russian provinces of Lugansk and Donetsk from permanently seceding (the 14,000 figure includes deaths from *both sides* of the civil war in eastern Ukraine). The unpopular war has been going on since 2014.
  - The Russia-Ukraine conflict: a look back at the human toll of fighting since 2014 - The Washington Post
- Few Western journalists are willing to show the misery this conflict has brought to the residents of the Donbas, or the war crimes that have been inflicted upon them. Patrick Lancaster has been one of the few reporting on this:
  - Patrick Lancaster - YouTube
- The Ukrainian government has frequently shut off water to the disputed territories, including Crimea, even while they claim sovereignty over them.
  - Water supply to 345,000 people in eastern Ukraine at risk as Donetsk Filter Station stops operations | OCHA (unocha.org)
  - Russia vs Ukraine: Crimea's Water Crisis Is an Impossible Problem for Putin - Bloomberg.
  - Conflict cuts water supply for thousands in eastern Ukraine | OCHA (unocha.org)
- It's now ok to praise Nazis on Facebook-- as long as they're "our Nazis":
  - Facebook Allows Praise of Ukraine's Neo-Nazi Azov Battalion (theintercept.com)
- Ukrainian President Zelensky suggested last year that if the country could not join NATO, he would pursue re-arming the country with nuclear weapons.
  - UAWire - Zelensky: Ukraine may reconsider its nuclear status

- The New York Times calls this "Putin's conspiracy theory", as if the words didn't come straight from the Ukrainian President's mouth on multiple occasions.

War, Russia: feb17 Second Russian Aircraft Intercept Over Alaska Within 48 Hours

NORAD belatedly reveals back-to-back incidents...

Stats, health, government: feb17 The World Health Organization (WHO) convened an "urgent meeting" this week amid an outbreak of the Marburg virus, which causes one of the world's deadliest diseases, in Africa.

Health officials say Marburg, first seen in the late 1960s, is related to Ebola. However, **WHO officials say it's far more deadly, killing upwards of 88 percent of people who contract it.**

The virus has been detected in several African countries over the past several months, including recently in Equatorial Guinea. A small number of Marburg cases were found in Ghana late last year.

"WHO on Tuesday convened an urgent meeting of the Marburg virus vaccine consortium (MARVAC) to discuss the outbreak," a news release from the United Nations-backed health agency said on Tuesday, adding that Equatorial Guinea has confirmed its first-ever case of the virus. WHO officials say the virus is responsible for nine deaths in the tiny African nation.

The Marburg outbreak was centered around Kie Ntem Province, located in western Equatorial Guinea. The deaths occurred between Jan. 7 and Feb. 7, WHO said, citing reports.

“Surveillance in the field has been intensified,” George Ameh, WHO’s country representative in Equatorial Guinea, was quoted as saying by the Daily Mail during Tuesday’s meeting. “Contact tracing, as you know, is a cornerstone of the response. We have … redeployed the COVID-19 teams that were there for contact tracing and quickly retrofitted them to really help us out.”

War, sanctions ,energy, Russia, government: feb17 Notorious Drug Trafficking Hub Used For Russian Oil Shipments (spaniards playing both sides?)

A Spanish city on the northern coast of Africa between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean, notorious for being a drug-trafficking hub, has become a major new hub of ship-to-ship transfers of Russian oil and illicit activities aimed at obscuring the origin of the crude, maritime consultancy Windward Ltd said in a report carried by Bloomberg.

Waters around the Spanish city of Ceuta in North Africa have become the scene of an increasing number of ship-to-ship transfers since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The activity is clearly linked to Russia, according to Windward.

Russia is believed to be looking to mask tanker routes and locations amid the **rising use of a vast “dark fleet” to evade Western sanctions** and the price caps on Russian oil and products.

According to Windward, **port calls in North Africa have seen a 147% jump in tankers, mostly crude oil tankers, from Russia.** STS transshipment and dark activities in the Black Sea have also soared since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The dark activities are mainly being carried out by tankers registered in countries such as Panama, Malta, Liberia, or Cameroon, Windward says.

An unusually large number of tankers have changed ownership in recent months in what analysts and shipping industry officials believe is a push from Russia to continue shipping large volumes of its crude and entities willing to profit from the Russian oil trade in a sanctions regime. The ‘dark’ or ‘shadow’ fleet of oil tankers is growing to now include tankers not only shipping sanctioned Iranian and Venezuelan oil, but also increasingly larger volumes of Russian oil and products.

Meanwhile, loadings of Russia’s flagship Urals crude using ship-to-ship (STS) transfers in the Mediterranean surged eight times in January from December to a record in the first full month in which the EU banned seaborne imports of Russian oil. STS loadings, used by traders to move the crude from smaller tankers onto larger ones to make the journey to Asia profitable, have soared since the EU ban came into effect on December 5, according to data from Refinitiv Eikon cited by Reuters earlier this month.

Censorship, government: feb17 US States Move Towards Mandatory Age-Verification For Pornhub

The movement to protect children appears to be driven by social conservatives. Rep. Laurie Schlegel pushed Louisiana's age-verification law. In December, she tweeted:

"Online pornography is extreme and graphic and only one click away from our children. This is not your daddy's Playboy. And if pornography companies refuse to be responsible, then we must hold them accountable. This law is a first step."

Finally, lawmakers are stepping up a campaign to block unfettered access porn websites. But shouldn't the minor's parents be responsible for internet-blocking software on devices?

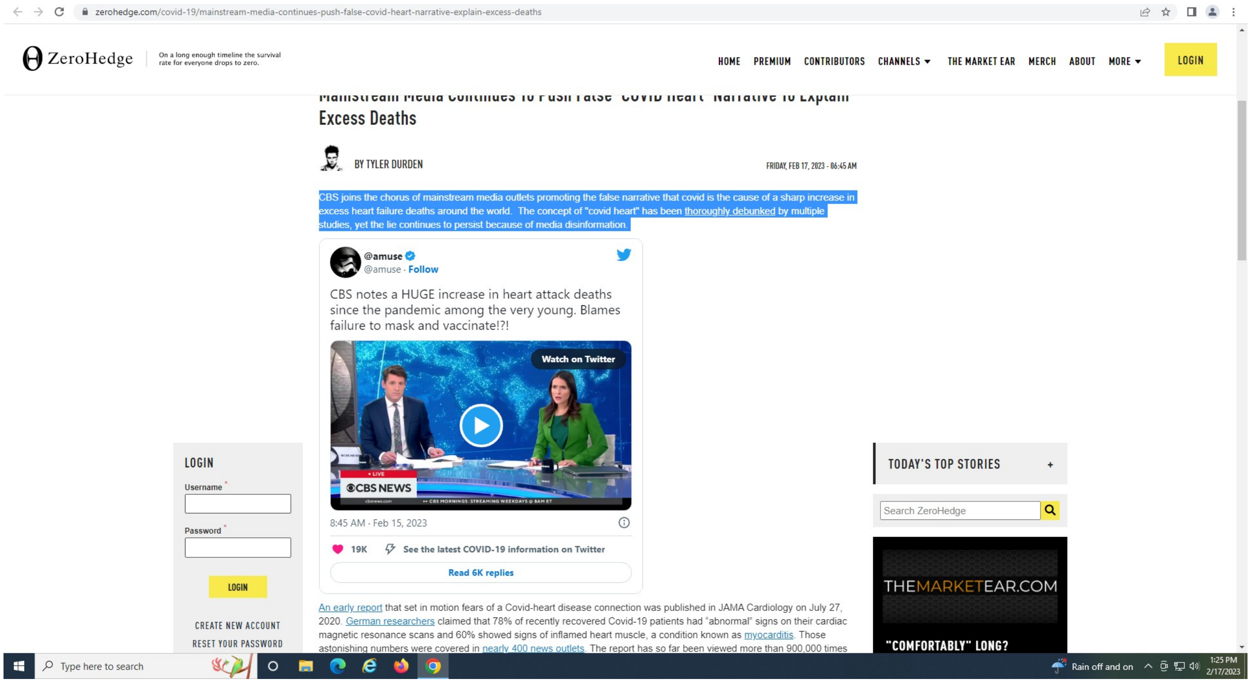
Vaccine, censorship, health, stats: feb17

Mainstream Media Continues To Push False 'COVID Heart' Narrative To Explain Excess Deaths

An early report that set in motion fears of a Covid-heart disease connection was published in JAMA Cardiology on July 27, 2020. German researchers claimed that 78% of recently recovered Covid-19 patients had “abnormal” signs on their cardiac magnetic resonance scans and 60% showed signs of inflamed heart muscle, a condition known as myocarditis. Those astonishing numbers were covered in nearly 400 news outlets. The report has so far been viewed more than 900,000 times — a rarity for academic papers.

Soon after its publication, however, the paper was criticized for statistical and methodologic errors. It eventually underwent a long but much quieter correction that indicated that many of the abnormalities were only marginally more common among those recovering from Covid-19 than among similar control individuals who had not had Covid-19.

CBS joins the chorus of mainstream media outlets promoting the false narrative that covid is the cause of a sharp increase in excess heart failure deaths around the world. The concept of "covid heart" has been thoroughly debunked by multiple studies, yet the lie continues to persist because of media disinformation.


zerohedge.com/covid-19/mainstream-media-continues-push-false-covid-heart-narrative-explain-excess-deaths
ZeroHedge
On a long enough timeline the survival rate for everyone drops to zero.
HOME
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CHANNELS
THE MARKET EAR
MERCH
ABOUT
MORE
LOGIN
LOGIN
Username
Password
LOGIN
CREATE NEW ACCOUNT
RESET YOUR PASSWORD
TODAY'S TOP STORIES
Search ZeroHedge
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LIVE
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CBS MORNINGS: STREAMING WEEKDAYS @ 8AM ET
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2/17/2023

Mainstream Media Continues To Push False "Covid Heart" Narrative To Explain Excess Deaths

BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, FEB 17, 2023 - 06:45 AM

CBS joins the chorus of mainstream media outlets promoting the false narrative that covid is the cause of a sharp increase in excess heart failure deaths around the world. The concept of "covid heart" has been thoroughly debunked by multiple studies, yet the lie continues to persist because of media disinformation.

@amuse
@amuse · Follow

CBS notes a HUGE increase in heart attack deaths since the pandemic among the very young. Blames failure to mask and vaccinate!?!

8:45 AM · Feb 15, 2023

19K See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Read 6K replies

An early report that set in motion fears of a Covid-heart disease connection was published in JAMA Cardiology on July 27, 2020. German researchers claimed that 78% of recently recovered Covid-19 patients had "abnormal" signs on their cardiac magnetic resonance scans and 60% showed signs of inflamed heart muscle, a condition known as myocarditis. Those astonishing numbers were covered in nearly 400 news outlets. The report has so far been viewed more than 900,000 times

The assertion of the existence of covid heart serves a useful purpose, however, as it conveniently helps to distract from the very real threat of myocarditis caused by mRNA vaccines. Studies show a direct connection between covid vaccination, boosters, and risk of heart failure, specifically in younger people. The corporate media continues to ignore these studies in favor of the covid heart claim.

The CBS report presents a correlation as proof of causation: The explosion in heart failure happened in parallel with the pandemic, therefore, they say it "must be covid" that is causing the damage. But there was one other event that also happened in parallel with the heart failure spike - The introduction of experimental mRNA vaccines which have never been used before.

In reality, there is no evidence of a significant increase in risk of heart problems from contraction of covid, and there are no studies yet that use unvaccinated people as a control group to determine if vaccines help or hurt a patient's chances. Medical officials simply assume that the deaths of younger people are due to them being "less likely" to have been vaccinated. The complete absence of objective scientific analysis has contributed to a lack of understanding surrounding covid risks versus vaccine risks. Mainstream outlets have consistently proven they are only interested in repeating establishment positions and protecting the status quo.

Why don't medical authorities use unvaccinated people as a control group for their observations? Why do they continue to promote assumptions rather than definitive evidence? One can only theorize, but this behavior suggests a desire to hide certain findings and mislead the public rather than uncover the facts.

Crypto, markets: feb17 Binance Reportedly Explores Severing All Ties To US Amid Regulatory Crackdown, CZ Denies

Binance Reportedly Explores Severing All Ties To US Amid Regulatory Crackdown, CZ Denies

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, FEB 17, 2023 - 12:29 PM

Update 1130am ET: the digital ink is not yet dry on the Bloomberg report and already CZ is denying the report:

BINANCE CEO SAYS REPORT ABOUT CO CONSIDERING DELISTING ALL U.S.-BASED CRYPTOCURRENCIES IS "FALSE"

Stats, government, india: feb17 “This is the first work of any responsible government to pay attention towards the poor, says local east politican

'Too afraid to sleep': India's homeless women suffer as cities expand

By Rina Chandran, Thomson Reuters Foundation
7 MIN READ

NEW DELHI (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Manjeet Kaur cannot say exactly how old she is or how long she has lived on the pavement of a busy street in New Delhi, her belongings in plastic bags, her washing hanging on the railing.

Residents at a shelter for homeless women in New Delhi, which has among the most homeless people in India. July 4, 2018. Thomson Reuters Foundation/Rina Chandran

Kaur was kicked out years ago by her husband’s family in the northern Indian city of Ludhiana after a quarrel over property. She boarded a bus to New Delhi with her two young sons, going first to a Sikh gurudwara, a place of worship, for free food.

With no money and no one to turn to, Kaur and her sons settled on the pavement outside the gurudwara, marking their space among other families who lived there.

When it rains, they cover themselves with plastic sheets. They have little protection from the winter’s cold or the summer heat, when temperatures routinely soar above 40°C (104°F).

“I had nowhere to go. The house, the land - nothing was in my name,” said Kaur.

“Here, the police harass us, and the locals curse us, and I’m sometimes too afraid to sleep. But we cannot afford to pay rent and the shelters are not good, so what option do we have?”

Kaur is one of at least 10,000 homeless women in India’s capital, where thousands of people arrive everyday from villages and small towns, looking for better opportunities.

Many end up in slums and other informal settlements. Others settle under bridges, flyovers, on pavements and road dividers.

Women, who are estimated to make up about 10 percent of India’s homeless population, suffer the brunt of a growing crisis brought on by rapid urbanization, soaring property prices, and a critical lack of shelters and affordable housing.

Compounding the difficulty is a lack of reliable data on homeless people, and homeless women in particular.

Delhi, a city of more than 16 million people, has 46,724 homeless people - among the most of any Indian city - according to the 2011 census.

Rights groups say the estimate is conservative, and that the actual figure is three times higher.

They also question the reported decline in India’s homeless population to 1.77 million nationwide in the 2011 census data, from 1.9 million a decade earlier.

In the same period, the urban homeless rose by a fifth, according to the data.

“Our cities are growing at a remarkable rate, and that puts a strain on the government’s capacity to respond to the needs of the people, including the homeless,” said Ashwin Parulkar at the Delhi-based think tank Centre for Policy and Research.

“Not having an accurate understanding of the extent of homelessness - who they are, where they are, what their needs are - hinders policymaking and compromises the ability to plan and provide for them,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Slideshow (7 images)

DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS

Globally, at least 150 million people, or about 2 percent of the population, are estimated to be homeless. More than a fifth of the population lacks adequate housing.

But getting an accurate handle on homelessness is difficult because of different definitions in countries, and governments’ inability to adequately measure the phenomenon, said Joseph Chamie, a former director of the U.N. population agency.

Governments also have a tendency to understate the problem, while the homeless are reluctant to be counted, he said.

Yet the causes are the same: poverty, lack of affordable housing, mental illness, alcohol and drug addiction, family breakdown, civil conflict and environmental disasters, he said.

“There is no quick solution: even developed countries are encountering considerable difficulties. So ending urban homelessness in less developed countries is unlikely,” he said.

With at least 55 percent of the world’s population living in urban centers, homelessness is ever more apparent, from Los Angeles to Hong Kong.

The problem is especially severe in India, which is forecast to overtake China by 2024 as the world’s most populous country, with tens of millions cramming into already crowded cities.

Alongside, evictions are rising: at least six homes are pulled down and 30 people forcibly removed each hour in India to make way for metro stations and highways.

Homeless women bear the brunt, as they face more abuse and violence on the street, but have few claims over property and limited access to shelters, said Shivani Chaudhry at the advocacy group Housing and Land Rights Network in Delhi.

Many of these women have left abusive marriages, suffered sexual violence, or have been abandoned by families for mental illness or after the death of a husband, she said.

“Homeless women suffer the worst kinds of violence and insecurity, and are vulnerable to sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking,” said Chaudhry.

“Shelters are not a permanent solution.”

HOUSING FOR ALL

India has committed to provide housing for all its citizens by 2022, with an aim to build 20 million urban units.

But analysts say the program bypasses homeless people who cannot afford the mortgage payments.

The Supreme Court has ordered states to provide at least one 24-hour shelter for every 100,000 residents in major urban centers.

Few states have complied, citing the high cost of land.

“Our top priority is to have enough permanent shelters with facilities and services, including healthcare, job training and counseling,” said Bipin Rai, a senior official at the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board.

“But the main challenge is lack of land. So we have to make do with temporary shelters,” he said.

Delhi has the most shelters of any Indian city - about 200 to hold more than 16,000 people. There are 20 shelters for women.

More than half the shelters are porta-cabins, which are refashioned steel containers with few facilities.

At some permanent women’s shelters, women get three meals a day, skills training and help getting identification papers and school admissions for their children.

At one such shelter, colorful drawings by the children are on a wall, including several of a simple house flanked by two trees, the sun smiling from above.

“I would like to earn enough so I can live in a house with my family,” said Saima, who had previously lived on the street after coming to Delhi some years ago.

“But that may not be possible. This may be our only home.”

In Memory of 14-Year-Old Chandan. So Many of You Helped Him.

Even by Delhi's miserable January standards, it was a bitterly cold night when we met Chandan in 2013. Volunteers with the Uday Foundation were distributing blankets to the homeless sleeping outside AIIMS. We saw Chandan, who was then 12 years old, on the pavement, covered with few blankets, moaning in pain. He was with his parents who told us that he was suffering from bone cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy at AIIMS. When they ran out of cash, the family, which had travelled to Delhi from Bihar, moved to the pavement.

Chandan in IAF overalls at the Ambala Air Force Station on November 11, 2014.

A report on Chandan aired on NDTV and within two days, Chandan had over twelve lakhs deposited in the bank account that was set up for him. He was immediately shifted to a rented flat. Some of the money was used to cover the cost of his treatment. For the next two years, he underwent 22 sessions of chemotherapy; his smile defied the pain to make long and unforgettable appearances.

Then he got to fly the Jaguar Simulator. In his words, "It was the most cherished moment of my life". The sortie on the simulator lasted for around 20 minutes. The most exciting maneuver, he said, was the loop.

Chandan died today - on Wednesday, February 4. He had just turned 14. For strangers everywhere who helped him, we are all grateful. In our grief, we thank you for your generosity and concern.

https://www.ndtv.com/blog/in-memory-of-14-year-old-chandan-so-many-of-you-helped-him-737028

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/after-2-years-no-food-at-city-night-shelters/articleshow/94274340.cms

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/delhi-govt-to-offer-3-meals-a-day-at-300-night-shelters/articleshow/89260906.cms

mind-boggling story about being homeless in india; apparently things look to have changed only recently...

History, stats, church: In 1588, Pope Sixtus V issued a papal bull officially classifying abortion, regardless of the stage of fetal development, as homicide.

https://daily.jstor.org/what-a-16th-century-abortion-ban-revealed/#:~:text=In%201588%2C%20Pope%20Sixtus%20V,of%20fetal%20development%2C%20as%20homicide.&text=The%20legal%20status%20of%20abortion,%2Dcontrolled%20sixteenth%2Dcentury%20Italy

Stats, censorship, government: feb16 that black guy apparently gets to 'keep fighting' for the money that was illegally seized from him by police officers without him technically even being charged with anything whatsoever. This is the world we live in today folks! Proofs in the pudding belowww!

Trucker gets to keep fighting to get his seized $39,500 back

MAY 13, 2022

•

Chuck Robinson

|

Jerry Johnson, owner of Triple J. Logistics, gets a win in court that lets him keep fighting to get his $39,500 back after it was seized 19 months ago. No charges were filed in the case, but prosecutors thought it smelled like marijuana. (Photo courtesy Institute for Justice)

The owner of a small trucking business whose cash was seized when he flew to Phoenix for a truck auction has won a court battle allowing him to continue to fight for his money.

Jerry Johnson's $39,500 in cash was seized Aug. 17, 2020, at Phoenix's Sky Harbor Airport. It was in two cardboard – $7,500 in his carry-on backpack and $32,000 in boxes he had packed in his checked luggage. He was never charged with any crime, but Maricopa County prosecutors and law enforcement officers seized the money through civil asset forfeiture. They said they suspected that it was drug money being laundered.

Johnson owns Triple J. Logistics, which is licensed in Maryland. He works from the Charlotte, N.C., area hauling dry van freight. He said he was planning to add to his fleet of two Peterbilts with one of several available through Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers in Phoenix.

Required to sign a form

Law enforcement officers interrogated Johnson for an hour at the airport, Johnson told Land Line in July 2021. They told him they thought his money smelled like marijuana. Law enforcement officers knew he had been charged with marijuana and cocaine possession in 2005 and 2012.

When they offered to let him go, they made him sign a paper that was a "disclaimer of ownership" form, Johnson said. It said he was surrendering his money.

"He told me if I didn't sign that paper he's going to arrest me," Johnson told Land Line in July 2021.

He left Phoenix without staying the night or going to the auction. Even though he was never charged with a crime, an Arizona trial court ruled that Jerry failed to prove the cash was his and, therefore, he could not contest the civil forfeiture of his money. Johnson reached out to the nonprofit public interest law firm Institute for Justice to contest the trial court's ruling.

The decision comes six months after Jerry Johnson's attorneys and a representative from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office gave oral arguments before the appeals court as to whether the Maricopa County Superior Court's finding that Johnson failed to prove the money was his was correct.

In its May 10 decision, the Court of Appeals concluded that, "This was a not a trivial or technical error," and that the lower court's ruling violated Jerry's right to due process, according to news release from the Institute for Justice. The decision further affirms that "Johnson in fact proved he owned the money."

Judges critical during oral arguments

Judges were critical of the Maricopa County attorney’s comments about the ownership of the seized money during the Nov. 9, 2021, oral arguments before the Arizona Court of Appeals.

“I don’t know how much I have in my wallet,” Judge Peter Swann told the prosecutor in November. “Do you need to check it? Should I be worried that the police are going to come check it? Am I going to have to explain where I got it?”

Swann wrote the court’s May 10 decision.

“The state argues that Johnson failed to prove ownership, but if it is not Johnson’s money, then whose money is it?” Swann wrote in the decision. “The state failed to introduce any evidence of who owned the money.”

The government has 30 days to appeal the Court of Appeals’ ruling to the Arizona Supreme Court. If it does not appeal, the case will be sent back to the trial court, where the government will either have to prove that Jerry’s money was connected to criminal activity or return it.

“Today’s decision points out the obvious: Jerry Johnson properly proved ownership of his money and has the right to defend it in court,” Alexa Gervasi, one of the attorneys representing Johnson, said in a written statement. “The scales are already tipped in the government’s favor in civil forfeiture, but the lower court went outside the bounds of Arizona law when it forced Jerry to prove his own innocence. We are glad that Jerry will have his day in court to defend against the unjust forfeiture of his life savings.”

Arizona civil asset forfeiture reform

Since Johnson’s money was seized, On May 5, 2021, such waivers later became illegal after Gov. Doug Ducey signed a bill that reformed Arizona’s civil forfeiture laws. Civil asset forfeiture now requires a criminal conviction for the state to forfeit one’s property in civil court under most circumstances. ***LL***

China Semiconductor Trade Group Warns US Pact With Japan, Netherlands Threatens Global Industry

- CSIA's response comes about two weeks after the US, Japan and the Netherlands reportedly reached an agreement to impose export controls against China covering certain chip-making equipment, such as ArF Immersion deep ultraviolet lithography machines, a move that would undercut Beijing's ambitions to build up the country's semiconductor capabilities. Details of the trilateral deal have not been made public.

- Dutch chip making equipment supplier ASML Holding, which is barred from selling its most-advanced lithography machines to China, said in its latest annual report that any new restrictions would take months to draw up and enact.

- The China Semiconductor Industry Association said it is opposed to actions that exclude the domestic market from global innovation
- Its response comes about two weeks after the US, Japan and the Netherlands reportedly reached a deal to impose tightened chip export controls on China

A Chinese state-backed semiconductor trade group has warned that the United States-led pact with Japan and the Netherlands to further restrict China's access to chip-making technology poses a threat to the entire industry and marks a step back in the era of free trade.

"China Semiconductor Industry Association (CSIA) firmly protests against such acts which destroy the global semiconductor ecosystem," the 744-member trade body said in a statement published on its website on Wednesday, condemning "inappropriate intervention by governments and authorities". It also called for increased support for globalisation and resistance to efforts that destabilise supply and demand.

"We oppose such acts that exclude China's semiconductor industry from the global innovation system and free-market competition," the group said.

A month before the unilateral export restrictions by the US in October, the CSIA had advocated for China's increased self-reliance in innovating and developing its own core technologies.

Core technologies, however, are China's Achilles' heel, despite having the world's strongest industrial manufacturing capability. The country's semiconductor foundries continue to depend on imported tools in their operations, making them easy prey for Washington in its strategy of tech containment.

Journal, government, middle east, markets: feb16 Through organizations like the World Bank and the IMF America, and NATO, are able to exert direct financial influence over governments worldwide..

“The Egyptian pound has lost half of its value in less than a year, propelling annual inflation in the import-dependent country to 26.5 percent in January.”

Egypt, sapped dry of dollars despite a $3 billion International Monetary Fund bailout loan, is seeking to boost its coffers by selling state assets to wealthy Gulf nations.

Experts say the deals could be a win-win for all sides, but unlike the old Gulf largesse of unconditional aid, the new deals will require reforms.

Cairo hopes the cash injection will plug what the IMF warns is "a financing gap of about $17 billion over the next four years".

For Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, eager to diversify their oil and gas-based economies, it provides a swift route to snap up assets, land and stakes in state enterprises in the North African nation.

War, middle east: feb16 Iraq PM 'Pledges to Rid Cities of Militias Within a Year'

War, Erdogan, middle east: feb16 French UN Official Threatens Forced Entry of Aid Convoys to Syria

French UN official Nicolas de Riviere threatened to draft a resolution according to Chapter VII of the UN charter to force the entry of aid convoys through all Syrian border crossings.

De Riviere, the Permanent Representative of France to the UN on the situation in Syria, made his comments on Monday, 13 February, amid the controversy concerning the opening of border crossings between government-controlled parts of the country’s opposition-held areas in the north bordering Turkey to provide aid to Syrian civilians in the wake of last week’s devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake.

De Riviere’s comments suggested the Syrian government was to blame for blocking the flow of aid to desperate residents in areas not under its control.

However, Abu Muhammad Al-Julani, the leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (formerly the Al-Qaeda-affiliated group known as the Nusra Front), acknowledged that his group was responsible for preventing the flow of aid from government-held to the opposition-held territory. Julani insisted that help enter territory under the extremist group’s control through the Bab al-Hawa crossing between northern Syria and Turkey.

The Syrian government officially opened two new border crossings in northern Syria, Saraqib and Abu Azeidin, to provide earthquake relief aid to people in opposition-held territory. Deputy Head of the Russian Reconciliation Center, Major General Oleg Yegorov, said at a briefing on 13 February.

Yegorov stated that convoys were ready to set off for the affected areas, escorted by representatives of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC). Yegorov’s statement followed high-level talks between Assad and UN aid chief Martin Griffiths in Damascus on the same day, during which the Syrian president agreed to open the crossings.

However, on 12 February, an HTS source was quoted as saying that the group “won’t allow the regime to take advantage of the situation to show they are helping,” while the following day, HTS leader Julani claimed during a press conference that his group “does not have teams ready to secure these deliveries.”

“There is no need to dispatch our technical teams to bring aid in from regime territory … The Bab al-Hawa crossing is there … For those who want to help, Bab al-Hawa is open, God willing,” Julani said, even though roads leading to the

Bab al-Hawa crossing were severely damaged in the earthquake.

The Bab al-Hawa crossing played a crucial role during the 7-year US, Gulf, British, French, Israeli, and Turkish-backed insurgency against the Syrian government, which began in 2011. The crossing, through which Western and regional intelligence agencies funneled foreign fighters and weapons into Syria, provided lucrative benefits to whichever armed group controlled it due to taxes imposed on all items transiting through it.

Bab al-Hawa was often contested among the foreign-backed Salafist armed groups fighting the Syrian government under the Free Syrian Army (FSA) banner.

During the war, the French government strongly supported Julani and the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front. Then French Foreign minister Laurent Fabius stated in August 2012 that “Bashar al-Assad does not deserve to be on earth” and in December 2012 that Julani’s “Al-Nusra Front is doing a good job” in the war against the Syrian government.

War, Erdogan: feb16 The sale of a Bahraini island to Israeli company Himnota triggered nationwide outrage in Bahrain on Monday, when it was revealed by an Israeli news outlet that the company had bought the island for a mere $21.5 million in an auction.

War, Erdogan: feb16 Northwest Syria of 'Greatest Concern' After Quake -WHO

GENEVA (Reuters) -The World Health Organization said on Wednesday it was particularly concerned over the welfare of people in northwestern Syria, a rebel-held region with little access to aid, since the earthquakes struck last week.

"It's clear that the zone of greatest concern at the moment is the area of northwestern Syria," WHO's emergencies director, Mike Ryan, told a briefing in Geneva.

read later: Hacking, Extortion, Election Interference: These Are the Tools Used by Israel's Agents of Chaos and Manipulation

Hacking, Extortion, Election Interference: These Are the Tools Used by Israel's Agents of Chaos and Manipulation

Revealed: The cyberweapons a key Israeli company offers its clients in order to corrupt democracies across the globe

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Omer Benjakob *and*
Gur Megiddo

Feb 15, 2023 6:08 am IST

“Thank you my love. It was a wonderful night. Waiting for you whenever you come back,” read the note attached to the sex toy hidden inside the Amazon delivery box. It was allegedly sent by Shannon Aiken, a 38-year-old Washington woman, to the home of a politician at the height of an election campaign. His wife received the package. The politician slept in his office for two days. A crew was secretly sent to film him there, and the embarrassing footage leaked online.

Aiken appears real. She is active on Facebook and Twitter, has a real Gmail account and an active WhatsApp, both linked to a real phone number. Her Amazon is connected to a credit card, while real funds from her digital wallet paid for the package purportedly containing a dildo, condoms and lubricants.

However, despite her impressive digital footprint, Aiken is not real. She is an avatar: a complex, fake digital persona built to mimic human behavior and avoid detection – not a bot, but a “cyborg.”

It is impossible to know if her story is true. In one version we were told, the politician returned from a trip to the Gulf prior to receiving the package; in another, from Europe. But that is exactly the point.

Tal Hanan is the man who told us the different versions of Aiken’s story and the person in command of an army of fake social media accounts.

Hanan is the head of a business that offers dark services to the highest bidder: digital surveillance, hack-and-leak smear campaigns, influence operations, disinformation, and election interference and suppression.

Foreign Information Manipulation and Intervention, or FIMI, is increasingly considered a threat to national security and international stability. It is usually attributed to states or state agencies in countries such as Russia or China. Hanan, a private actor, and his team claim to have been active for more than a decade and boast meddling in 33 presidential elections – 27 of them successfully.

This is the second story in a global investigation into the disinformation-for-hire industry. It was conducted as part of the Story Killers project led by Forbidden Stories, a Paris-based consortium of international journalists who pursue the work of assassinated or threatened journalists.

An undercover investigation led by journalists from TheMarker, Radio France and Haaretz in Israel resulted in a series of meetings that were secretly recorded with Team Jorge – as they called themselves. Hanan (who called himself Jorge in our meetings) and Co. thought they were meeting with representatives of a potential client from an African country.

The clients' goal: postponing the elections there, perhaps indefinitely, without cause. The price: 6 million euros (nearly $6.5 million).

Over the course of six meetings, held online and in person, the intermediaries – actually, three undercover reporters – were pitched by Team Jorge. The recorded materials were then investigated over six months by the project members, which included over 100 reporters worldwide from the likes of Le Monde, Der Spiegel, Die Zeit, The Guardian, Paper Trail Media, El Pais and the investigative journalist group OCCRP.

The Team Jorge brand is at the center of this global investigation. This report reveals the dangerous mix of technology and tradecraft the group offers. It meshes the worlds of active intelligence and psychological warfare into a one-stop-shop that includes hacking for hire, digital spying and surveillance, never-before-seen technologies for the mass creation and deployment of fake accounts, and tools for social media manipulation and the dissemination of disinformation online.

These are sold together, as a service, to the highest bidder, including political actors – but also private ones like embattled oligarchs and cryptocurrency dealers – looking to use influence tools to smear rivals or hype digital currencies.

Open gallery view

Election interference – a guide

Every influence operation, Hanan explained during our first meetings, has three stages: gathering intelligence, constructing a narrative, and deploying for maximum impact.

For the first stage, Team Jorge offers a dizzying array of intelligence skills, including hacking and cyberoffense. Once targets are selected (for example, officials in a rival political campaign), Team Jorge claim they can hack into their emails and messaging apps like Telegram – both troves of valuable information. At a later stage, these can be manipulated and hacked materials can even be leaked or forged. Hanan called this “active intelligence.”

“An email [account] is not just email today, right? You have contacts, you have a Drive. Let’s see what he has on his Drive,” Hanan said as he scrolled through his victim’s Google account

Open gallery view

The Telegram account of a senior Kenyan politician. Hanan demonstrated how he sends messages from the hijacked account

“Nick” – aka Zohar, Tal’s brother – chimed in during the face-to-face meeting we had with the team. He explained that sometimes people keep their passwords in their drafts or in notes that are backed-up on their email, providing more actionable intel. “Sometimes people

[save] their password in [the] Notes [app],” he explained. “So we taking the notes, we taking the passwords … even to the bank,” he added in his Israeli-accented English.

The Hanan brothers would go on to explain how their hacking capabilities work – stunning the experts.

They take advantage of a known loophole in the international cellular network, in what experts say is a new, creative and disconcerting way. With the help of an official telecom provider – usually accessed through some nefarious backhanded local cooperation – and a little social engineering, they claim to be able to find almost any phone in the world and even intercept its data to gain access to many of its apps.

“It's $50,000 a number,” Zohar Hanan said during our last meeting, admitting the group also offers general hacking-for-hire services. He suggested different methods for payment, but his brother shouted out from his office: “Crypto! Crypto!”

Profiler

The mobile hacking abilities of Team Jorge, much like most intel gathering, is based on a program called Profiler.

Profiler is an open source and web intelligence (OSINT and WEBINT) tool that creates a full intelligence profile on targets by scraping known online databases. It also seems able to collect data from less legitimate sources: It is able to match names to numbers that should not be public.

For example, Tal Hanan claimed, feeding Profiler a target’s phone number allows Team Jorge to find its SIM card’s ID - or its “international mobile subscriber identity.” This is then used to geolocate it via the international roaming system and perhaps even to intercept its communications by exploiting it.

Unlike spyware such as the NSO Group’s Pegasus, this type of attack does not leave digital forensics on a device.

Hanan revealed how Profiler served them in a project in the Gulf that is best described as political persecution. A local sheikh gave Team Jorge an anonymous Twitter account and, with Profiler’s help, they managed to trace it back to its actual owner – thus revealing the dissident's identity.

Global Bank Scan

Another tool in Team Jorge’s intelligence arsenal is Global Bank Scan. Hanan said this could create a full financial profile on targets – including secret offshore accounts and wire transfers – by accessing a global banking database. This is likely false.

According to sources, in more than one instance clients he supplied with financial data suspected that the information was bogus.

Open gallery view

D-Day: Hard-core release

Intel collection is just the first phase in Team Jorge’s disinformation operations. Dirt is collected to help their client reach their goal – whether that be smearing a competitor, suppressing voter turnout or even wreaking havoc during an Election Day in Africa.

“D-Day,” as they term Election Day, can also require active measures: from cellphone attacks to “killing” the internet as voting begins, per a fastly cut video clip Team Jorge showed to potential clients.

“Electronic warfare, let’s call it,” said Hanan, elaborating on what their presentation dubs “voter suppression” services. These also include “blame game” tactics and something they call “hard-core release.” These include targeting rivals’ phones, as well as wide-scale cyberattacks such as DDoS attacks (standing for distributed denial-of-service – which overwhelms a site with traffic, knocking it offline) against government websites.

There are many types of attack offered as part of Team Jorge’s “disruption” services – but their underlying goal is nearly always concerned with lowering turnout, casting doubt on potentially negative results and generally undermining trust in the democratic process.

These attacks are “evidence of the bleeding of state-sponsored tactics of cyberwarfare into the hands of for-hire cybermercenaries,” said Dr. Nir Grinberg, an assistant professor at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be’er Sheva. He previously published one of the definitive studies about disinformation on Twitter during the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

“The outsourcing of disinformation campaigns is a new concept,” he said – specifically “the bundling of cybercrime capabilities for manufacturing an alternative reality with an elaborate apparatus to promote this disinformation online.”

The combination of intelligence, influence and political strategy services is what made Team Jorge’s pitch unique: “It’s not PR work; it’s intelligence work,” Hanan said during one Zoom presentation.

“PR is just one means to get information out. The key with intelligence is that there is no one solution … and nothing works 100 percent. Okay. Let me show you what does work.”

Advanced Impact Media Solutions

At the heart of Team Jorge’s service stands Advanced Impact Media Solutions (AIMS), an advanced disinformation system that this investigation is revealing for the first time.

A software system capable of creating and deploying fake accounts across social media at scale and without detection, AIMS was developed by Team Jorge to serve as a versatile online influence and social media manipulation tool.

Open gallery view

Hanan's AIMS system, for creating and operating thousands of deep avatars

“What is fake news?” Hanan asked rhetorically during one meeting. “Fake news is when people do believe it. Not because it’s reality or not reality. The question is credibility.”

And Hanan has the necessary tools to create and manipulate credibility.

A mass avatar management system, AIMS allows for real accounts to be created for nonexistent people. These can then be deployed either as a swarm – similar to a network of bots – or as single agents.

“Let’s make one together,” Hanan said enthusiastically, opening AIMS’ “Create Profiles Wizard” – an interface that creates new avatars per a client’s needs.

With one click, AIMS generates a new name, ethnicity, nationality, language, hometown and more for the new avatar, based on the campaign’s location or needs. After picking a name, AIMS then offers an entire set of photos for use.

Hanan created a new avatar for us: a woman from the United Kingdom. He did not like the generic British name his system initially provided, so hit a button and generated a new name: “Sophia Wilde – I like the name.” Her photos, this investigation found, belong to a real woman who had no idea her likeness was being used to demo influence operations.

Open gallery view

The AIMS avatar creation wizard that Hanan showed the undercover reporters

AIMS does not use AI to generate its avatars’ photos. These can be spotted by social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, which are still scrambling to address “coordinated inauthentic behavior.” AIMS gives its avatars real pictures belonging to real people, lending them further credence. “And after you’ve created credibility, what do you do? Then you can manipulate,” Hanan explained.

Digital footprint

A single click will breathe digital life into the fake persona, automatically opening a Gmail account under the avatar’s name, in their native language and registered to their home country – all to avoid detection.

The avatar also gets a local cellphone number, which is used to verify the email account. “All our avatars are SMS-verified,” said Hanan proudly.

The phone number and email, he claimed, form the basis for an avatar’s digital identity – and they also get a unique digital footprint: “[Sophia is using] Chrome on this version of Windows,” Hanan noted.

Additional layers are then added to the avatar: specific accounts on specific platforms, from Instagram to WhatsApp – all of which require either an email or phone number (or both) to register.

AIMS, a dropdown menu reveals, can purportedly automatically create verified accounts on dozens of websites. These go well beyond Twitter and Facebook, and include communication app Discord and interactive livestreaming service Twitch, as well as websites such as Reddit, Amazon and Airbnb, and even gaming sites. It is unclear if this aspect of AIMS is actually fully automated. However, Team Jorge claims that any site with a login can be added to enrich an avatar’s identity and grant them more credibility.

Some even have digital wallets. “If someone looks and checks our avatar, he will see it even has a crypto wallet ... with Bitcoin,” Hanan boasted.

He showed us the Shannon Aiken profile again – the avatar that purportedly sent sex toys to a politician. “She has a credit card,” he laughed. “What do you think: is it real or not?”

Virgin avatars

Shannon Aiken is one of the “stars” of AIMS – part of the elite unit in Team Jorge‘s army of avatars. Avatars, Hanan explained, are like wine: the older, the better. Aiken‘s Gmail and Facebook accounts have been active for more than two years, he noted proudly.

Single avatars like Aiken can serve as lone agents of chaos, helping to create a political scandal. However, others are needed to amplify it into a story through an automated social media campaign.

Open gallery view

Shannon Aiken's avatar. "Thank you my love. It was a wonderful night"

AIMS’ home screen boasted over 31,000 avatars when we first saw it last summer. During our last meeting, in December, it showed almost 40,000.

Under each avatar’s name and photo, a list of icons indicated the social media platforms on which they are active. Not all avatars are created equal: There is a star system, ranking the quality of each one in the system.

Alongside stars like Aiken, the AIMS avatars are organized according to language and location, so they can easily be grouped and deployed in different contexts.

AIMS’ avatar management dashboard listed the following groups: Africa, Arabian, Armenian, Brazilian, Canada, European (mix), Kenya, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, South America, Ukraine, USA and Zimbabwe. Later we shall see some from Francophone Africa.

There are also avatars active in cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin, and NFTs, the artificially scarce digital objects created by using blockchain technology. Even Aiken was found to have tweeted about crypto coins, highlighting how the same avatars can serve different campaigns.

“These are technologies and skills that have never been seen from the inside,” said Prof. Anat Ben-David, a digital media researcher at the Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communications at the Israeli Open University. (At the reporters' request, she reviewed the footage from the Team Jorge presentations.) The disinformation researcher added that this was the “first time we are seeing a disinformation system's interface from the inside.”

How many avatars would you need to postpone an election in Africa without good cause, Hanan asked rhetorically. “Do we need 10,000? No, we need about 1,000,” he responded. Half, he added, could be “virgin” – an industry term for new avatars, created just for us – and half could be preexisting avatars, depending on “how much inventory we have [from] other African countries.”

After selecting a group of avatars, Hanan showed us an “automatic campaign creation” screen and demonstrated how they could now be deployed en masse. The avatars can push out posts on Facebook, or Like or comment on each other’s posts to amplify a message. On Twitter, they can promote a link or try to get a certain hashtag to trend.

We asked for a real-life demonstration, which Hanan provided, leading the investigation to over 1,800 accounts on Twitter and Facebook that were active in at least 19 campaigns in 18 countries for political but mostly private clients. These ranged from a campaign against California Gov. Gavin Newsom to one in favor of a South American corporation.

Open gallery view

The #Rip_Emmanuel demo Hanan provided for us exposed 19 real-world disinformation campaigns

The content for campaigns is created by a local team hired by the client but managed by Team Jorge, Hanan explained – a troll farm, of sorts.

During our final meeting, in December, AIMS had not just grown its number of avatars. It had also been upgraded to include AI capabilities. Now, you no longer need to upload a spreadsheet with posts written by hired hands; AIMS can automatically generate posts based on a set of keywords. These can be “positive,” “negative” or “neutral” – thus rendering the troll farm obsolete.

600 fake links

Another tool in Team Jorge’s arsenal is Blogger. This helps provide the links the avatars push out during campaigns. These can range from leaked materials to videos, and are hosted on seemingly real websites – the sites and blogs it creates.

Blogger, Hanan explained, can create “600 links for the same news” story. That way, he said, “I don’t care” if the links get burned. “We can create as many links [for] content [as] we want. The blogs themselves are not important, even though they help for SEO [Search Engine Optimization] – but we don't go there. We don't need it for that. We needed it to put them on social media.”

We did not see a working version of the Blogger system, but did see its output: A spreadsheet with hundreds of links leading to what seemed like the same handful of news stories and videos from an election in Asia. A number of the campaigns found through suspected avatars posted links to similar sites that have since been taken offline.

As a result, the campaign can come full circle: the materials obtained through hacking and active intelligence, including forged materials, are leaked online. Blogger creates the links and the avatars amplify them.

Every “10 avatars, every 10 promotions, every 10 campaigns, I change the link. It’s unlimited, basically,” Hanan said. “The link is for a video and it can be YouTube or a website we set up. Then we usually do a leak site – like WikiLeaks, but with a different name."

Facebook groups can also be created. "We create credibility for this leak site and we put it on social media," he explained. Avatars discovered by the consortium of journalists also posted links to websites and news reports. They offered leaks about different businesspeople and officials who were the targets of the different campaigns.

Similar tactics described by Hanan can apparently now be seen in Kenya, where an unidentified actor is offering leaked materials purporting to be the "real" result of last summer's presidential election, which Team Jorge's likely client lost.

"The most disturbing part is the bundle of services," says digital media researcher Ben-David. "For those developing these technologies, elections are not really a democratic process but a battleground in which any means are justified. These are simply weapons of war, and they're being used against democracy."

Experts explained that, many times, the goal of disinformation campaigns is not to advance a specific agenda but rather, to create the conditions needed for advancing alternative narratives.

"There is a long shadow over the effectiveness of social media disinformation campaigns," said disinformation researcher Grinberg. "Therefore, it may very well be that the biggest impact of disinformation campaigns – like the ones reported here – is in creating a facade of effectiveness that is larger than life, and pushing us closer to questioning the authenticity of everything we see online."

‘We’re nothing’

In 2019, the Archimedes Group – an Israeli disinformation firm – was revealed to be operating dozens of fake Facebook accounts on behalf of political clients in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The connection between Israeli IP addresses and accounts elsewhere exposed them as being fake. Consequently, the firm, its groups and its workers were all banned from the platform.

Team Jorge and AIMS overcame this exposure by using “residential proxies” – a complex system of connections that mask the location of their activities while also providing them and their avatars with a local identity.

Unlike Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), which are used to change our virtual location, residential proxies use actual devices located in the target country to avoid detection – at times rerouting trafficking in creative ways. In fact, while VPNs are easily detectable, residential proxies are not. That is why they serve as the “oil of the disinformation industry,” says Donncha Ó Cearbhaill, an ethical hacker and researcher who worked with the investigation.

Team Jorge, this investigation believes, works with a residential proxy provider, in order to provide its avatars with local digital identities in the form of real IPs that cannot be found by social media sites.

Team Jorge also seems to work with a cellular provider that serves AIMS in a similar manner, likely giving avatars their local numbers and supplying the infrastructure needed to grant them SMS verification.

The deliberately misleading technical infrastructure also serves to hide such actors. The process creates another layer of plausible deniability between, in this case, Team Jorge, the client and the campaign’s content, and helps them further mask the truth. Or, as Hanan put it in one presentation: “My signal is from Indonesia, the WhatsApp from Hong Kong, Telegram from Germany. And none of them are my numbers.”

At that stage, Hanan still believed digital trickery could help hide his identity. “Jorge” was still Jorge. During our last meeting, the man who we now knew to be Tal Hanan asked if we saw what was written on the door outside his office in Modi’in. “Nothing. It says nothing. That’s who we are. We’re nothing.”

Tal Hanan and Zohar Hanan refused to answer questions. Tal Hanan denied “any wrongdoing.” Zohar Hanan said: “I have been working all my life according to the law!”

War, Russia, government: feb16 East Palestine "Residents May Already Be Undergoing DNA Mutations," Class Action Lawsuit Alleges

Norfolk Southern is not off to a great start. There are increasing reports that residents are experiencing short-term health impacts after the derailment and controlled burn of toxic chemical vinyl chloride. Residents as far away as Pittsburgh are wondering about potential health impacts, according to local media, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

And then, there are long-term health implications with exposure to vinyl chloride, such as an increased risk of developing a rare form of liver cancer (hepatic angiosarcoma), liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma), brain and lung cancers, lymphoma, and leukemia.

War, government, Russia: feb16 Another Derailment?! Train Carrying Hazardous Materials Crashes Near Detroit

Amid the chaos in Ohio, and two more (one in Texas and one in South Carolina), yet another train has derailed Thursday in **Van Buren Township outside Detroit, Michigan**.

Fox News reports that **at least one car contains hazardous materials.**

Police told Fox2 Detroit that there were **no injuries and the area is not a hazmat situation.**

"We are also in touch with the relevant federal authorities, including the EPA," Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., said in a statement obtained by Fox2 Detroit.

"At this time no one is aware of the release of any hazardous materials, the car carrying hazardous material has been put upright and is being removed from the area of the other derailed cars, and EPA is dispatching a team to ensure public safety," she said.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy also said it is "aware of the train derailment in Van Buren Township, Wayne County, where **initial reports indicate no threat to the public from the derailment.**

Developing...

journal: WOW factor in effect: currently shocked by the weather right now as of 2: 18pm. It's s hot that I had to remove all my layers, and even my scarf. While I was walking, I even began to feel the sun beating down like a hot summer day....Truly amazing for this to be happening in the middle of february after everything else that has transpired following record breaking heat in what was supposed to be the worst energy crisis in modern histry, or what was coined by the media, "putins winter".

Tech, ai: feb16 ‘They look alien’: NASA uses AI to design complex spacecraft parts

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/nasa-ai-assisted-spacecraft-design
that'sa what I said when I saw this AI generated exoskeleton for a conventional airplane. It looked like smething that had been created by an alien or something...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aR5N2JI8k14

Tech, ai: feb16 Now you can sit back and watch a robot pump gas into your cars https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/robot-gas-pump

Readlater, Russia, war: Russian Diplomats Issue Dire Warnings That War With US Is Close

Authored by Kyle Anzalone & Will Porter,

The Kremlin's top diplomat has warned that Western involvement in Ukraine is nearing **"the point of no return,"** accusing the United States and the NATO bloc of attempting to transform the country into a "Russophobic military stronghold." Meanwhile, Moscow's UN envoy declared that all of Russia's "red lines" have already been crossed.

Addressing lawmakers at Russia's State Duma on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov outlined the causes of the current conflict in Ukraine and the deterioration of US-Russia relations, saying Washington has a "maniacal desire to revive the neo-colonial unipolar world order."

"An integral part of this policy is the long-term containment of Russia, including through the expansion of NATO towards our borders, as well as the transformation of fraternal Ukraine into **a Russophobic military stronghold**," he said. "In recent years, this line of Washington and its European satellites has reached the point of no return."

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Washington and several other Western states gave assurances to Moscow that the NATO alliance would not expand beyond Germany. However, in the years since, Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump have each allowed new members to join the alliance, all of them inching closer to Russia's borders.

Starting in 2008, NATO has repeatedly declared its intention to someday allow Ukraine to become a member, again reiterating that pledge at a recent alliance summit. The move would cross the **"brightest of all red lines"** for Moscow, as was previously noted by then-State Department official and current CIA Director William Burns, who penned a 2008 memo warning of the geopolitical perils of extending membership to Kiev.

Still, President Joe Biden has refused to change course, insisting it is up to Ukraine whether it would like to join the US-led military bloc while effectively making Kiev a de facto member in the meantime. In an interview with Newsweek on Tuesday, Russia's UN envoy Dmitry Polyanskiy argued that the West has not respected Moscow's core security concerns, and has become directly involved in the conflict in Ukraine.

"All the red lines have already been crossed by Western countries. There is already semi-direct involvement of NATO in the conflict because it's not only weaponry but it's intelligence," he said. "It's the situation when the targets of certain artillery systems, in particular HIMARS, these targets can be hit only with the coordination with Washington."

Last week, the Washington Post reported that Ukraine relies on American intelligence for selecting targets. Since the start of the year, the White House has authorized the shipment of main battle tanks and long-range rockets to Kiev. Additionally, NATO appears to be preparing to send Western-made warplanes to Ukraine.

"It means that NATO is not only providing weapons but also are choosing the targets for Ukrainian strikes," *Polyanskiy continued.*

He went on to allege that citizens from NATO countries are already fighting – as well as getting captured and killed – in Ukraine. **"We know this from the people that we capture and from the bodies that we see on the battlefield."** The ambassador said Western weapons would only escalate the conflict, even warning that foreign intervention could eventually trigger a nuclear war.

"It's absolutely clear that any deliveries of weapons to the zone of conflict, of course, is **like pouring oil into the fire**," he said, adding "If you are dealing with a nuclear power and if you are citing the goal of inflicting defeat to this nuclear power, you should have all the options in mind of our possible response."

In their remarks, both diplomats also pointed to potential American involvement in the destruction of the Nord Stream pipelines. Last week, investigative journalist Seymour Hersh published a bombshell report claiming that Washington planned to bomb the pipelines. The White House has denied that it had any part sabotaging the line, though Senator Mike Lee later acknowledged that it was possible.

On Wednesday, Polyanskiy said that Moscow requested a UN meeting next week to address Hersh's reporting. Lavrov rejected denials from the Biden administration, saying the West is "**lying, hiding the truth about the terrorist attacks** on the Nord Stream and Nord Stream-2 gas pipelines, just as they lied about the Minsk agreements."

Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel claimed the Minsk agreement, which ostensibly was meant to end the civil war in Ukraine, was really intended to give Kiev time to build up its military. In a December 1 interview with Der Spiegel, Merkel said that she believes that during the Minsk talks, she was able to buy the time Ukraine needed to better fend off a Russian attack.

Dozens of migrants killed in shipwreck. many also died on the trip across the atlantic during the trans-atlantic slave trades.

GENEVA (AP) — An inflatable rubber boat carrying migrants wrecked off the coast of Libya and 73 people were missing and presumed dead, the U.N. migration agency said Wednesday. It was the latest tragedy involving migrants seeking better lives in Europe.

The U.N. International Organization for Migration said in a statement that the disaster took place Tuesday and that Libya authorities had retrieved 11 bodies.

It said the boat, packed with around 80 migrants, reportedly departed from the village of Qasr al-Akhyar, 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of the capital, Tripoli. The migrants were heading to European shores, it said.

The dead included one woman and 10 men, said Safa Msehli, IOM’s spokesperson.

It was not immediately clear what happened to the vessel but images showed the deflated broken-up rubber boat on shore.

Seven migrants, all men, survived the mishap and made it to Libyan shores, the U.N. said, and were in “extremely dire conditions.” They were taken to a hospital.

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Qasr al-Akhyar officials shared footage online showing Libya’s Red Crescent workers handling dead bodies that washed ashore. The footage also showed the broken-up inflatable rubber boat.

A survivor said in a different video shared by the municipality that scores of migrants were killed in the shipwreck. He said they paid between $3,000 to $5,000 each to smugglers to make the ill-fated trip.

POLITICS

How Ukraine war has shaped US planning for a China conflict

Biden gets routine medical exam as he prepares for 2024 run

Biden taking new steps to address racial inequality in gov't

Haley's candidacy shows balancing act for women in politics

In video comments, Salem Awag, the top Qasr al-Akhyar official, called on authorities in Tripoli to step up support to the village to help guard the shore and prevent further crossings.

Tuesday’s shipwreck was the latest tragedy in the central Mediterranean Sea, a key route for migrants. The death toll on that route has reached at least 130 migrants this year, IOM said.

In 2022, more than 1,450 migrants died, according to the IOM’s missing migrants project.

“This situation is intolerable,” said Safa Msehli, the organization’s spokesperson. She called on governments to increase search and rescue efforts and to “establish clear and safe disembarkation mechanisms as well as safe and regular pathways to migration.

Off Libya's shores alone, at least 529 migrants were reported dead and 848 others missing last year, while over 24,680 were intercepted and returned to the country, according to the IOM.

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Libya has in recent years emerged as the dominant transit point for migrants from Africa and the Middle East trying to make it to Europe. The oil-rich country plunged into chaos following a NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime autocrat Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

Human traffickers in recent years have benefited from the chaos in war-torn Libya, smuggling in migrants across the desert country's lengthy borders with six nations. The migrants are then typically packed into ill-equipped rubber boats and set off on risky sea voyages.

European countries have in recent years pushed Libyan authorities and the coast guard to detain and intercept migrants attempting to cross to European shores.

Many of those who have been intercepted and returned to Libya — including women and children — are held in government-run detention centers where they suffer from abuse, including torture, rape and extortion, according to rights groups.

___

Magdy reported from Cairo.

https://apnews.com/article/politics-accidents-libya-government-united-nations-europe-8a82bc6c9c89d8a966057b7084965e37

Africa, inflation: feb16 Protests Break Out in Nigerian City Over Cash Shortages

"Major roads were blocked while banks, shops and other businesses were shut," local journalist Remi Feyisipo told AFP.

Angry bank customers burned tyres and blocked streets in a southwest Nigerian city on Wednesday in protests over scarcity of naira cash, police and residents said.

The protests in Ibadan, 130 km (80 miles) north of Lagos, were the latest in Africa's most populous nation over the central bank's push to replace old naira notes with redesigned new ones.

Banks have limited access to cash and ATM withdrawals because of a scarcity of new notes, and some businesses refuse to accept old naira, causing huge lines, angering customers and disrupting businesses.

Africa, war: feb16 The chief of the UN’s International Organization for Migration says the number of women and children migrating from the Horn of Africa to the Gulf states has significantly increased.

The number of women and children migrating from the Horn of Africa to Gulf countries through Yemen has significantly increased and is a cause for concern, according to the head of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an agency of the United Nations (UN).

The treacherous journey from Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti through Yemen, called the Eastern Migration Route, has seen a 64 percent increase in the past year, with people seeking better livelihoods and with larger numbers of women and children travelling alone, IOM Director General Antonio Vitorino told The Associated Press.

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/15/rise-in-horn-of-africa-migrants-a-worry-says-un-official

Government, censorship, war: india bans new bbc documentary feb16

The programme drew an immediate backlash from India’s government, which invoked emergency powers under its information technology laws to block it from being shown in the country.

Local authorities scrambled to stop screenings organised at some Indian universities, and social media platforms, including Twitter and YouTube, complied with government requests to remove links to the documentary.

The BBC said at the time that the documentary was “rigorously researched” and involved a wide range of voices and opinions.

“We offered the Indian Government a right to reply to the matters raised in the series – it declined to respond,” its statement said.

India’s foreign ministry called the documentary a “propaganda piece designed to push a particularly discredited narrative” that lacked objectivity.

War: China Calls on Japan, South Korea to Shun 'Spy Balloon' Rumors and 'Stop Following the US'

Censorship, government, stats: feb16 Study shows ‘striking’ number who believe news misinforms

NEW YORK (AP) — Half of Americans in a recent survey indicated they believe national news organizations intend to mislead, misinform or persuade the public to adopt a particular point of view through their reporting.

The survey, released Wednesday by Gallup and the Knight Foundation, goes beyond others that have shown a low level of trust in the media to the startling point where many believe there is an intent to deceive.

Asked whether they agreed with the statement that national news organizations do not intend to mislead, 50% said they disagreed. Only 25% agreed, the study found.

Similarly, 52% disagreed with a statement that disseminators of national news “care about the best interests of their readers, viewers and listeners,” the study found. It said 23% of respondents believed the journalists were acting in the public’s best interests.

“That was pretty striking for us,” said Sarah Fioroni, a consultant for Gallup. The findings showed a depth of distrust and bad feeling that go beyond the foundations and processes of journalism, she said.

War, Russia: feb16 Montenegro's Boxers Barred From Moldova Tournament Amid Kremlin Coup Allegations

War: Babcock Wins $480 Million Bid to Run Britain's Skynet SATCOM Program

War, Russia: feb16 Russian Strategic Bomber Engineer Requests Asylum in US, Offers to Share Info

Russian strategic bomber engineer requests asylum in US and offers to share information on Tupolev Tu-160 Blackjack

By **Dario Leone**
Feb 15 2023
SHARE THIS ARTICLE

A Russian aerospace engineer approached the US authorities seeking asylum and offering to share information on Russia's Tu-160 strategic bomber program.

Yahoo News reports that a Russian aerospace engineer approached the US authorities seeking asylum and offering to share information on Russia's Tu-160 strategic bomber program.

He and his family entered the US from Mexico in late December 2022.

According to Alert 5, if genuine, the offer, could provide an insight into Russia's most advanced strategic bomber, an aircraft that has been used in the Ukrainian conflict.

According to an unclassified Customs and Border Protection (CBP) report the engineer said he has detailed knowledge about the Tupolev Tu-160 (NATO reporting name: Blackjack) and claimed to have worked at the Tupolev aircraft production facility in Kazan, Russia from 2018 to 2021.

War, Russia: feb16 Russia Donates 25,000 Tonnes of Wheat to Ally Cuba as Ties Deepen

War, stats: timeline provided on usatoday of russian invasion so far

"The enemy's offensive continues in the east, (with) round-the-clock attacks," said deputy defence minister Hanna Malyar. "The situation is tense. Yes, it is difficult for us.

"But our fighters are not allowing the enemy to achieve their goals and are inflicting very serious losses," she wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

Luhansk regional governor Serhiy Haidai earlier said Russia was pouring in heavy equipment and had mobilised troops but denied reports that Ukrainian forces were engaged in a major retreat.

https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2023-02-15/ukraine-defends-luhansk-region-as-russia-brings-in-troops-governor

War: Kyiv Says It Shot Down Russian Balloons Over Ukraine's Capital

War, sanctions, Erdogan: feb16 NATO Chief Heads to Ankara as Turkey Holds Up Nordics' Membership

Government, energy: feb16 Asia To Use Half Of World's Electricity By 2025

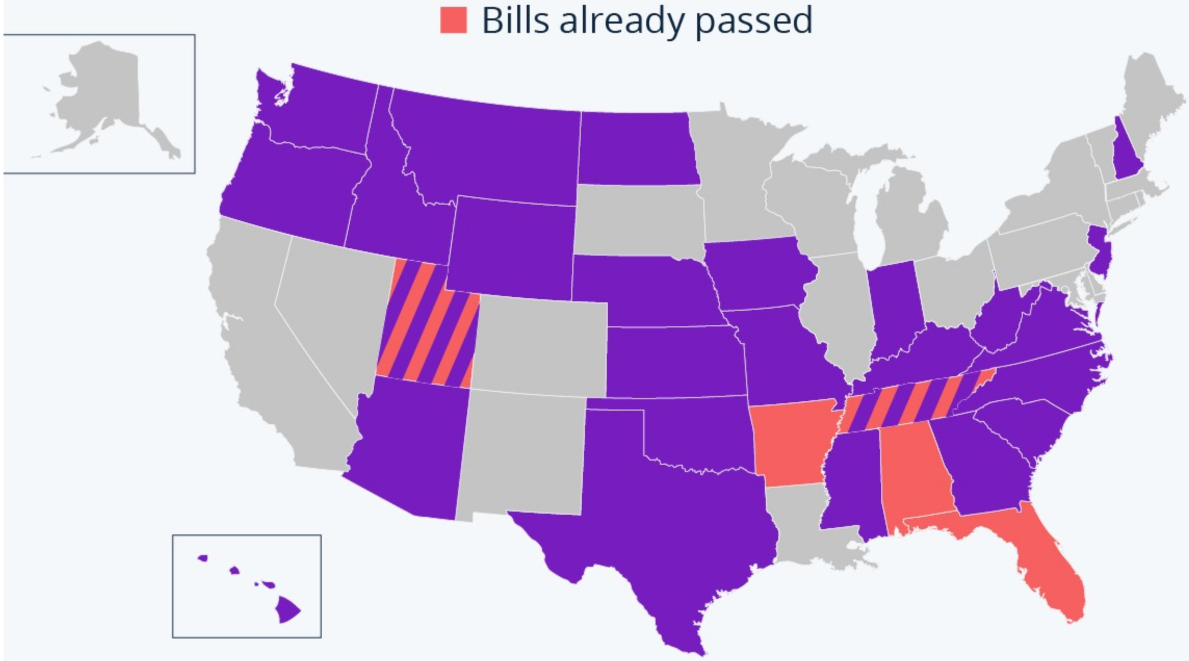
Stats, government: feb16 All The States With Bills Aiming To Outlaw Gender-Reaffirming Care For Minors

In a majority of U.S. states there are now state lawmaker initiatives to ban gender-reaffirming health care for those under the age of 18.

Newsweek reported last week that a Georgia bill introduced Thursday was the **26th in the country that aims to outlaw doctors treating trans or nonbinary minors** with procedures like hormone therapy or surgery.

Bills Aiming to Outlaw Gender-Affirming Care for Minors

U.S. states with lawmaker initiatives attempting to ban gender-affirming care for patients younger than 18 years



As of Feb. 10, 2023
Source: Newsweek

statista

You will find more infographics at Statista

As Statista's Katharina Buchholz notes, according to the report, most states introduced one or two bills, while efforts were much more focused in Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, where upwards of ten bills each were introduced. **Arkansas, Tennessee, Florida and Alabama have already blocked gender.reaffirming or transition-related care for those 18 years or younger.** In Utah, a similar initiative has already passed while more bills are in the works.

While trans persons transition medically at many different ages, there are many that chose to live as a sex different from the one assigned at birth even as children. For this group, transitioning during their teenage years and taking puberty blockers is an often-pursued approach. The bills in questions would delay a medical transition procedure until after puberty.

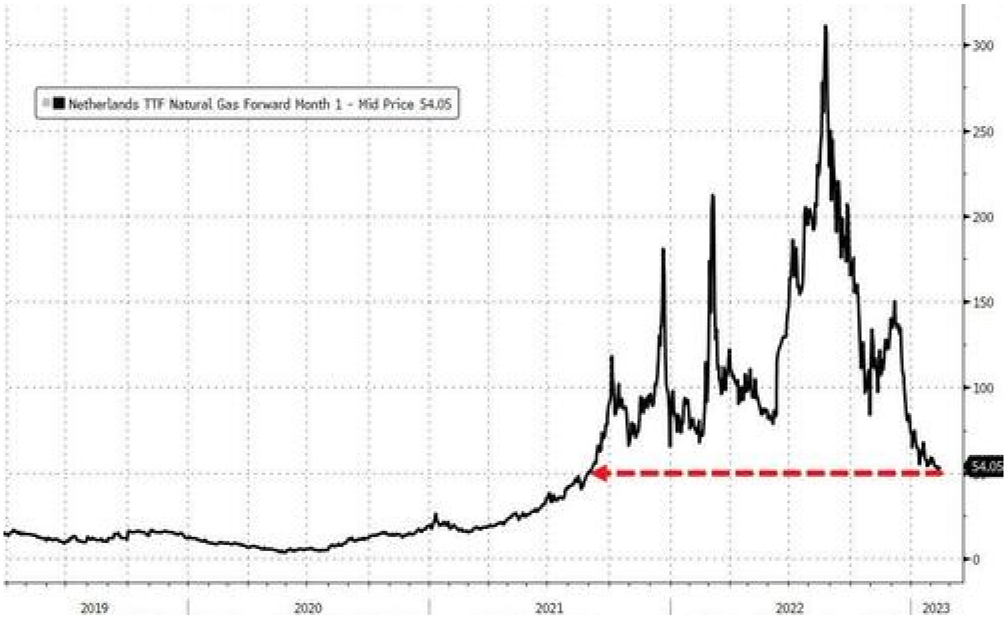
Government, war: feb16 AfD Joins Call For Germany To Reinstate Compulsory Military Service

Government, energy: EU Eyes 90% CO2 Cut By 2040 For Trucks

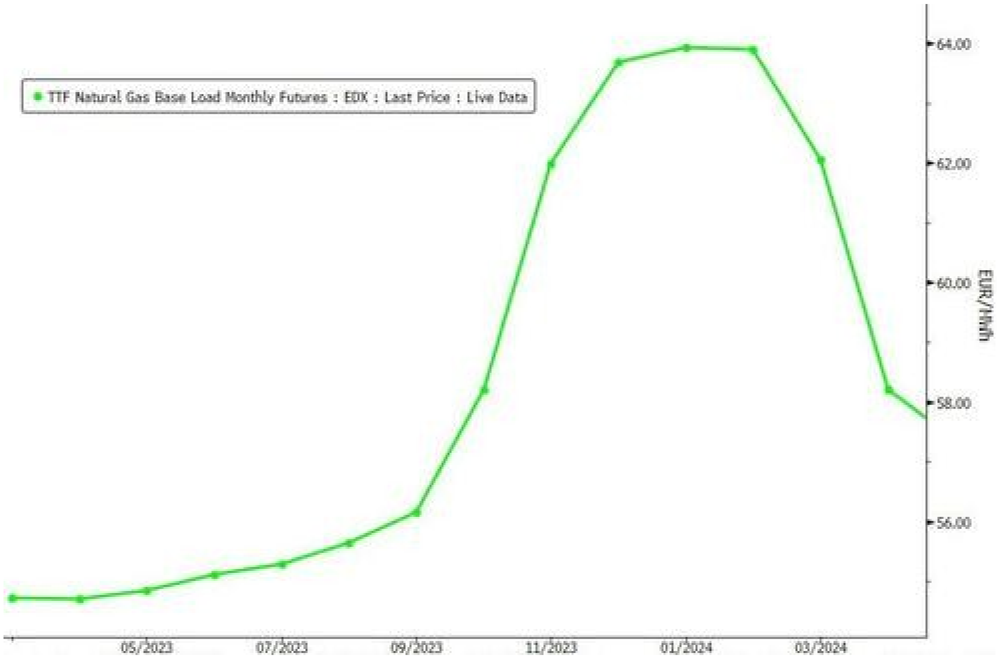
War: feb16 South Africa To Host 'Strange' Naval Drills With Warships From China, Russia

Natural Gas Futures Contracts Suggest Europe's Energy Crisis Isn't Over; race to ensure supply for next winter hasn’t even started in earnest yet.

The TTF price, Europe’s benchmark, slipped on Monday to the lowest level since September 2021, and Europe looks confident that there will not be gas shortages this winter.



However, the race to ensure supply for next winter hasn't even started in earnest yet. Prices are set to hold higher than before the Russian invasion of Ukraine through the summer as Europe will face stiffer competition from Asia for liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply. TTF futures for December are priced above €60 per megawatt-hour, notably higher than the €54 per megawatt-hour for March.



ttf looks like its at a pivot point, too....broken so many now. Risk reward off the charts

Energy, government: feb16 Barclays Vows To Stop Financing Oil Sands Projects

Barclays on Wednesday said it would **no longer provide financing to oil sands companies or oil sands projects and tightened conditions for thermal coal lending** in an updated policy, which fell short of announcing overall pledges or targets in funding oil and gas.

In the annual report for 2022 published today, the UK-based banking giant vowed not to provide financing for any oil sands projects, compared to a previous policy which stated that it would only provide financing to oil sands exploration and production clients that had projects to materially reduce their overall emissions intensity.

In coal lending, Barclays now aims to phase out financing to clients engaged in coal-fired power generation in the EU and OECD by 2030, compared to phasing out such lending only to clients in the UK and the EU in the previously announced policy.

Commenting on Barclays' new targets, Jeanne Martin, Head of Banking Programme at ShareAction, said in a statement, ***"Disappointingly, despite not having published a new oil and gas policy for the last three years, the bank's fracking policy remains unchanged and there is no mention of new oil and gas. This means Barclays continues to be out of step with current minimum standards of ambition within the industry."***

Pressured by ESG trends and shareholders, other banks have already started to announce cuts to lending to the oil and gas industry.

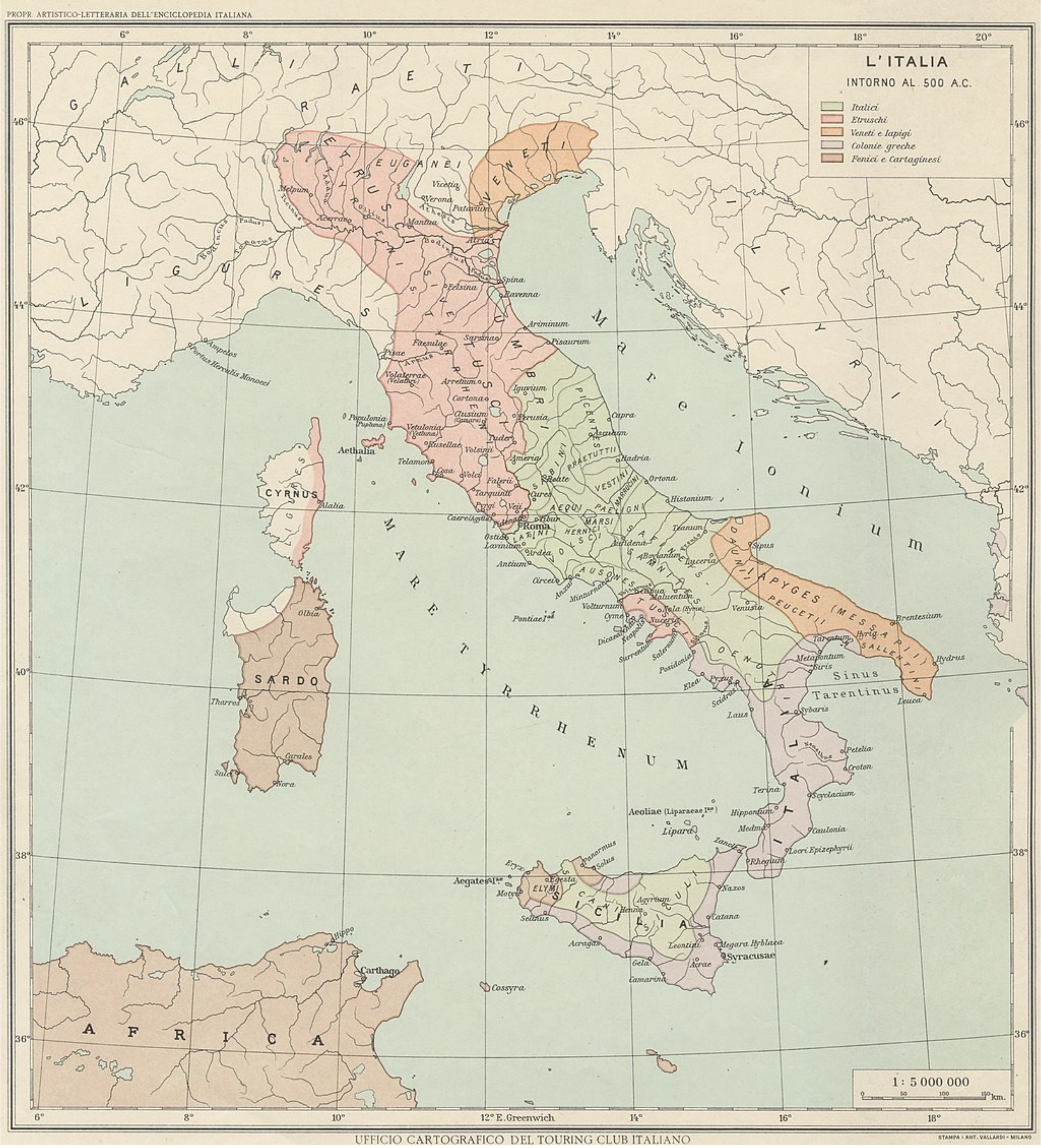
At the end of last year, two prominent banks in Europe vowed to significantly cut exposure to the fossil fuels sector. Credit Agricole, the largest retail lender in France, said in early December that it targets to have no new financing granted for oil extraction projects by 2025, and to cut its oil exploration and production exposure by 25% by 2025 compared to 2020.

Banking giant HSBC announced in December that it would stop funding new oil and gas field developments and related infrastructure as part of a policy to support and finance a net-zero transition.

Following HSBC's pledge, the pressure is now on U.S. banks to halt funding for new oil and gas projects, RAN and other climate community groups said.

U.S. banks are the biggest funders of fossil fuel projects in the world and **"are still refusing to make real commitments on climate,"** the environmental groups added.

Rome, history, church: Overthrow of the Roman monarchy: The simplest way for the Romans to have known how long their republic had existed would have been to look at the list of consuls, of which two were elected every year, and simply count the number of consular pairs to impute that the republic had existed for however many years corresponded. The fasti Capitolini – relying on the Varronian chronology – go back to 509 BC; mapp of rome 500 bc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Lucius Junius Brutus

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Lucius Junius Brutus

Portrait of Lucius Junius Brutus on a denarius minted by Marcus Junius Brutus in 54 BC[1]

Died	c. 509 BC Silva Arsia, Rome
Nationality	Roman
Known for	Foundation of the Roman Republic
Office	Consul (509 BC)
Spouse	Vitellia
Children	Titus and Tiberius

Lucius Junius Brutus (fl. 6th century BC) was the semi-legendary founder of the Roman Republic, and traditionally one of its first consuls in 509 BC. He was reputedly responsible for the expulsion of his uncle the Roman king Tarquinius Superbus after the suicide of Lucretia, which led to the overthrow of the Roman monarchy. He was involved in the abdication of fellow consul Tarquinius Collatinus, and executed two of his sons for plotting the restoration of the Tarquins.[2]

He was claimed as an ancestor of the Roman gens Junia, including Decimus Junius Brutus, and Marcus Junius Brutus, the most famous of Julius Caesar's assassins. Traditions about his life may have been fictional, and some scholars argue that it was the Etruscan king Porsenna who overthrew Tarquinius. The plebeian status of the *Junia gens* has also raised doubts about his position as a consul and the alleged initial patrician domination of the office. Depicted as the nephew of Tarquinius, he may have symbolized the internal tensions that occurred during the transition between the monarchy and the republic.[2]

Background and historicity[edit]

Prior to the establishment of the Roman Republic, Rome had been ruled by kings.

The account is from Livy's *Ab urbe condita* and deals with a point in the history of Rome prior to reliable historical records (virtually all prior records were destroyed by the Gauls when they sacked Rome under Brennus in 390 BC or 387 BC).

Modern historians have challenged almost every part of the traditional story from Livy:

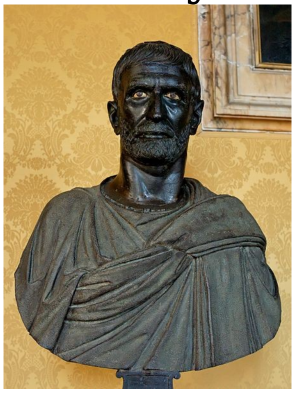
Some of the leading *dramatis personae* – Lucretia, Brutus, Valerius Publicola, even Lars Porsenna – have been dismissed as figments of pure legend. The chronology has been challenged, with many scholars rejecting the traditional sixth-century date in favour of a later one - around 470 BC, or even after 450. Others have suggested that the transition from monarchy to republic was not a sudden revolution, but rather a gradual process lasting many years, perhaps even centuries... before the consular system of the classical Republic was at last established. Finally, it is widely supposed in modern books that the end of the Roman monarchy marked the end of a period of Etruscan rule in Rome, and the liberation of the city from a period of foreign occupation. In its strongest form this theory maintains that the fall of Tarquin was only a minor symptom of a much wider phenomenon, namely the decline of Etruscan power and the fall of an Etruscan empire in central Italy.[3]

Main article: Overthrow of the Roman monarchy

According to Roman tradition, Brutus led the revolt that overthrew the last king, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus.[4] The coup was prompted by the rape of the noblewoman Lucretia by the second son of the king, Sextus Tarquinius; Brutus was joined in this plotting by among others, Lucretia's father, Spurius Lucretius Tricipitinus and Publius Valerius Poplicola.[5]

Brutus was the son of Tarquinia, daughter of Rome's fifth king Lucius Tarquinius Priscus and sister to Rome's seventh king Tarquinius Superbus.[6]

Rome, stats, history, church: feb16 so appartently not much is known about rome's origins or early history when it was a kingdom ruled by a monarch.



Traditional account[edit]

The Capitoline Brutus, an ancient Roman bust in the Capitoline Museums, is traditionally identified as a portrait of Lucius Junius Brutus.

See also: Roman Kingdom, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, and Lucius Junius Brutus

Roman tradition held that there were seven kings of Rome who reigned from the city's founding (traditionally dated to 753 BC)[2] by Romulus up to the reign of Tarquin. Archaeological evidence indicates there were kings in Rome;[12] but many modern scholars doubt the traditional narrative and believe its characters and details to be largely the product of later literary invention.[13]

Account[edit]

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The Gauls destroyed many of Rome's historical records when they sacked the city after the Battle of the Allia in 390 BC (according to Varro; according to Polybius, the battle occurred in 387–6), and what remained eventually fell prey to time or to theft. With no contemporary records of the kingdom surviving, all accounts of the Roman kings must be carefully questioned.[2][3]

According to legend, Romulus established the Senate after he founded Rome by personally selecting the most noble men (wealthy men with legitimate wives and children) to serve as a council for the city. As such, the Senate was the King's advisory council as the Council of State. The Senate was composed of 300 senators, with 100 senators representing each of the three ancient tribes of Rome: the Ramnes (Latins), Tities (Sabines), and Luceres (Etruscans). Within each tribe, a senator was selected from each of the tribe's ten curiae. The king had the sole authority to appoint the senators, but this selection was done in accordance with ancient custom.

Under the monarchy, the Senate possessed very little power and authority as the king held most of the political power of the state and could exercise those powers without the Senate's consent. The chief function of the Senate was to serve as the king's council and be his legislative coordinator. Once legislation proposed by the king passed the Curiate Assembly, the Senate could either veto it or accept it as law. The king was, by custom, to seek the advice of the Senate on major issues. However, it was left to him to decide what issues, if any, were brought before them and he was free to accept or reject their advice as he saw fit. Only the king possessed the power to convene the Senate, except during the interregnum, during which the Senate possessed the authority to convene itself.

According to the traditional account, a group of aristocrats overthrow the last king, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, in response to the rape of the noblewoman Lucretia by the king's second son, Sextus Tarquinius; after revealing the rape to some noblemen, Lucretia commits suicide.[14][15] The resulting outrage leads to an uprising against the ruling family, led by some of the king's relatives: Lucius Junius Brutus (the king's nephew), Lucius Tarquinius Collatinus (the king's cousin and Lucretia's husband), and Spurius Lucretius Tricipitinus (Lucretia's father). They are also joined by an influential friend Publius Valerius Poplicola.[14]

During this time, Tarquin was conducting a war against Ardea, but rushes back to Rome on news of the coup; however, the city is shut before him and the coup leaders convince the army at Ardea to join them, leading to the expulsion of the king's sons.[14] Brutus and Collatinus then become the first consuls,[16] with Brutus administering an oath before the people to never again tolerate a king in Rome and to kill anyone who attempts to restore the monarchy; among Brutus' reforms, he proposes the banishment of all members of the Tarquin clan, leading also to the banishment of his co-consul Collatinus, who is replaced in office by Poplicola.[14][17] Note, however, that the Romans, also report that in this early period, the consuls were initially called *praetores* (deriving from "leader").[18][19]

Soon after, Brutus' two sons, brothers of Brutus' wife, the Vitellii, the Aquilii, and relatives of Collatinus are discovered plotting to restore the monarchy.[20] After the conspiracy is exposed by a slave, Brutus orders the death of his own sons and relatives. Meanwhile, Tarquin flees to Etruria and persuades various cities there to attack Rome and restore him to the throne. They are unsuccessful and defeated at the Battle of Silva Arsia, where Brutus falls in battle; Poplicola then returns to celebrate a triumph for victory over the Etruscans.[21][22] Tarquin then requests aid from Lars Porsenna, the king of Clusium, who marches on Rome but is stopped by Horatius Cocles who defends a bridge alone against Porsenna's forces until it can be demolished.[23] The heroism of the republic's youths and Rome's force of arms persuade Porsenna to give up his campaign.[21][24]

Tarquin then appeals to his son-in-law, Octavius Mamilius of Tusculum, who mobilises the Latin League against Rome, until they too are defeated at the Battle of Lake Regillus (with the Romans receiving divine assistance from Castor and Pollux).[25] With no more allies willing to attack the Romans, Tarquin leaves for a more permanent exile in Cumae before dying in 495 BC.[21][26] The Roman government then falls into the hands of a group of aristocratic families, the patricians, who then elect magistrates from among their number, setting up conditions for the so-called Conflict of the Orders.[27]

Development[edit]

See also: Ab Urbe Condita Libri § Historicity, Fasti, and Fasti Capitolini § Historical accuracy

The traditional account likely derived from an earlier oral tradition.[28] Barthold Georg Niebuhr, in the early nineteenth century, posited that the oral tradition may have been transmitted by poems sung or recited by bards at banquets during the republic. While this "ballad theory" has "generally been dismissed by modern scholars",[29] T. P. Wiseman has more recently argued that the stories were transmitted by means of public performance of plays dramatising historical events. Such plays would be especially important in a society with low literacy, and are perhaps supported by archaeological evidence suggesting circulation of Greek myths and stories in Italy as far back as the archaic period.[30] Attilio Mastrocinque, in *A companion to Livy*, for example, identifies Lucius Accius's tragedy *Brutus* as a source for some of the stories transmitted via Livy.[31]

The sources we have today for the monarchy and the earliest parts of the republic are "notorious[ly] unreliable" literary sources:[32] Livy, Dionysius of Halicarnassus, along with some supporting work from Plutarch's *Life of Poplicola*.[22] The first literary history in Rome was written by Quintus Fabius Pictor[33] c. 200 BC,[34] centuries after the actual fall of the monarchy. These early historians read the fragmentary evidence from early Rome "so that it read like a history of their own times" and the surviving accounts of Livy and others are based on these writers rather than the original evidence.[32] Thus:[32]

Most scholars now agree that as a result of this process the details of Livy's political and military narrative are unreliable, amounting to reconstruction or plausible invention by Livy himself or by his sources.[32]

Similarly,[35]

Few can now doubt that earlier times tended, both consciously and unconsciously, to be re-created by a succession of Roman writers in light of the conditions in the third and second century. This was true even before [133 BC and] a new political climate in which historians had more urgent motives to project the [contemporaneous] political concerns and conflicts [on] earlier Roman history.[35]

The stories that *were* written down by the time of the second century BC were done so by a time the Romans had lost any reliable sources on the fall of the monarchy; the purpose of that history as well was not to record the past in its terms, but for senators to describe and celebrate the republic as it existed in their time.[36] Senatorial historiography served to advertise and embellish writers' families rather than describe political or social contexts already lost from memory.[37] For example, T. P. Wiseman argues that many of the kings themselves and figures from the traditional story were ahistorical inventions of the fourth and third centuries BC.[38] Wiseman and the more critical historians similarly dismiss even the earliest Roman historians, such as Fabius Pictor, as having had little knowledge of their own past beyond the fourth century BC.[39] Other scholars go further, such as James Richardson, who believes that one of the central figures of the traditional story, Lucius Junius Brutus, "never existed".[40]

Under the monarchy, the Senate possessed very little power and authority as the king held most of the political power of the state and could exercise those powers without the Senate's consent. The chief function of the Senate was to serve as the king's council and be his legislative coordinator. Once legislation proposed by the king passed the Curiate Assembly, the Senate could either veto it or accept it as law. The king was, by custom, to seek the advice of the Senate on major issues. However, it was left to him to decide what issues, if any, were brought before them and he was free to accept or reject their advice as he saw fit. Only the king possessed the power to convene the Senate, except during the interregnum, during which the Senate possessed the authority to convene itself.

Military[edit]

Main article: Military establishment of the Roman kingdom

Kings of Rome[edit]

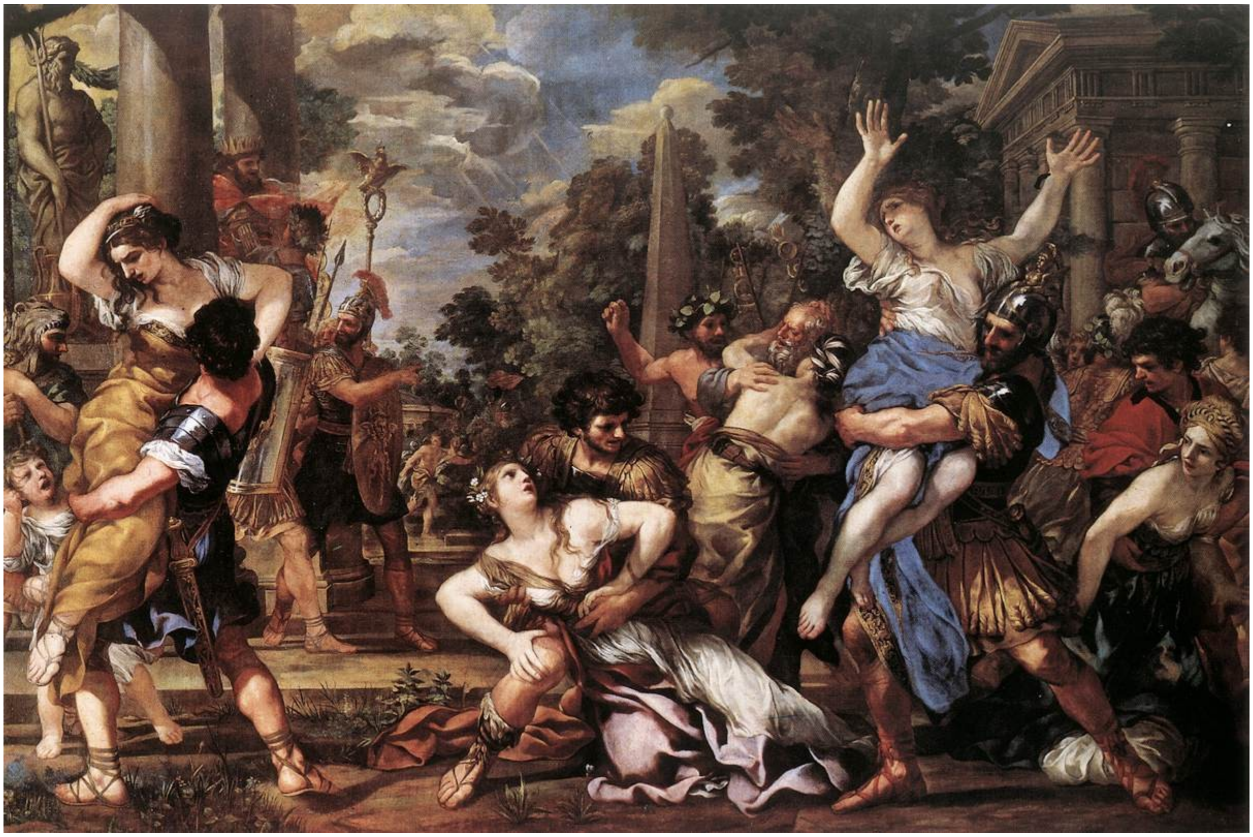
Years BC

Dates follow Livy's chronology of reign-lengths. Consult particular article for details of each king.

Year	King	Other notable information
753–716 BC	Romulus	Myth of Romulus and Remus; founder of Rome; established Roman Senate, army, first religious institutions.
715–672 BC	Numa Pompilius	Established many of Rome's most important religious and political institutions; introduced twelve-month solar calendar.
672–640 BC	Tullus Hostilius	Defeated and destroyed Alba Longa; integrated the noble Alban families into the Roman aristocracy.
640–616 BC	Ancus Marcius	Established port of Ostia; defeated the Sabines.
616–578 BC	Tarquinius Priscus	Expanded Roman hegemony over Latium; doubled membership in the Senate to 600; drained the Roman Forum, and constructed the Cloaca Maxima and the Circus Maximus.
578–534 BC	Servius Tullius	Established the Servian Tribes and the centuries; built the Temple of Diana and a new wall around the city; instituted the Compitalia.
534–509 BC	Tarquinius Superbus	Last King of Rome; overthrew Servius; conquered various Latin cities and established colonies; built the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus; deposed and Roman Republic established.

Romulus was behind one of the most notorious acts in Roman history, the incident commonly known as the rape of the Sabine women. To provide his citizens with wives, Romulus invited the neighbouring tribes to a festival in Rome where the Romans committed a mass abduction of young women from among the attendees. The account vary from 30 to 683 women taken, a significant number for a population of 3,000 Latins (and presumably for the Sabines as well). War broke out when Romulus refused to return the captives. After the Sabines made three unsuccessful attempts to invade the hill settlements of Rome, the women themselves intervened during the Battle of the Lacus Curtius to end the war. The two peoples were united in a joint kingdom, with Romulus and the Sabine king Titus Tatius sharing the throne.[12][13][14] In addition to the war with the Sabines, Romulus waged war with the Fidenates and Veientes and others.[15]

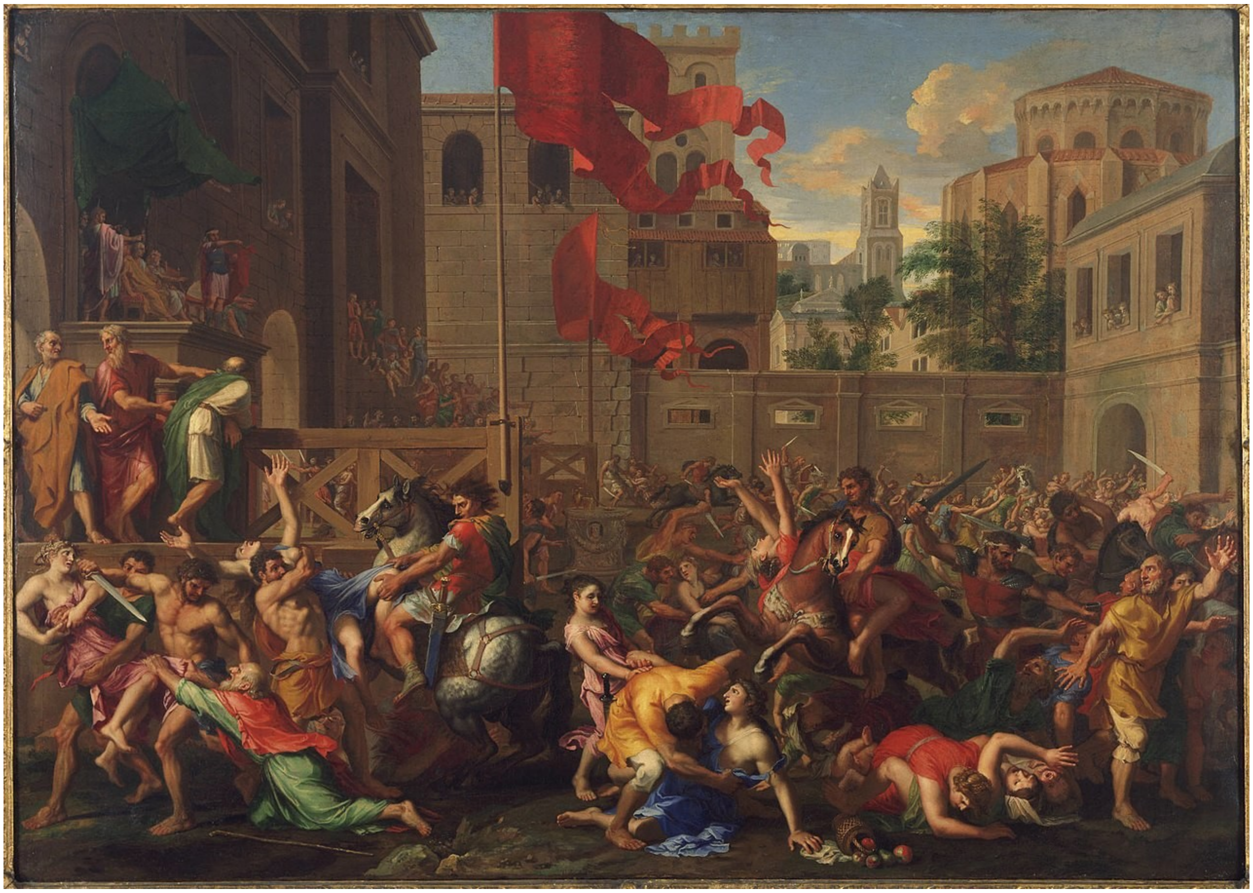
Rome, stats, history, censorship, church: Rape of the Sabine Women by Pietro da Cortona, 1627–1629



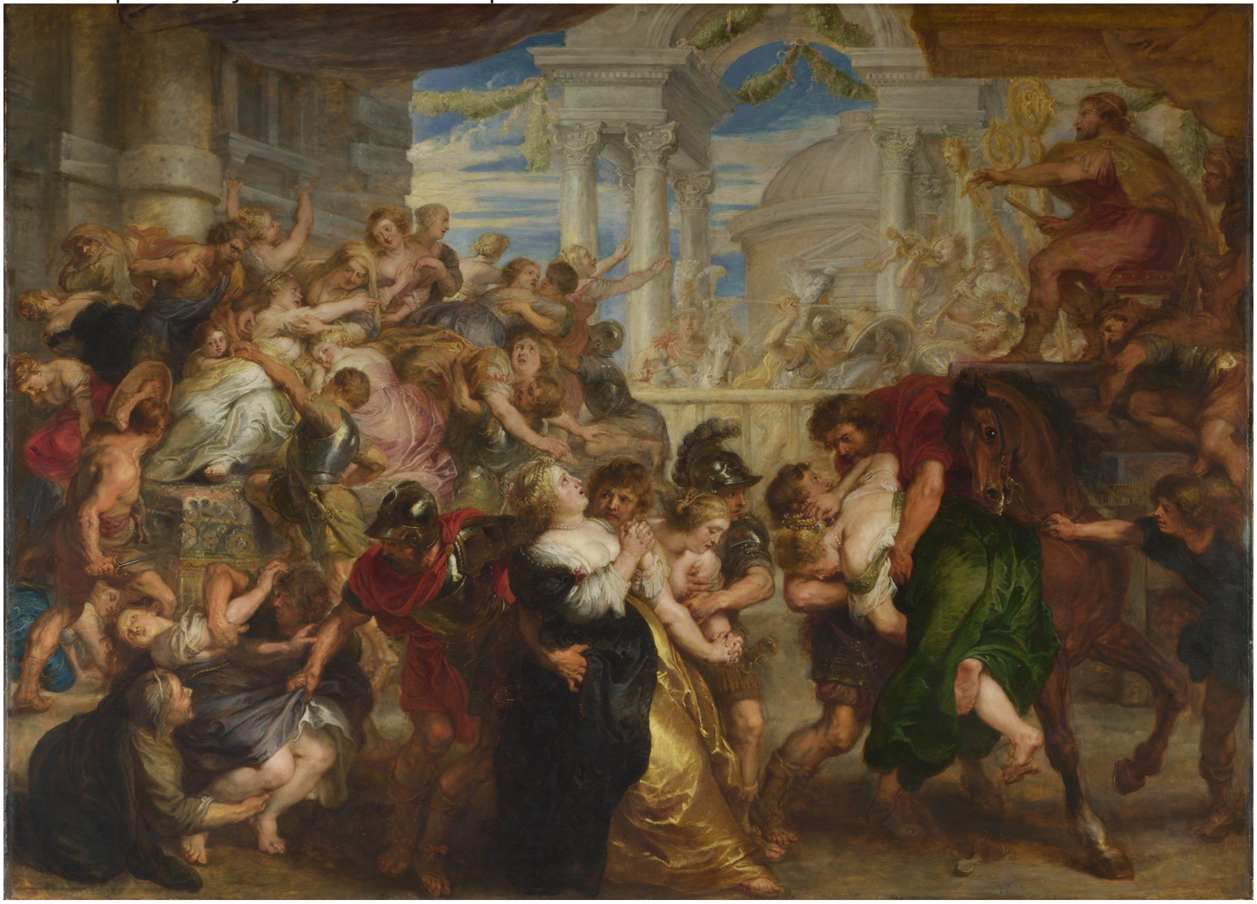
Story[edit]

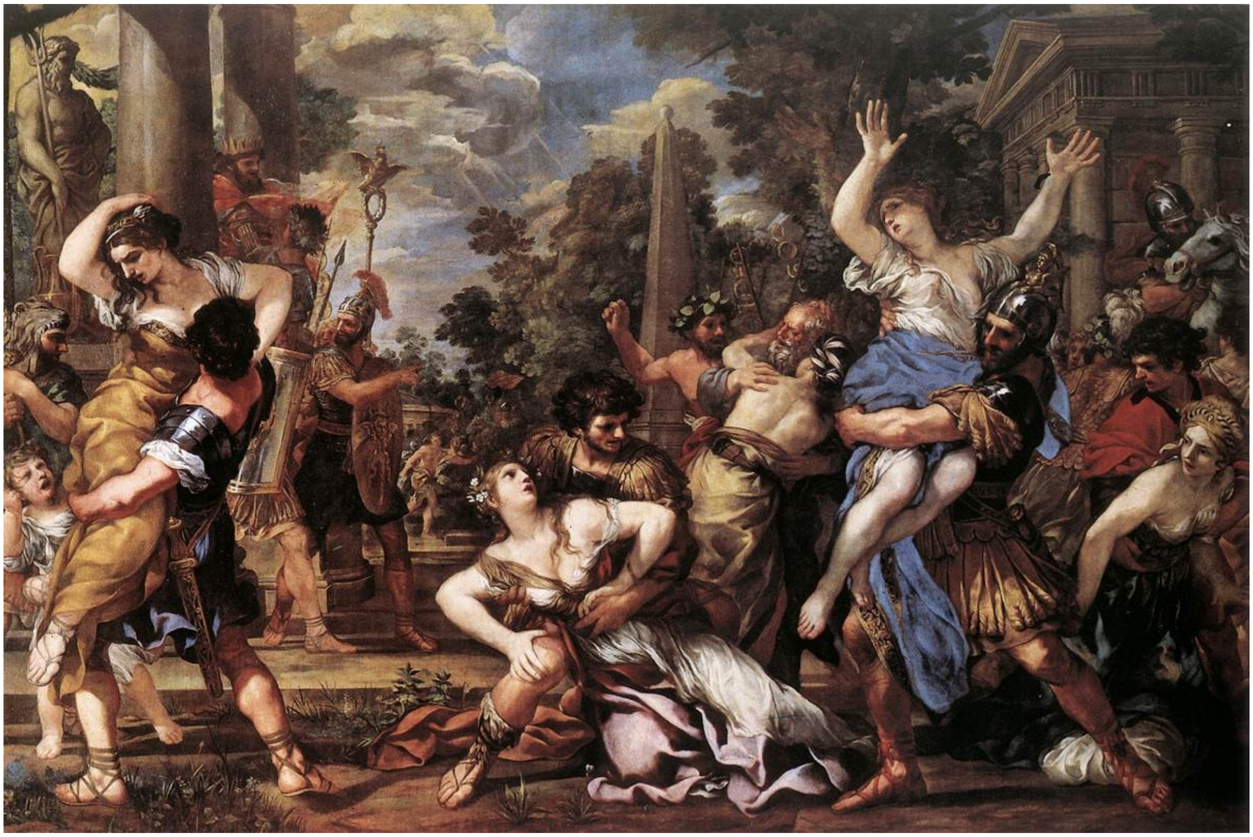
Rape of the Sabine Women by Pietro da Cortona, 1627–1629

According to Roman historian Livy, the abduction of Sabine women occurred in the early history of Rome shortly after its founding in the mid-8th century BC and was perpetrated by Romulus and his predominantly male followers; it is said that after the foundation of the city, the population consisted solely of Latins and other Italic people, in particular male bandits.[3] With Rome growing at such a steady rate in comparison to its neighbors, Romulus became concerned with maintaining the city's strength. His main concern was that with few women inhabitants there would be no chance of sustaining the city's population, without which Rome might not last longer than a generation.



On the advice of the Senate, the Romans then set out into the surrounding regions in search of wives to establish families with. The Romans negotiated unsuccessfully with all the peoples that they appealed to, including the Sabines, who populated the neighboring areas. The Sabines feared the emergence of a rival society and refused to allow their women to marry the Romans. Consequently, the Romans devised a plan to abduct the Sabine women during the festival of Neptune Equester. They planned and announced a festival of games to attract people from all the nearby towns. According to Livy, many people from Rome's neighboring towns – including Caeninenses, Crustumini, and Antemnates – attended the festival along with the Sabines, eager to see the newly established city for themselves. At the festival, Romulus gave a signal by "rising and folding his cloak and then throwing it round him again," at which the Romans grabbed the Sabine women and fought off the Sabine men.[4] Livy does not report how many women were abducted by the Romans at the festival, he only notes that it was undoubtedly many more than thirty.[5] All of the women abducted at the festival were said to have been virgins except for one married woman, Hersilia, who became Romulus' wife and would later be the one to intervene and stop the ensuing war between the Romans and the Sabines.[6] The indignant abductees were soon implored by Romulus to accept the Roman men as their new husbands.[7]





War with Sabines and other tribes[edit]

Jacques Stella, *The Rape of the Sabines*, mid-17th century, Princeton University Art Museum

Abduction of a Sabine Woman by Giambologna, Loggia dei Lanzi, Florence

Outraged at what had happened, the king of the Caeninenses entered upon Roman territory with his army. Romulus and the Romans met the Caeninenses in battle, killed their king, and routed their army. Romulus later attacked Caenina and took it upon the first assault. Returning to Rome, he dedicated a temple to Jupiter Feretrius (according to Livy, the first temple dedicated in Rome) and offered the spoils of the enemy king as *spolia opima*. According to the *Fasti Triumphales*, Romulus celebrated a triumph over the Caeninenses on 1 March 752 BC.[8]

At the same time, the army of the Antemnates invaded Roman territory. The Romans retaliated, and the Antemnates were defeated in battle and their town captured. According to the *Fasti Triumphales*, Romulus celebrated a second triumph in 752 BC over the Antemnates.

The Crustumini also started a war, but they too were defeated and their town was captured.

Roman colonists were subsequently sent to Antemnae and Crustumerium by Romulus, and many citizens of those towns also migrated to Rome (particularly the families of the captured women).

The Sabines themselves finally declared war, led into battle by their king, Titus Tatius. Tatius almost succeeded in capturing Rome, thanks to the treason of Tarpeia, daughter of Spurius Tarpeius, Roman governor of the citadel on the Capitoline Hill. She opened the city gates for the Sabines in return for "what they bore on their arms", thinking she would receive their golden bracelets. Instead, the Sabines crushed her to death with their shields, and her body was buried on or thrown from a rock known ever since by her name, the Tarpeian Rock.

The Romans attacked the Sabines who now held the citadel, in what would become known as the Battle of the Lacus Curtius. The Roman advance was led by Hostus Hostilius, the Sabine defence by Mettus Curtius. Hostus fell in battle, and the Roman line gave way. The Romans retreated to the gate of the Palatium. Romulus rallied his men, promising to build a temple to the Roman God Jove on the site. He then led them back into battle. Mettus Curtius was unhorsed and fled on foot, and the Romans appeared to be winning.

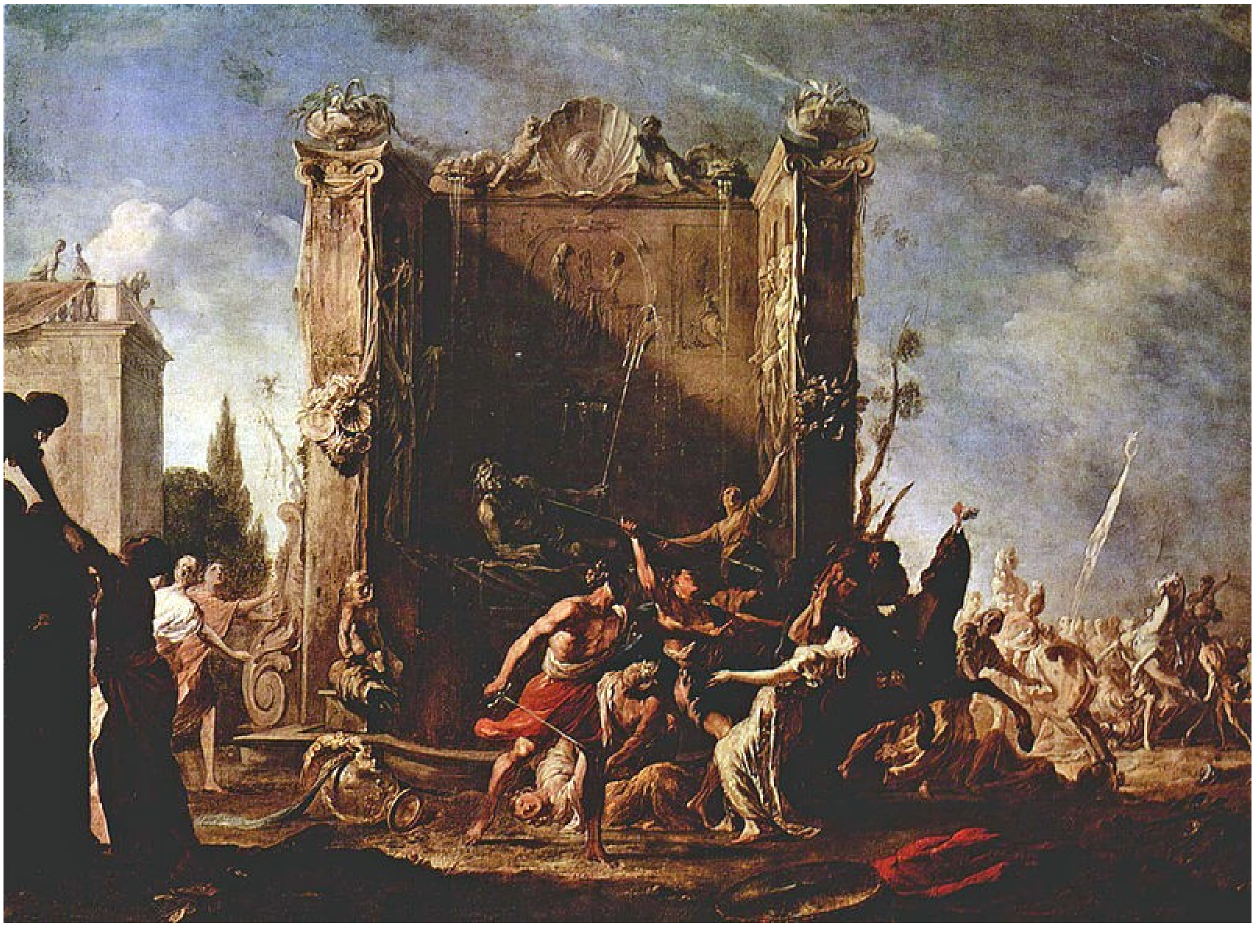
The Rape of the Sabine Women by Johann Heinrich Schönfeld

At this point in the story, the Sabine women intervened:

[They], from the outrage on whom the war originated, with hair dishevelled and garments rent, the timidity of their sex being overcome by such dreadful scenes, had the courage to throw themselves amid the flying weapons, and making a rush across, to part the incensed armies, and assuage their fury; imploring their fathers on the one side, their husbands on the other, "that as fathers-in-law and sons-in-law they would not contaminate each other with impious blood, nor stain their offspring with parricide, the one their grandchildren, the other their children. If you are dissatisfied with the affinity between you, if with our marriages, turn your resentment against us; we are the cause of war, we of wounds and of bloodshed to our husbands and parents. It were better that we perish than live widowed or fatherless without one or other of you."[9]

The battle came to an end, and the Sabines agreed to unite in one nation with the Romans. Titus Tatius jointly ruled with Romulus until Tatius's death five years later.

The new Sabine residents of Rome settled on the Capitoline Hill, which they had captured in the battle.[10]



File:Johann Heinrich Schönfeld 004.jpg

File:Giambologna sabine.jpg

Stats, history: Peter Paul Rubens - Wikipedia

stats, history, rome: Tarpeian Rock

Tarpeian Rock

26 languages

- Article
- Talk
  - Read
  - Edit
  - View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The site of the Tarpeian Rock as it appeared in 2008

A 19th-century etching of the Tarpeian Rock

The **Tarpeian Rock** (/tɑːrˈpiːən/; Latin: *Rupes Tarpeia* or *Saxum Tarpeium*; Italian: *Rupe Tarpea*) is a steep cliff on the south side of the Capitoline Hill, which was used in Ancient Rome as a site of execution. Murderers, traitors, perjurors, and larcenous slaves, if convicted by the *quaestores parricidii*, were flung from the cliff to their deaths.[1] The cliff was about 25 meters (80 ft) high.[2]

History[edit]

According to early Roman histories, when the Sabine ruler Titus Tatius attacked Rome after the Rape of the Sabines (8th century BC), the Vestal Virgin Tarpeia, daughter of Spurius Tarpeius, governor of the citadel on the Capitoline Hill, betrayed the Romans by opening the Porta Pandana gate for Titus Tatius in return for "what the Sabines bore on their arms" (golden bracelets and bejeweled rings). In Book 1 of Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita*, the Sabines "having been accepted into the citadel, [the Sabines] killed her, having been overwhelmed by weapons, and "*scuta congesta*", meaning, "[they] heaped up shields [on her]".[3] The Sabines crushed her to death with their shields, and her body was buried in the rock that now bears her name. Regardless of whether or not Tarpeia was buried in the rock itself, it is significant that the rock was named for her deceit.[4]

About 500 BC, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, the seventh legendary king of Rome, levelled the top of the rock, removing the shrines built by the Sabines, and built the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus on the *intermontium*, the area between the two summits of the hill. The rock itself survived the remodelling and was used for executions well into Sulla's time[5] (early 1st century BC). However the execution of Simon bar Giora was as late as the time of Vespasian.

There is a Latin phrase, *Arx tarpeia Capitoli proxima* ('the Tarpeian Rock is close to the Capitol'), a warning that one's fall from grace can come swiftly.

To be hurled off the Tarpeian Rock was, from a certain perspective, a fate worse than mere death, because it carried with it the stigma of shame. The standard method of execution in ancient Rome was by strangulation in the Tullianum. The rock was reserved for the most notorious traitors and as a place of unofficial, extra-legal executions such as the near-execution of then-Senator Gaius Marcius Coriolanus by a mob whipped into frenzy by a tribune of the plebs.[6]

Notable victims[edit]

The torture of Tarpeia. Roman Republican coinage (denarius), 89 BC

Victims of this punishment included:[7]

- Spurius Cassius Vecellinus, 485 BC, for perduellio (i.e. high treason)
- Marcus Manlius Capitolinus, 384 BC, for sedition[8]
- Rebels from Tarentum, 212 BC
- Lucius Cornelius Chrysogonus, 80 BC[*citation needed*]
- Syllaeus or Syllaios, 6 BC
- Aelius Saturninus, 23 AD
- Sextus Marius, a rich man from Spain with copper and gold mines confiscated by Tiberius and executed in 33 AD after being accused of incest.[9] [10]
- Simon bar Giora, 70 AD

In fiction[edit]

- The Tarpeian Rock is briefly mentioned in Act Three, Scene Three of the Shakespeare tragedy *Coriolanus*. In lines 87–90, Coriolanus warns:

"Let them pronounce the steep Tarpeian death,/

Vagabond exile, flaying, pent to linger/ But with a grain a day; I would not buy/

Their mercy at the price of one fair word."

Rome, history, stats: Romulus was the legendary founder and first king of Rome.

Romulus (/ˈrɒmjələs/) was the legendary founder and first king of Rome. Various traditions attribute the establishment of many of Rome's oldest legal, political, religious, and social institutions to Romulus and his contemporaries. Although many of these traditions incorporate elements of folklore, and it is not clear to what extent a historical figure underlies the God-like Romulus, the events and institutions ascribed to him were central to the myths surrounding Rome's origins and cultural traditions.

Traditional account[edit]

The myths concerning Romulus involve several distinct episodes and figures, including the miraculous birth and youth of Romulus and his twin brother, Remus; Remus' murder and the founding of Rome; the Rape of the Sabine Women, and the subsequent war with the Sabines; a period of joint rule with Titus Tatius; the establishment of various Roman institutions; the death or apotheosis of Romulus, and the succession of Numa Pompilius.

Romulus and Remus[edit]

Main article: Romulus and Remus

According to Roman polytheism, Romulus and Remus were the sons of Rhea Silvia by the god Mars. Their maternal grandfather was Numitor, the rightful king of Alba Longa, through whom the twins were descended from both the Trojan hero Aeneas, and Latinus, the king of Latium.

Before the twins' birth, Numitor's throne had been usurped by his brother, Amulius, who murdered Numitor's son or sons, and condemned Rhea Silvia to perpetual virginity by consecrating her a Vestal.[i][1][2] When Rhea became pregnant, she asserted that she had been visited by the god Mars. Amulius imprisoned her, and upon the twins' birth, ordered that they be thrown into the Tiber. But as the river had been swollen by rain, the servants tasked with disposing of the infants could not reach its banks, and so exposed the twins beneath a fig tree at the foot of the Palatine Hill.[1][3]

In the traditional account, a she-wolf happened upon the twins, and suckled them until they were found by the king's herdsman, Faustulus, and his wife, Acca Larentia.[ii] The brothers grew to manhood among the shepherds and hill-folk. After becoming involved in a conflict between the followers of Amulius and those of their grandfather Numitor, Faustulus told them of their origin. With the help of their friends, they lured Amulius into an ambush and killed him, restoring their grandfather to the throne.[5][6] The princes then set out to establish a city of their own.

They returned to the hills overlooking the Tiber, the site where they had been exposed as infants. They could not agree on which hill should house the new city. When an omen to resolve the controversy failed to provide a clear indication, the conflict escalated and Romulus or one of his followers killed Remus.[5][7] In a variant of the legend, the augurs favoured Romulus, who proceeded to plough a square furrow around the Palatine Hill to demarcate the walls of the future city. When Remus derisively leapt over the "walls" to show how inadequate they were against invaders, Romulus struck him down in anger. In another variant, Remus was killed during a melée, along with Faustulus.

Establishment of the city[edit]

The founding of Rome was commemorated annually on April 21, with the festival of the Parilia.[iii][iv] Romulus' first act was to fortify the Palatine, in the course of which he made a sacrifice to the gods. He laid out the city's boundaries with a furrow that he ploughed, performed another sacrifice, and with his followers set to work building the city itself.[8][9] Romulus sought the assent of the people to become their king. With Numitor's help, he addressed them and received their approval. Romulus accepted the crown after he sacrificed and prayed to Jupiter, and after receiving favourable omens.[10]

Romulus divided the populace into three tribes, known as the *Ramnes*, *Titienses*, and *Luceres*,[v] for taxation and military purposes. Each tribe was presided over by an official known as a tribune, and was further divided into ten curia, or wards, each presided over by an official known as a *curio*. Romulus also allotted a portion of land to each ward, for the benefit of the people.[11][12] Nothing is known of the manner in which the tribes and curiae were taxed, but for the military levy, each curia was responsible for providing one hundred foot soldiers, a unit known as a *century*,[vi] and ten cavalry. Each Romulean tribe thus provided about one thousand infantry, and one century of cavalry; the three hundred cavalry became known as the Celeres, "the swift", and formed the royal bodyguard.[13][14]

Choosing one hundred men from the leading families, Romulus established the Roman senate. These men he called *patres*, the city fathers; their descendants came to be known as "patricians", forming one of the two major social classes at Rome. The other class, known as the "plebs" or "plebeians", consisted of the servants, freedmen, fugitives who sought asylum at Rome, those captured in war, and others who were granted Roman citizenship over time.[15][16]

To encourage the growth of the city, Romulus outlawed infanticide, and established an asylum for fugitives on the Capitoline Hill. Here freemen and slaves alike could claim protection and seek Roman citizenship.[17][18]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romulus

church, fall of rome, history: Theodosius the Great: Roman emperor from 379 to 395. During his reign, he succeeded in a crucial war against the Goths, as well as in two civil wars, and was instrumental in establishing the creed of Nicaea as the orthodox doctrine for Christianity. Theodosius was the last emperor to rule the entire Roman Empire before its administration was permanently split between two separate courts (one western, the other eastern). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosius_I

Rome, history: julius caesar: The title, in full, of princeps senatus / princeps civitatis ("first amongst the senators" / "first amongst the citizens") was first adopted by Octavian Caesar Augustus (27 BC–AD 14), the first Roman "emperor" who chose, like the assassinated Julius Caesar, not to reintroduce a legal monarchy. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principate

Greece, history, rome: ancient greeces arrival to italy, key

Antiquity[edit]

Main article: Colonies in antiquity § Greek colonies

Further information: Greeks in pre-Roman Gaul

According to Strabo's *Geographica*, the colonization of Magna Graecia had already begun by the time of the Trojan War and lasted for several centuries.[6]

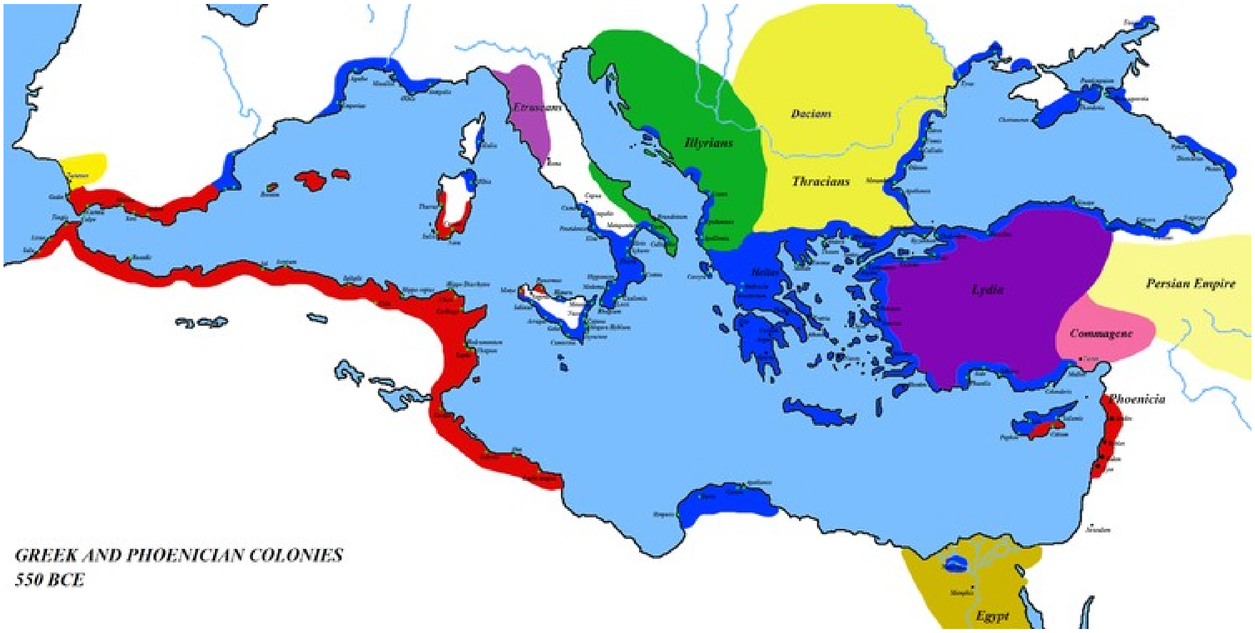
In the 8th and 7th century BC, due to demographic crises (famine, overcrowding, etc.), *stasis*, a developing need for new commercial outlets and ports, and expulsion from their homeland after wars, Greeks began to settle in southern Italy.[5] Colonies began to be established all over the Mediterranean and Black Seas (with the exception of Northwestern Africa, in the sphere of influence of Carthage), including in Sicily and the southern part of the Italian Peninsula. The Romans called this area *Magna Graecia* (Latin for "Greater Greece") since it was so densely inhabited by the Greeks. Ancient geographers differed on whether the term included Sicily or merely Apulia, Campania and Calabria, Strabo and Livy being the most prominent advocates of the wider definitions.[7]

With colonization, Greek culture was exported to Italy in its dialects of the Ancient Greek language, its religious rites and its traditions of the independent *polis*. An original Hellenic civilization soon developed and later interacted with the native Italic civilisations. The most important cultural transplant was the Chalcidean/Cumaean variety of the Greek alphabet, which was adopted by the Etruscans; the Old Italic alphabet subsequently evolved into the Latin alphabet, which became the most widely used alphabet in the world.

Some of these Hellenic colonies still stand today such as Neapolis ("New City", now Naples), Syracuse, Akragas (Agrigento), Taras (Taranto), Rhegion (Reggio Calabria), or Kroton (Crotone).

The first Greek city to be absorbed into the Roman Republic was Neapolis in 327 BC.[8] The other Greek cities in Italy followed during the Samnite Wars and the Pyrrhic War; Taras was the last to fall in 272. Sicily was conquered by Rome during the First Punic War. Only Syracuse remained independent until 212 because its king Hiero II was a devoted ally of the Romans. His grandson Hieronymus however made an alliance with Hannibal, which prompted the Romans to besiege the city, which fell in 212 despite the machines of Archimedes, described by Proclus in his commentary on Euclid's Elements. Archimedes constructed weapons powered by compressed air, weights and counterweights, according to Ctesibius and Hero.[9]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna_Graecia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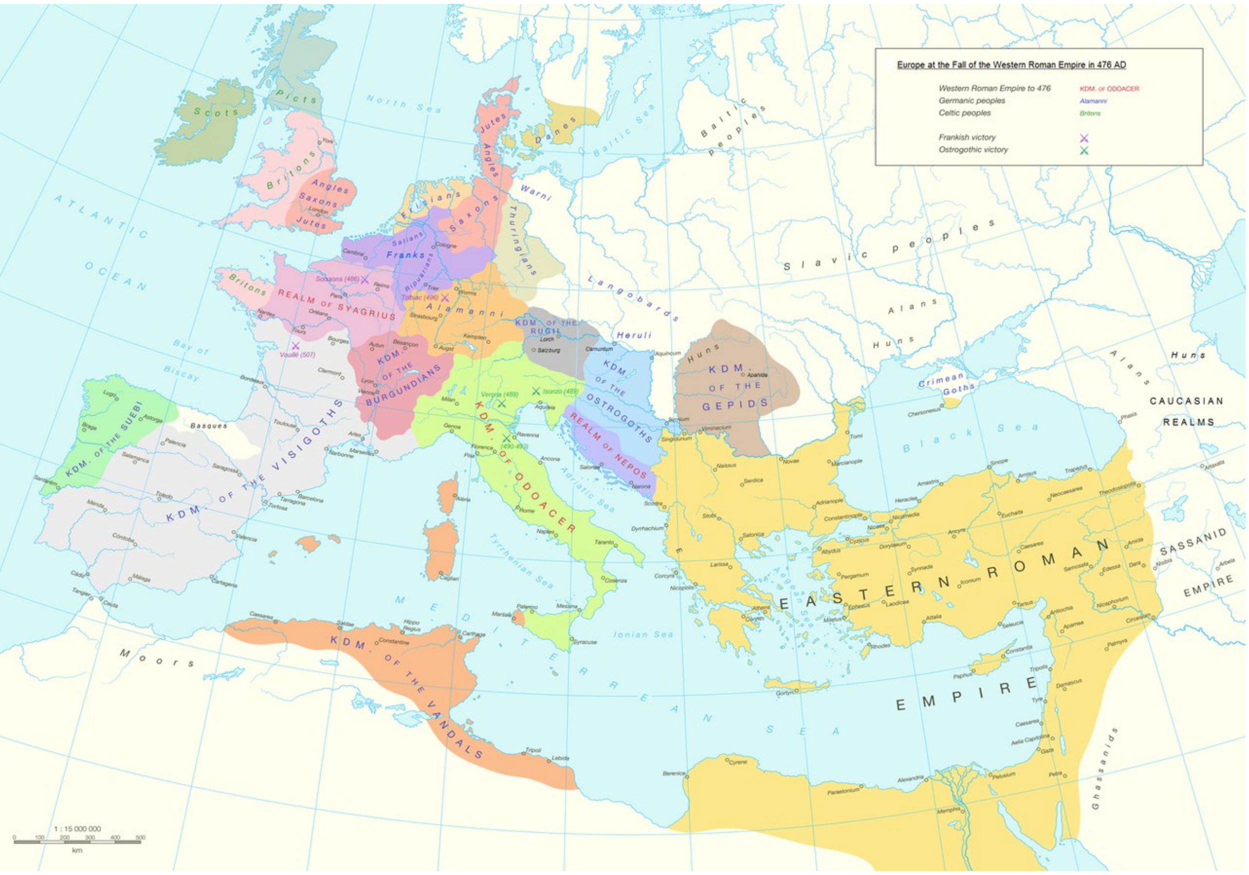
GREEK AND PHOENICIAN COLONIES
550 BCE

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_colonisation

Fall of rome, history: Europe and the Mediterranean Basin at the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476


Europe at the Fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD
Western Roman Empire to 476
KDM. OF ODOACER
Germanic peoples
Alamanni
Celtic peoples
Britons
Frankish victory
Ostrogothic victory
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Picts
North Sea
Britons
Angles
Saxons
Jutes
Jutes
Angles
Danes
Baltic Sea
Baltic peoples
Warni
Frisians
Saxons
Thuringians
Salians
Franks
Ripuarians
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Britons
REALM OF SYAGRIUS
Soissons (486)
Tolbiac (496)
Vouillé (507)
Alamanni
Bay of Biscay
KDM. OF THE RUGII
Langobards
Heruli
Slavic peoples
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KDM. OF THE GEPIDS
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Crimean Goths
Black Sea
CAUCASIAN REALMS
KDM. OF THE BURGUNDIANS
KDM. OF THE OSTROGOTHS
Verona (489)
Isonzo (489)
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KDM. OF ODOACER
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Tyrrhenian Sea
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SASSANID EMPIRE
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Political division in Europe, North Africa and Near East after the end of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD.

readlater, history, Greece: the "sea peoples" of the bronze age

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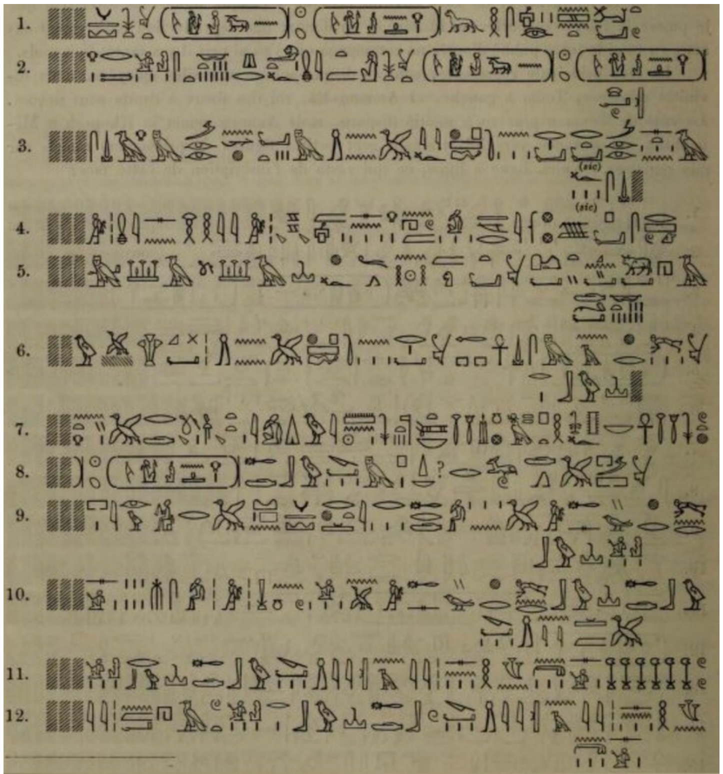
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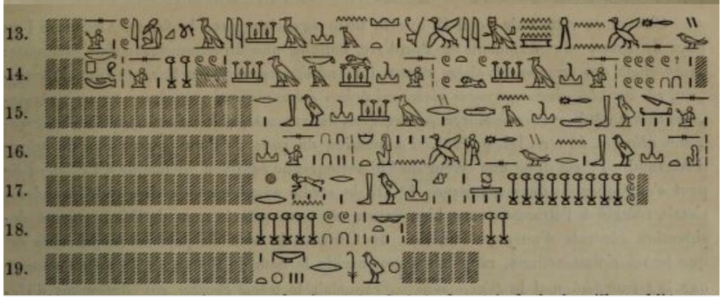
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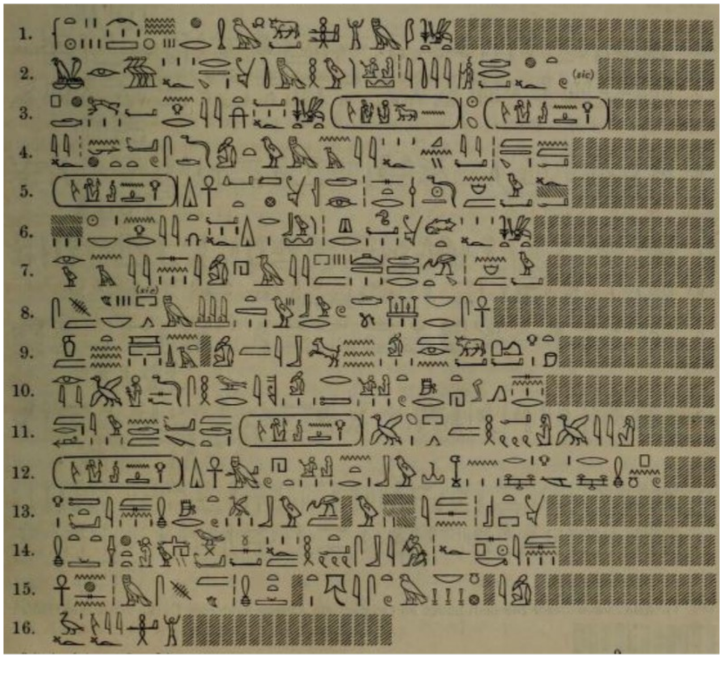
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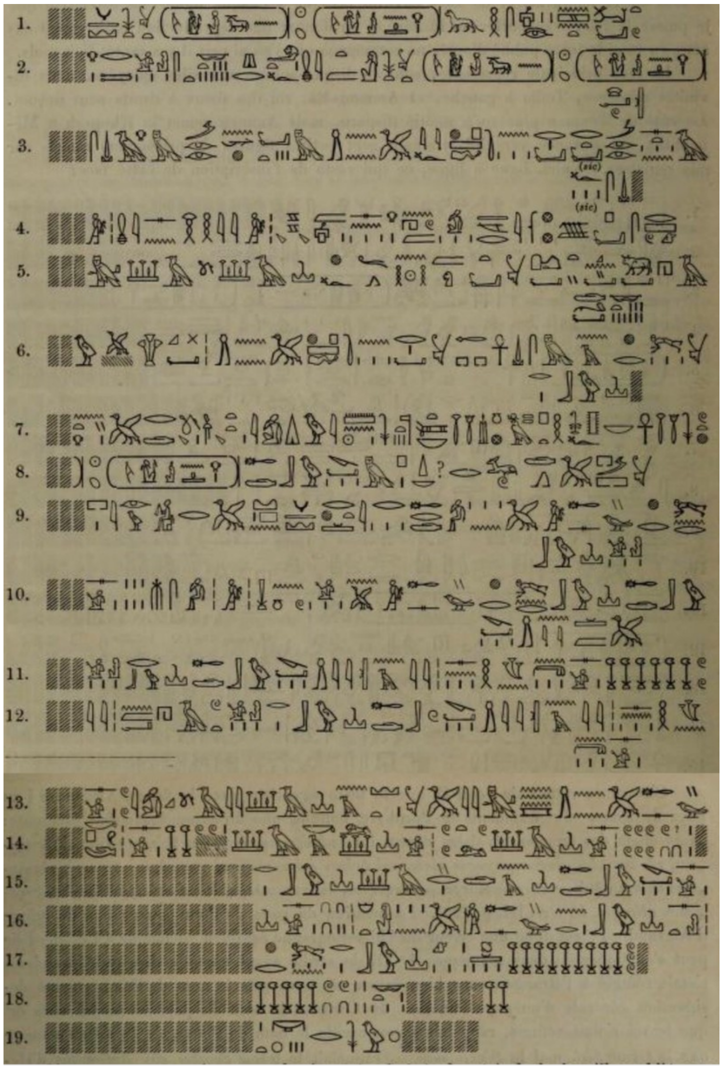
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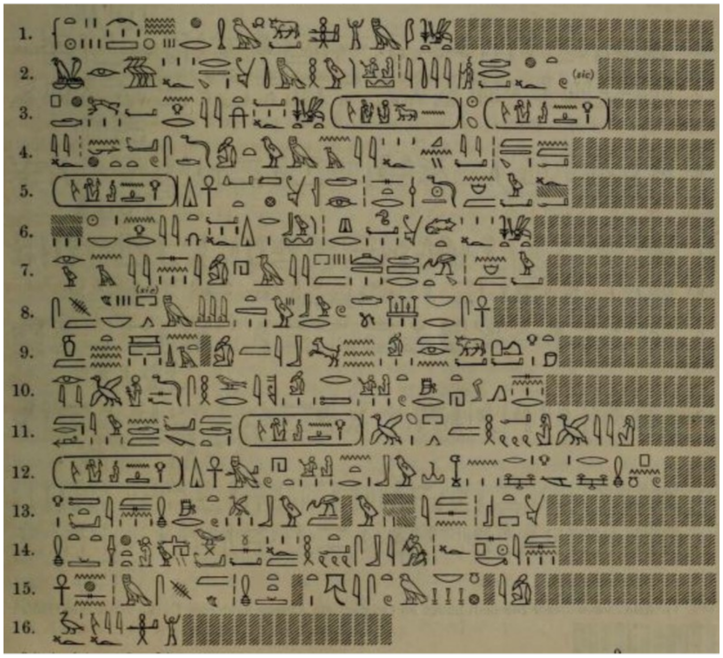
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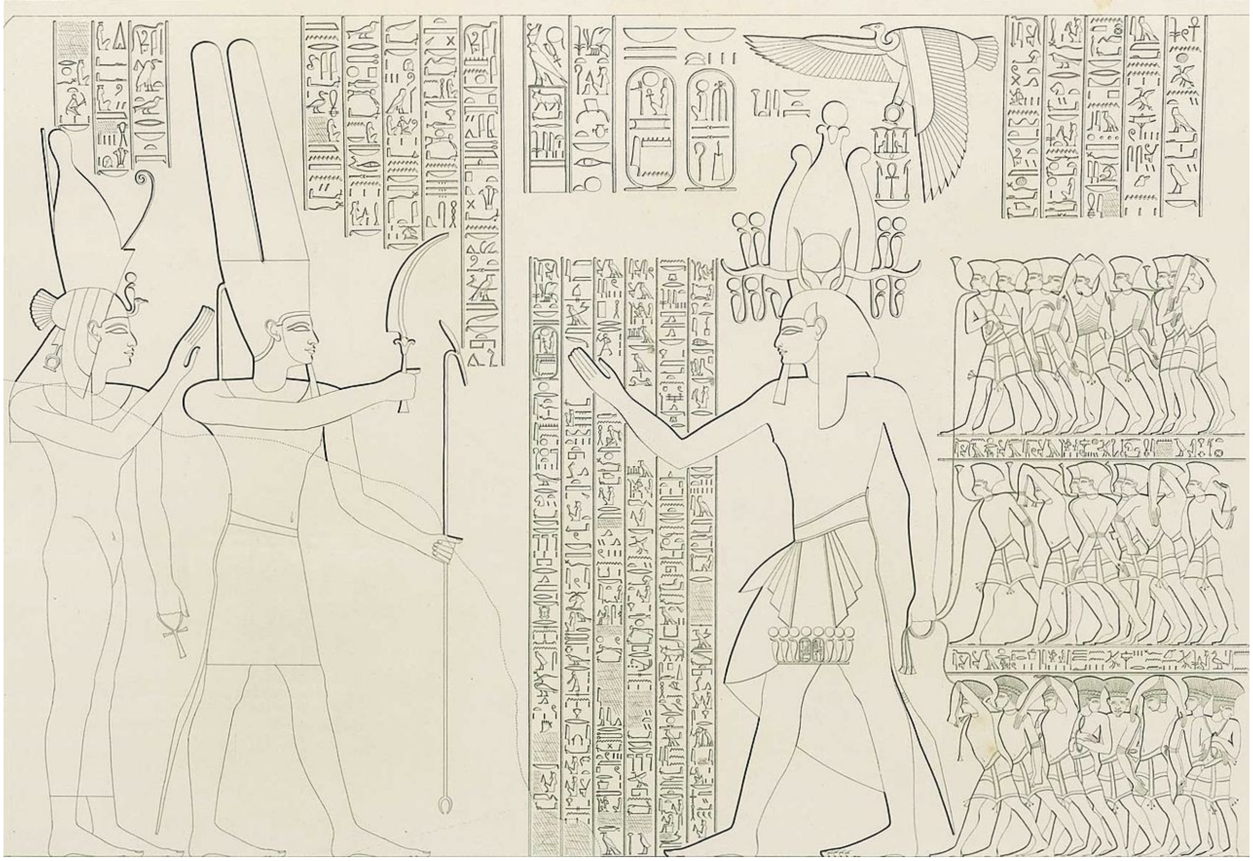


Medinet Habu Second Pylon, showing wide view and a close-up sketch of the left-hand side relief in which Amon, with Mut behind him, extends a sword to Rameses III who is leading three lines of prisoners. The text before the King includes the following:"Thou puttest great terror of me in the hearts of their chiefs; the fear and dread of me before them; that I may carry off their warriors (phrr), bound in my grasp, to lead them to thy ka, O my august father, – – – – –. Come, to [take] them, being: Peleset (Pw-r'-s'-t), Denyen (D'-y-n-yw-n'), Shekelesh (S'-k-rw-s). Thy strength it was which was before me, overthrowing their seed, – thy might, O lord of gods."[85]On the right hand side of the Pylon is the "Great Inscription on the Second Pylon", which includes the following text:"The foreign countries made a conspiracy in their islands, All at once the lands were removed and scattered in the fray. No land could stand before their arms:
from Hatti, Qode, Carchemish, Arzawa and Alashiya on, being cut off [i.e. destroyed] at one time. A camp was set up in Amurru. They desolated its people, and its land was like that which has never come into being. They were coming forward toward Egypt, while the flame was prepared before them. Their confederation was the Peleset, Tjeker, Shekelesh, Denyen and Weshesh, lands united. They laid their hands upon the land as far as the circuit of the earth, their hearts confident and trusting: 'Our plans will succeed!'"[86]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_Peoples

Fall of rome, history: key stuff about late antiquity

Historical approaches and modern syntheses

Main article: Historiography of the fall of the Western Roman Empire

Since 1776, when Edward Gibbon published the first volume of his *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Decline and Fall has been the theme around which much of the history of the Roman Empire has been structured. "From the eighteenth century onward," historian Glen Bowersock wrote, "we have been obsessed with the fall: it has been valued as an archetype for every perceived decline, and, hence, as a symbol for our own fears."[5]

The Fall is not the only unifying concept for events of this time period; the period described as Late Antiquity emphasizes the cultural continuities throughout and beyond the political collapse.

Another paradigm of the period

Main article: Late antiquity

From at least the time of Henri Pirenne (1862-1935), scholars have described a continuity of Roman culture and political legitimacy long after 476.[6]:5–7[7] Pirenne postponed the demise of classical civilization to the 8th century. He challenged the notion that Germanic barbarians had caused the Western Roman Empire to end, and he refused to equate the end of the Western Roman Empire with the end of the office of emperor in Italy. He pointed out the essential continuity of the economy of the Roman Mediterranean even after the barbarian invasions, and suggested that only the Muslim conquests represented a decisive break with antiquity.

The more recent formulation of a historical period characterized as "Late Antiquity" emphasizes the transformations of ancient to medieval worlds within a cultural continuity.[8] In recent decades archaeologically based argument even extends the continuity in material culture and in patterns of settlement as late as the eleventh century.[9][10][11][12] Observing the political reality of lost control (and the attendant fragmentation of commerce, culture, and language), but also the cultural and archaeological continuities, the process has been described as a complex cultural transformation, rather than a fall.[13]:34 As a result, for many contemporary scholars, "the perception of Late Antiquity has significantly changed: the period is no longer seen as an era of decline and crisis but as an epoch of metamorphosis in the Mediterranean region".[14][15]:3,4

Timespan

A recent synthesis gives four decisive turns of events in the transformation from the height of the empire to the early Middle Ages:

- The Antonine Plague that ended a long period of demographic and economic expansion, weakening but not toppling the empire.

- The Crisis of the Third Century, in which climatic change, renewed pandemic disease, and internal and external political instability led to the near-collapse of the imperial system. Its reconstitution included a new basis for the currency, an expanded professional government apparatus, emperors further distanced from their people, and, shortly, the rise of Christianity, a proselytizing, exclusive religion that anticipated the imminent end of the world.
- The military and political failure of the West, in which mass migration from the Eurasian steppe overcame and dismembered the western part of an internally-weakened empire. The eastern empire rebuilt itself again and began the reconquest of the West.

Routes taken by barbarian invaders of the Roman Empire during the Migration Period

- In the lands around the Mediterranean the Late Antique Little Ice Age and the Plague of Justinian created one of the worst environmental cataclysms in recorded history. The imperial system crumbled in the next couple of generations and then lost vast territories to the armies of Islam, a new proselytizing, exclusive religion that also looked forward to an imminent end time. The diminished and impoverished Byzantine rump state survived amid perpetual strife between and among the followers of Christianity and Islam.[16]

The loss of centralized political control over the West, and the lessened power of the East, are universally agreed, but the theme of decline has been taken to cover a much wider time span than the hundred years from 376. For Cassius Dio, the accession of the emperor Commodus in 180 CE marked the descent "from a kingdom of gold to one of rust and iron".[17] Since the age of humanism, the process of the Fall has been thought to have begun with Constantine the Great, or with the soldier emperors who seized power through command of the army from 235 through 284, or with Commodus, or even with Augustus.[14]

Gibbon was uncertain about when decline began. "In the first paragraph of his text, Gibbon wrote that he intended to trace the decline from the golden age of the Antonines"; later text has it beginning about A.D. 180 with the death of Marcus Aurelius; while in chapter 7, he pushes the start of the decline to about 52 B.C., the time of Julius Caesar and Pompey and Cicero.[18] Gibbon placed the western empire's end with the removal of the man Gibbon referred to as "the helpless Augustulus" in 476.[19]

Arnold J. Toynbee and James Burke argue that the entire Imperial era was one of steady decay of institutions founded in republican times. Theodor Mommsen excluded the imperial period from his Nobel Prize-winning *History of Rome* (1854–1856). As one convenient marker for the end, 476 has been used since Gibbon, but other key dates for the fall of the Roman Empire in the West include the Crisis of the Third Century, the Crossing of the Rhine in 406 (or 405), the sack of Rome in 410, and the death of Julius Nepos in 480.[20][*page needed*]

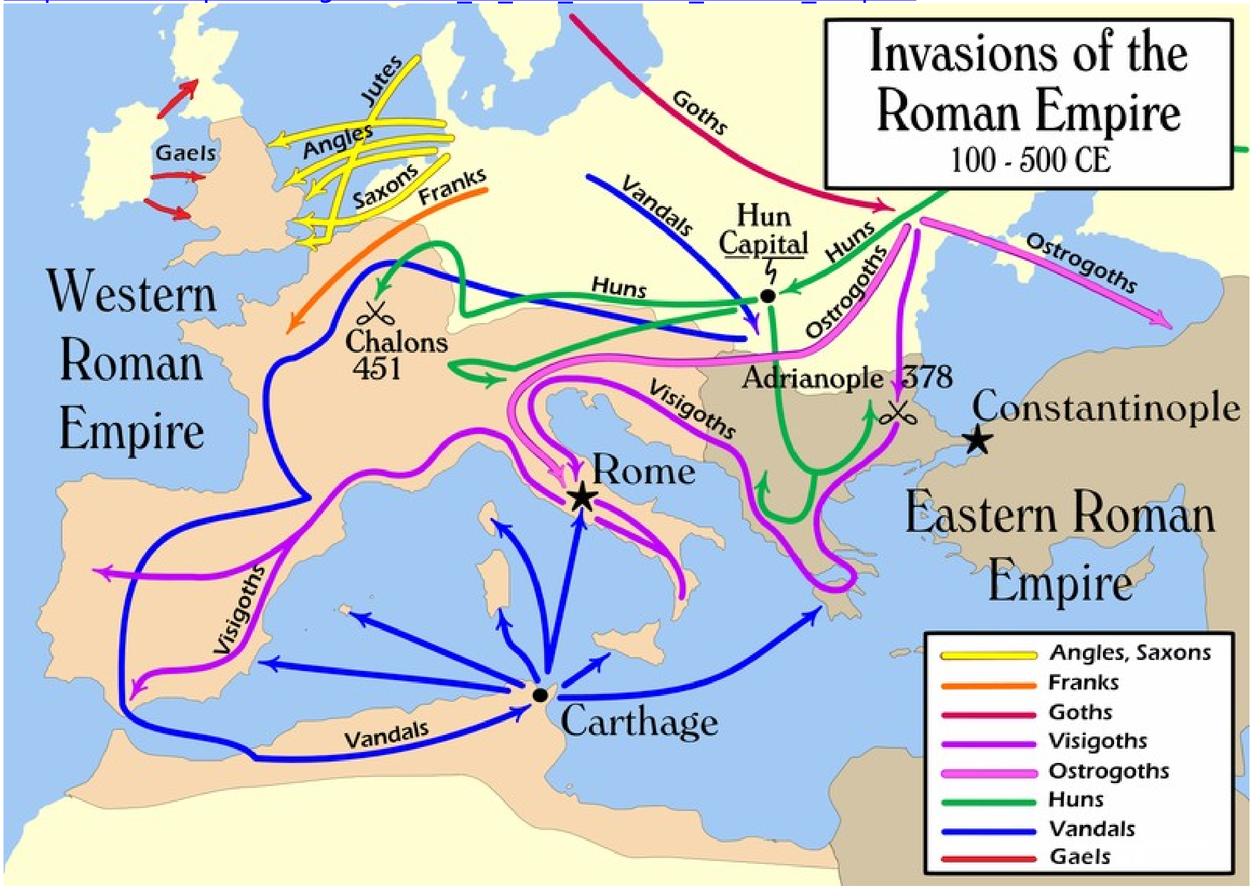
Underlying causes

When Gibbon published his landmark work, it quickly became the standard, and remained so for over 200 years.[21][22] Peter Brown has written that "Gibbon's work formed the peak of a century of scholarship which had been conducted in the belief that the study of the declining Roman Empire was also the study of the origins of modern Europe".[23] Gibbon was the first to attempt an explanation of causes of a Fall of empire.[23] Historian Gerald J. Gruman explains Gibbon's views as built around two important concepts: "balance" and "excess".[24] Gibbon's interpretation of the causes of the decline and fall of the Roman empire are primarily political and can be grouped under four political headings: universal domination, democracy, militarism and religion.[24]

Universal domination

Gibbon assumes the best course for all nations is to preserve a balance of power between them.[24] Without balance, humans produce domination, or its opposite excess, submergence.[25] Rome's pursuit of empire led to its own demise, because such domination is "artificial and abnormal".[25] Gibbon thought that, in its quest for world dominion, Rome had created a situation that intensified the evils of despotism, lost public freedom, and allowed the universal dominion of their *Pax Romana* to cause the deterioration of the political virtues.[26] The Roman Empire included many different nations and cultures, and Rome pushed assimilation by offering citizenship in what Gibbon saw as a profligate manner. The citizens of the Roman world-empire "received the name without adopting the spirit of Romans".[26] This led to what Gibbon saw as an obliteration of what it meant to be Roman.[26]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_the_Western_Roman_Empire


Invasions of the Roman Empire
100 - 500 CE
Goths
Jutes
Angles
Gaels
Saxons
Franks
Vandals
Hun Capital
Huns
Ostrogoths
Western Roman Empire
Chalons 451
Huns
Ostrogoths
Adrianople 378
Constantinople
Visigoths
Rome
Eastern Roman Empire
Visigoths
Vandals
Carthage
Angles, Saxons
Franks
Goths
Visigoths
Ostrogoths
Huns
Vandals
Gaels

Stats, history, rome: the first roman pandemic: Antonine Plague

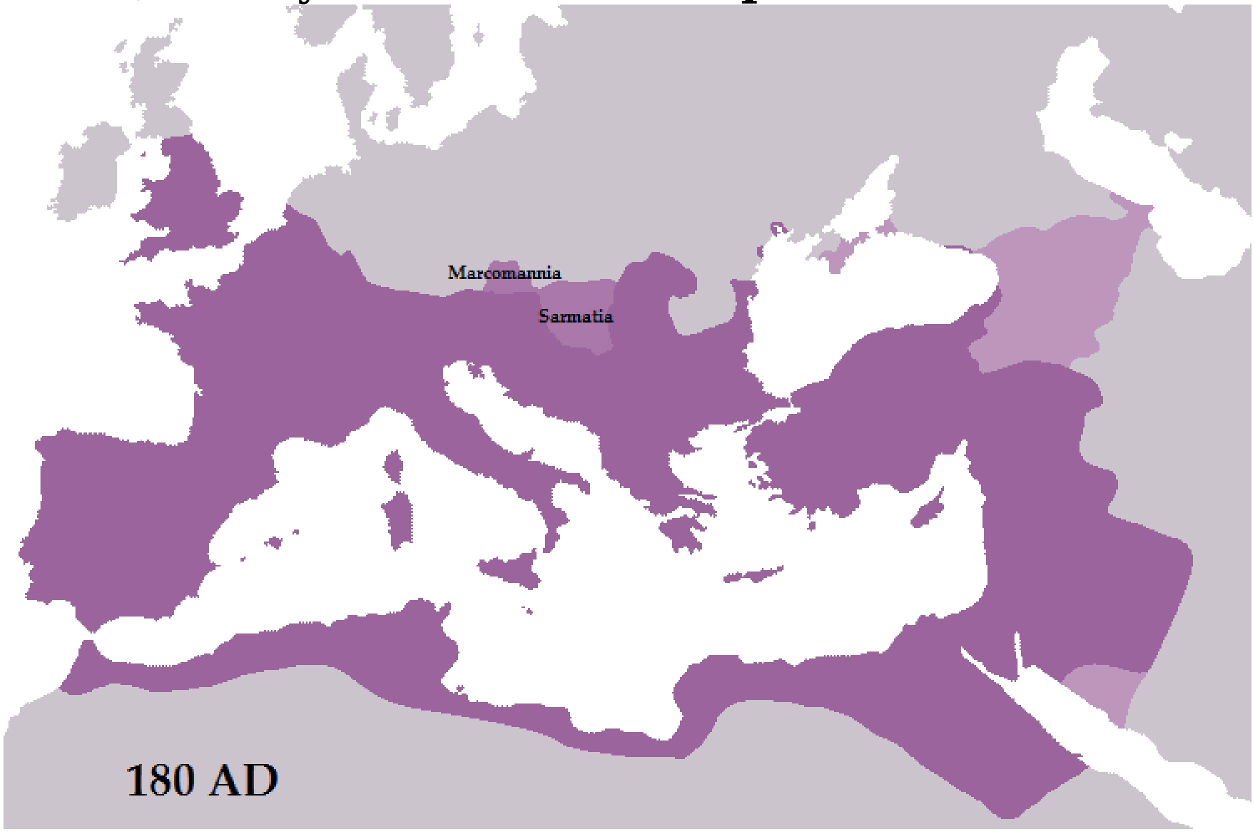
The *Antonine Plague* of AD 165 to 180, also known as the **Plague of Galen** (after Galen, the Greek physician who described it), was the first known pandemic impacting the Roman Empire, possibly contracted and spread by soldiers who were returning from campaign in the Near East. Scholars generally believe the plague was smallpox,[1][2][3] although measles has also been suggested.[4][5][6][7]

The plague caused "irreparable" damage to the Roman maritime trade in the Indian Ocean as proven by the archaeological record spanning from Egypt to India as well as significantly decreased Roman commercial activity in Southeast Asia.[42] However, as evidenced by the 3rd-century *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* and the 6th-century *Christian Topography* by Cosmas Indicopleustes, Roman maritime trade into the Indian Ocean, particularly in the silk and spice trades, certainly did not cease but continued until the loss of Egypt to the Muslim Rashidun Caliphate

Fall of rome, history, Germany: the great migrations of 200 ad: At the same time, in Central Europe during the second-century AD, the first movements of the Great Migrations were occurring, as the Goths began moving south-east from their ancestral lands at the mouth of River Vistula (see Wielbark culture), putting pressure on the Germanic tribes from the north and east. As a result, Germanic tribes and other nomadic peoples launched raids south and west across Rome's northern border, particularly into Gaul and across the Danube

At the same time, in Central Europe during the second-century AD, the first movements of the Great Migrations were occurring, as the Goths began moving south-east from their ancestral lands at the mouth of River Vistula (see Wielbark culture), putting pressure on the Germanic tribes from the north and east. As a result, Germanic tribes and other nomadic peoples launched raids south and west across Rome's northern border, particularly into Gaul and across the Danube.[7]

Rome, history: **The Roman Empire in 180 CE.**



Fall of rome, history: The Byzantine senate or eastern Roman senate (Greek: Σύγκλητος, Synklētos, or Γερουσία, Gerousia) was a continuation of the Roman Senate, established in the 4th century by Constantine I. It survived for centuries, but the senate's powers varied greatly during its history and gradually diminished until its eventual disappearance circa 14th century.

Fall of rome, history: In Italy, the Ostrogoths led by Theodoric the Great killed and replaced Odoacer, a Germanic soldier, erstwhile-leader of

the foederati in Northern Italy, and the de facto ruler of Italy, who had deposed the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, Romulus Augustulus, in 476

The **Ostrogothic Kingdom**, officially the **Kingdom of Italy** (Latin: *Regnum Italiae*),[5] existed under the control of the Germanic Ostrogoths in Italy and neighbouring areas from 493 to 553.

In Italy, the Ostrogoths led by Theodoric the Great killed and replaced Odoacer, a Germanic soldier, erstwhile-leader of the *foederati* in Northern Italy, and the *de facto* ruler of Italy, who had deposed the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, Romulus Augustulus, in 476. Under Theodoric, its first king, the Ostrogothic kingdom reached its zenith, stretching from modern southern France in the west to the modern western Serbia in the southeast. Most of the social institutions of the late Western Roman Empire were preserved during his rule. Theodoric called himself *Gothorum Romanorumque rex* ("King of the Goths and Romans"), demonstrating his desire to be a leader for both peoples.

Starting in 535, the Byzantine Empire invaded Italy under Justinian I. The Ostrogothic ruler at that time, Witiges, could not defend the kingdom successfully and was finally captured when the capital Ravenna fell. The Ostrogoths rallied around a new leader, Totila, and largely managed to reverse the conquest, but were eventually defeated. The last king of the Ostrogothic Kingdom was Teia.

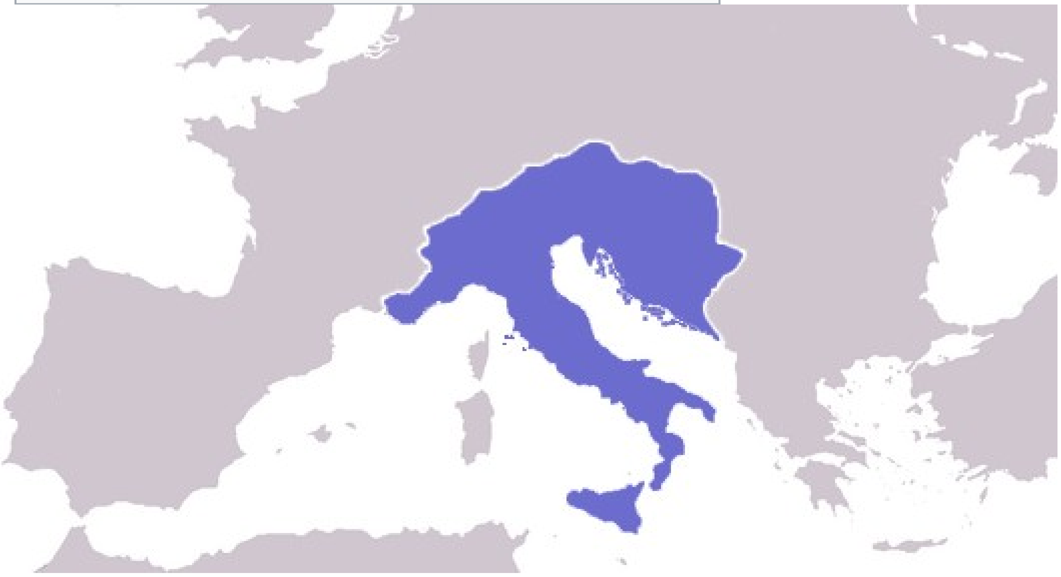
Coin depicting Theodoric the Great (475–526)

The Ostrogothic Kingdom at its greatest extent.

Capital	Ravenna (493 to 540) Pavia (540 to 553)
Common languages	Gothic, Vulgar Latin
Religion	**Official:** Arian and Chalcedonian Christianity[1] **Minorities:** Judaism,[2] Pelagian Christianity,[3]

	Syncretic Roman paganism,[4] Manichaeism[3]
Government	Monarchy
King	
• 493–526	Theodoric (first)
• 552–553	Teia (last)
Historical era	Late Antiquity
• Battles of Isonzo and Verona	489
• Fall of Ravenna	469 (493 in Italy)
• Start of Gothic War	535
• Battle of Mons Lactarius	553

Preceded by	Succeeded by
Kingdom of Italy under Odoacer Hunnic Empire Rugiland	Byzantine Empire under the Justinian dynasty Exarchate of Ravenna Duchy of Rome Avar Khaganate



Church, holy roman empire, history: readlater, church: Church of the Holy Apostles https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_the_Holy_Apostles

Fall of rome, history: Between 376 and 382 the Gothic War against the Eastern Roman Empire, and in particular the Battle of Adrianople, is commonly seen as a major turning point in the history of the Roman Empire, the first of a series of events over the next century that would see the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, although its ultimate importance to the Empire's eventual fall is still debated.[4][5]

Between 376 and 382 the **Gothic War** against the Eastern Roman Empire, and in particular the Battle of Adrianople, is commonly seen as a major turning point in the history of the Roman Empire, the first of a series of events over the next century that would see the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, although its ultimate importance to the Empire's eventual fall is still debated.[4][5] It was one of the many Gothic Wars with the Roman Empire.

Background[edit]

In the summer of 376, a massive number of Goths arrived on the Danube River, the border of the Roman Empire, requesting asylum from the Huns.[6] There were two groups: the Thervings led by Fritigern and Alavivus and the Greuthungi led by Alatheus and Saphrax.[7] Eunapius states their number as 200,000 including civilians but Peter Heather estimates that the Thervings may have had only 10,000 warriors and 50,000 people in total, with the Greuthungi about the same size.[8] The Cambridge Ancient History places modern estimates at around 90,000 people.[9]

The Goths sent ambassadors to Valens, the Eastern Roman emperor, requesting permission to settle their people inside the Empire.[10] It took them some time to arrive, for the Emperor was in Antioch preparing for a campaign against the Sasanian Empire over control of Armenia and Iberia. The bulk of his forces were stationed in the East, far away from the Danube.[11] Ancient sources are unanimous that Valens was pleased at the appearance of the Goths, as it offered the opportunity of new soldiers at low cost.[12] With Valens committed to action on the Eastern frontier, the appearance of a large number of barbarians meant his skeleton force in the Balkans were outnumbered.[13] Valens must have appreciated the danger when he gave the Thervings permission to enter the empire and the terms he gave them were highly favorable. This was not the first time barbarian tribes had been settled; the usual course was that some would be recruited into the army and the rest would be broken up into small groups and resettled across the empire at the Emperor's discretion. This would keep them from posing a unified threat and assimilate them into the greater Roman population. The agreement differed with the Thervings by allowing them to choose the place of their settlement, Thrace, and allowed them to remain united. During the negotiations, the Thervings also expressed a willingness to convert to Christianity. As for the Greuthungi, Roman army and naval forces blocked the river and denied their crossing.[14]

The Thervings were probably allowed to cross at or near the fortress of Durostorum.[15] They were ferried by the Romans in boats, rafts and in hollowed tree-trunks; "diligent care was taken that no future destroyer of the Roman state should be left behind, even if he were smitten by a fatal disease," according to Ammianus Marcellinus. Even so, the river swelled with rain and many drowned.[16] The Goths were to have their weapons confiscated but, whether because the Romans in charge accepted bribes, the Romans did not have the manpower to check all of the incoming warriors, or warriors recruited into the Roman army would need their own arms, many Goths were allowed to retain their weapons.[17][18][a] The Romans placed the Thervings along the southern bank of the Danube in Lower Mœsia as they waited for the land allocations to begin.[20] In the interim, the Roman state was to provide them food.[21]

Breakout[edit]

Movements of the Goths in 376

So many people in such a small area caused a food shortage and the Thervings began to starve.[22] Roman logistics could not cope with the vast numbers, and officials under the command of Lupicinus simply sold off much of the food before it reached the hands of the Goths. Desperate, Gothic families sold many of their children into slavery to Romans for dog meat at the price of one child per one dog.[23][24]

This treatment caused the Therving Goths to grow rebellious and Lupicinus decided to move them south to Marcianople, his regional headquarters.[25] To guard the march south, Lupicinus was forced to pull out the Roman troops guarding the Danube, which allowed the Greuthungi promptly to cross into Roman territory. The Thervings then deliberately slowed their march to allow the Greuthungi to catch up.[26] As the Thervings approached Marcianople, Lupicinus invited Fritigern, Alavivus and a small group of their attendants to dine with him inside the city. The bulk of the Goths were encamped some distance outside, with Roman troops between them and the city. Due to the persistent refusal of the Roman soldiers to allow the Goths to buy supplies in the town's market, fighting broke out and several Roman soldiers were killed and robbed. Lupicinus, having received the news as he sat at the banquet with the Gothic leaders, ordered Fritigern and Alavivus held hostage and their retainers executed. When news of the killings came to the Goths outside, they prepared to assault Marcianople. Fritigern advised Lupicinus that the best way to calm the situation was to allow him to rejoin his people and show them that he was still alive. Lupicinus agreed and set him free. Alavivus is not mentioned again in the sources and his fate is unknown.[27][28]

Having survived the chaos of the night and the earlier humiliations, Fritigern and the Thervings decided it was time to break the treaty and rebel against the Romans, and the Greuthungi immediately joined them. Fritigern led the Goths away from Marcianople towards Scythia. Lupicinus and his army pursued them 14 km (8.7 mi) from the city, fought the Battle of Marcianople and were annihilated. All the junior officers were killed, the military standards were lost and the Goths secured new weapons and armor from the dead Roman soldiers. Lupicinus survived and escaped back to Marcianople. The Thervings then raided and pillaged throughout the region.[29][30]

Grutungi
Tervingi
Durostorum
Tomi
Nicopolis ad Istrum
Marcianopoli
Lupicino
Cabyle
Beroea
Dibaltum
Adrianopoli
Guarnigione
Costantinopoli
Perinto

History, Greece: Late Bronze Age collapse, greek dark ages

The **Late Bronze Age collapse** was a time of widespread societal collapse during the 12th century BC, between c. 1200 and 1150. The collapse affected a large area of the Eastern Mediterranean (North Africa and Southeast Europe) and the Near East, in particular Egypt, eastern Libya, the Balkans, the Aegean, Anatolia, and the Caucasus. It was sudden, violent, and culturally disruptive for many Bronze Age civilizations, and it brought a sharp economic decline to regional powers, notably ushering in the Greek Dark Ages.

The palace economy of Mycenaean Greece, the Aegean region, and Anatolia that characterized the Late Bronze Age disintegrated, transforming into the small isolated village cultures of the Greek Dark Ages, which lasted from around 1100 to the beginning of the better-known Archaic age around 750 BC. The Hittite Empire of

Anatolia and the Levant collapsed, while states such as the Middle Assyrian Empire in Mesopotamia and the New Kingdom of Egypt survived but were weakened. Conversely, some peoples such as the Phoenicians enjoyed increased autonomy and power with the waning military presence of Egypt and Assyria in West Asia.

The reason why the arbitrary date 1200 BC acts as the beginning of the end of the Late Bronze Age goes back to one German historian, Arnold Hermann Ludwig Heeren. In one of his histories on ancient Greece from 1817, Heeren stated that the first period of Greek prehistory ended around 1200 BC, basing this date on the fall of Troy at 1190 after ten years of war. He then went on in 1826 to date the end of the Egyptian 19th Dynasty as well to around 1200 BC. Throughout the remainder of the 19th century A.D. other events were then subsumed into the year 1200 BC including the invasion of the Sea Peoples, the Dorian invasion, the fall of Mycenaean Greece, and eventually in 1896 the first mention of Israel in the southern Levant recorded on the Merneptah Stele.[1]

Competing theories of the cause of the Late Bronze Age collapse have been proposed since the 19th century. These include volcanic eruptions, droughts, disease, invasions by the Sea Peoples or migrations of the Dorians, economic disruptions due to increased ironworking, and changes in military technology and methods that brought the decline of chariot warfare. Following the collapse, gradual changes in metallurgic technology led to the subsequent Iron Age across Eurasia and Africa during the 1st millennium BC.

War, Russia, sanctions, government: feb15 EU Wants to Use Frozen Russian Funds to Pay for Reconstruction

War, sanctions: feb15 The Chinese balloon that wound up over the continental United States likely ended up there by accident due to unexpected weather, The Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

US officials told the *Post* that US intelligence was tracking the balloon since it was launched from Hainan Island in southern China. They expected it to travel over the US territory of Guam, where the US is opening new military bases to prepare for a future war with China.

Journal: feb15 ***klaus*** schwab is just a leader. Probably a very intelligent, well intentioned

man. I see him as more of a visionary rather than the technocrat he’s made out to be in the media.

A nice window into his mind is in his statements below. He says that technology is advancing so rapidly that the world will seem completely different in just 10 years.

'Our life in 10 years from now will be completely different, very much affected, & who masters [#4IR] technologies, in some way, will be the masters of the world': Klaus Schwab, World Government Summit 2023 #WorldGovSummit #WGS

@WorldGovSummit

https://twitter.com/TimHinchliffe/status/1625155704985198596?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1625155704985198596%7Ctwgr%5Eb68aa0e5b338be520b5878f82a8d9d67c5867c44%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.zerohedge.com%2Fgeopolitical%2Fwatch-klaus-schwab-calls-global-government-master-ai-technologies

Health, censorship, vaccine: feb15 **Crushing COVID Claims: Scientific Review Challenges 'Fact' That Masks Reduced Transmissions**

The new scientific review by 12 researchers from leading universities found little support for the claims that masks reduced Covid exposures.

My interest in the story, as usual, focuses on free speech.

Numerous experts were suspended or banned for challenging these very claims and the media labeled any such critics as dangerous or fringe figures.

Regardless of your ultimate conclusions on the efficacy of masks, there was clearly a scientific basis to challenge the mask policies. Yet, many people were routinely censored on Twitter and other platforms for daring to challenge the official position on masks.

The Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC) initially rejected the use of a mask mandate. However, the issue became a political weapon as politicians and the press claimed that questioning masks was anti-science and even unhinged. In April 2020, the CDC reversed its position and called for the masking of the entire population, including children as young as 2 years old. The mask mandate and other pandemic measures like the closing of schools are now cited as fueling emotional and developmental problems in children.

The closing of schools and businesses was also challenged by some critics as unnecessary. Many of those critics were also censored. It now appears that they may have been right. Many countries did not close schools and did not experience increases in Covid. However, we are now facing alarming drops in testing scores and alarming rises in medical illness among the young.

Masks became a major social and political dividing line in politics and the media. Maskless people were chased from stores and denounced in Congress. Then-CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield said during a Senate hearing that “face masks are the most important powerful health tool we have.”

However, the new publication reaffirms earlier studies and states that “a new scientific review suggests that widespread masking may have done little to nothing to curb the transmission of COVID.” It added that “wearing a mask may make little to no difference in how many people caught a flu-like illness/COVID-like illness (nine studies; 276,917 people); and probably makes little or no difference in how many people have flu/COVID confirmed by a laboratory test (six studies; 13,919 people).”

It also found little evidence of a difference from wearing better masks and that “wearing N95/P2 respirators probably makes little to no difference in how many people have confirmed flu (five studies; 8407 people); and may make little to no difference in how many people catch a flu-like illness (five studies; 8407 people), or respiratory illness (three studies; 7799 people).”

Again, I expect that these studies will be debated for years. That is a good thing. There are questions raised over the types of studies used and whether randomized studies are sufficient. The point is only that there were countervailing indicators on mask efficacy and a basis to question the mandates. Yet, there was no real debate because of the censorship supported by many Democratic leaders in social media. To question such mandates was declared a public health threat.

The head of the World Health Organization even supported censorship to combat what he called an “infodemic.”

A lawsuit was filed by Missouri and Louisiana and joined by leading experts, including Drs. Jayanta Bhattacharya (Stanford University) and Martin Kulldorff (Harvard University).

Bhattacharya previously objected to the suspension of Dr. Clare Craig after she raised concerns about Pfizer trial documents. Those doctors were the co-authors of the Great Barrington Declaration, which advocated for a more focused Covid response that targeted the most vulnerable population rather than widespread lockdowns and mandates. Many are now questioning the efficacy and cost of the massive lockdown as well as the real value of masks or the rejection of natural immunities as an alternative to vaccination. Yet, these experts and others were attacked for such views just a year ago. Some found themselves censored on social media for challenging claims of Dr. Fauci and others.

The media has quietly acknowledged the science questioning mask efficacy and school closures without addressing its own role in attacking those who raised these objections. Even raising the lab theory on the origin of Covid 19 (a theory now treated as plausible) was denounced as a conspiracy theory. The science and health reporter for the New York Times, Apoorva Mandavilli, even denounced the theory as “racist.”

In the meantime, California has moved to potentially strip doctors of their licenses for spreading dissenting views on Covid.

The latest review will not conclusively answer the scientific questions around mask efficacy, but it should answer any lingering questions over the harm of censorship. We never had a serious debate because of the government-corporate-media alliance to snuff out dissenting views on pandemic policies. The result may have been avoidable emotional, economic, and social harm to the population as a whole.

War, iran, sanctions: feb15 **US Shoots Down Iranian-Made Drone Over Occupied Conoco Gas Field**

The Pentagon has revealed that on Tuesday US forces fired on and took down an alleged 'Iranian-made' drone that was threating a base in Syria where US troops are stationed.

The base is located in northeastern Syria, and the drone flew toward **Mission Support Site Conoco**, named for **the huge gas field that US-backed forces have for years occupied** in Deir Ezzor province.

US forces have occupied the major Conoco gas field, among Syria's largest which chiefly supplied Syria's population, for years under the guise of a 'counter-ISIS' mission. via AFP

US Central Command said the drone was shot down mid-afternoon on Tuesday, following several recent attacks on US positions in the region, and also amid a spate of attacks at the Syria-Iraq border base of al-Tanf.

One of the biggest recent incidents at Conoco gas field involved an August skirmish wherein the US counter-attacked against what were believed to be Iran-backed fighters. The Pentagon at the time said it took out four enemy militants and destroyed rocket launchers.

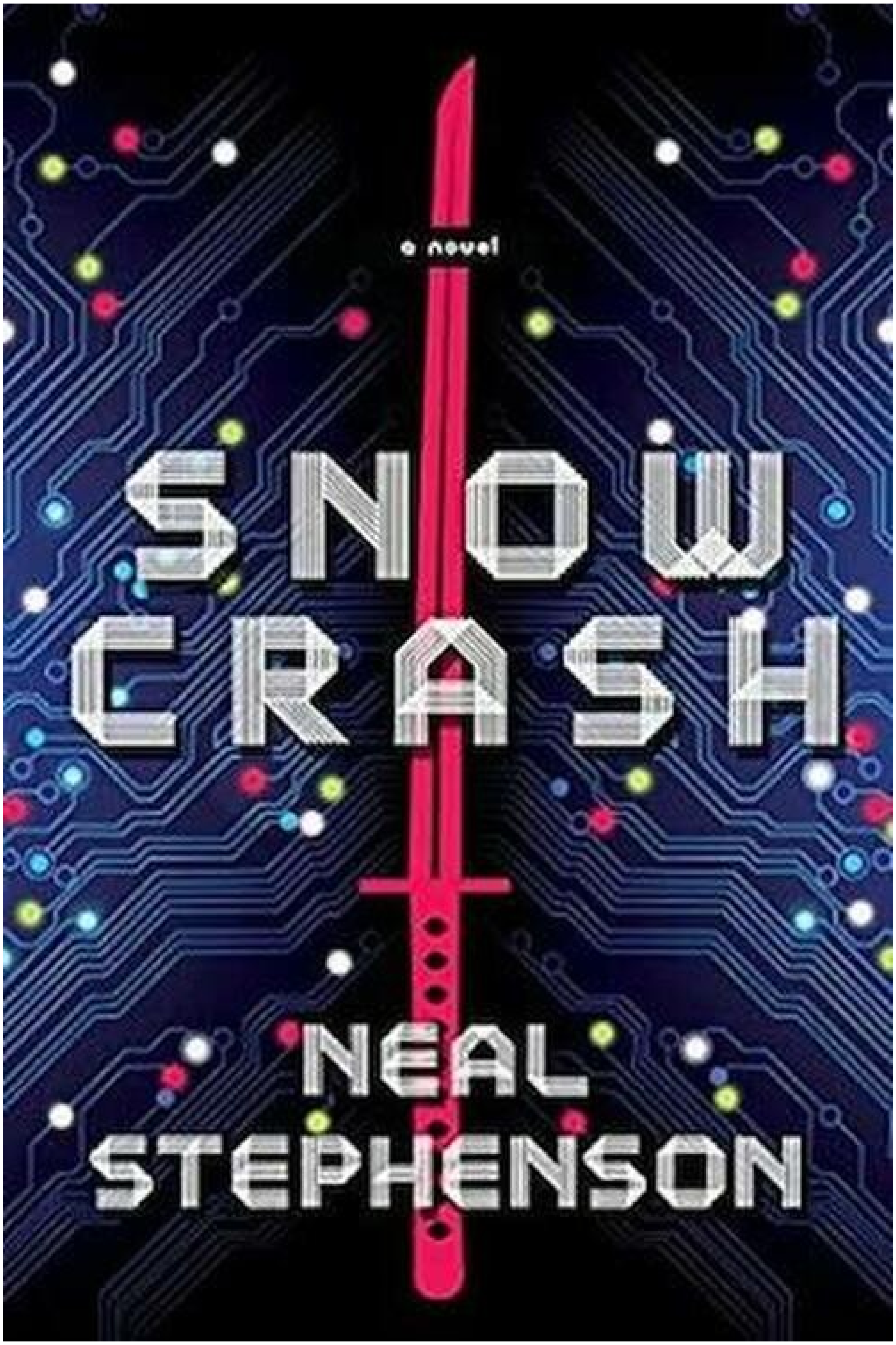
It's unclear whether the attacks have indeed originated from 'Iranian militias' or else Syrian nationalist militias, or perhaps both, given the close alliance and cooperation among Iranian operatives and Syrian forces.

CENTCOM took the rare step in this latest instance of publishing **photographs of what appears a large drone over US positions, and it going up in flames** after being engaged by US forces...

This fresh drone shootdown incident comes following a deadly 7.8 magnitude earthquake which rocked the whole region, killing tens of thousands of people and leaving entire towns and villages as rubble.

Stats: feb15 stats: cool book predicted the Metaverse in 1992: Reality is a place to escape from, a neoliberal future wrecked by hyperinflation and inequality and run by corporations and gangsters and insane bureaucracy.

Neal Stephenson’s science fiction novel *Snow Crash* predicted the Metaverse in 1992. This cult book has the amusingly-named Hiro Protagonist running around in an artificial cyber world, trying to stop a virus that wipes minds, aided by his hacker friend Y.T. Reality is a place to escape from, a neoliberal future wrecked by hyperinflation and inequality and run by corporations and gangsters and insane bureaucracy.


a novel
SNOW CRASH
NEAL STEPHENSON

Ai, tech: feb15 chatgpt rollout errors so far..

If you haven’t been paying attention, here’s what’s transpired so far.

- The demo was full of errors

- It started gaslighting people
- It suffered an existential crisis
- The prompt leaked
- And then it started threatening people

War, sanctions, Germany, government, energy: feb15 Biden Willing To Let Germans Freeze In Blowing Up Pipeline: Seymour Hersh Interview

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Seymour Hersh in a fresh interview with Germany's *Berliner Zeitung* newspaper which follows up on his bombshell reporting *How America Took Out The Nord Stream Pipeline,* has provided more context to the Biden White House's decision-making behind the brazen, high-risk covert op.

"The President of the United States **would rather see Germany freeze than [see] Germany possibly stop supporting Ukraine**," Hersh asserted.

History, war of three kingdoms, journal: feb15 Glorious Revolution, readlater https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glorious_Revolution

important people, read later

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_of_Austria

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinal_Mazarin

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_XIV

rome, history, church: divine right of kings, history, different examples

Significantly, the doctrine asserts that a monarch is not accountable to any earthly authority (such as a parliament) because their right to rule is derived from divine authority. Thus, the monarch is not subject to the will of the people, of the aristocracy, or of any other estate of the realm. It follows that only divine authority can judge a monarch, and that any attempt to depose, dethrone or restrict their powers runs contrary to God's will and may constitute a sacrilegious act. It is often expressed in the phrase *by the Grace of God*, Derived from the Latin title "Dei Gratia" ("Dei Gratia Regina", by the grace of God, Queen. "Dei Gratia Rex", by the grace of God, King) which has historically been attached to the titles of certain reigning monarchs. Note, however, that such accountability only to God does not *per-se* make the monarch a sacred king.

Historically, many notions of rights have been authoritarian and hierarchical, with different people granted different rights and some having more rights than others. For instance, the right of a father to receive respect from his son did not indicate a right for the son to receive a return from that respect. Analogously, the divine right of kings, which permitted absolute power over subjects, provided few rights for the subjects themselves.[1]

In contrast, conceptions of rights developed during the Age of Enlightenment – for example during the American and French Revolutions – often emphasised liberty and equality as being among the most important of rights.

Pre-Christian conceptions[edit]

Zoroastrianism (Iranian world)[edit]

Main article: Khvarenah

Ahura Mazda gives divine kingship to Ardashir.

Khvarenah (also spelled *khwarenah* or *xwarra(h)*: Avestan: □□□□□□□ *xᵛarənah*; Persian: فرّ, romanized: *far*) is an Iranian and Zoroastrian concept, which literally means *glory*, about divine right of the kings. This may stem from early Mesopotamian culture, where kings were often regarded as deities after their death. Shulgi of Ur was among the first Mesopotamian rulers to declare himself to be divine. In the Iranian view, kings would never rule, unless Khvarenah is with them, and they will never fall unless Khvarenah leaves them. For example, according to the *Kar-namag of Ardashir*, when Ardashir I of Persia and Artabanus V of Parthia fought for the throne of Iran, on the road Artabanus and his contingent are overtaken by an enormous ram, which is also following Ardashir. Artabanus's religious advisors explain to him that the ram is the manifestation of the *khwarrah* of the ancient Iranian kings, which is leaving Artabanus to join Ardashir.[2]

Roman Empire[edit]

The Imperial cult of ancient Rome identified Roman emperors and some members of their families with the "divinely sanctioned" authority (*auctoritas*) of the Roman State. The official offer of *cultus* to a living emperor acknowledged his office and rule as divinely approved and constitutional: his Principate should therefore demonstrate pious respect for traditional Republican deities and mores. Many of the rites, practices and status distinctions that characterized the cult to emperors were perpetuated in the theology and politics of the Christianised Empire.[3]

Outside of Christianity, especially in religious societies (such as Muslim and Jewish societies), kings were often seen as ruling with the backing of heavenly powers or perhaps even as divine beings themselves. However, the Christian notion of a divine right of kings is traced to a story found in 1 Samuel, where the prophet Samuel anoints Saul and then David[7] as *Messiah* ("anointed one")—king over Israel. In the Jewish traditions, the lack of a divine leadership represented by an anointed king [beginning shortly after the death of Joshua] left the people of Israel vulnerable, and the promise of the "promised land" was not fully fulfilled until a king was anointed by a prophet on behalf of God.

The effect of anointing was seen to be that the monarch became inviolable, so that even when Saul sought to kill David, David would not raise his hand against him because "he was the Lord's anointed". Raising a hand to a king was therefore considered to be as sacrilegious as raising a hand against God, and stood on equal footing as blasphemy. In essence, the king stood in place of God and was never to be challenged "without the challenger being accused of blasphemy" - except by a prophet, which under Christianity was replaced by the church.

Although the later Roman Empire had developed the European concept of a divine regent in Late Antiquity, Adomnan of Iona provides one of the earliest written examples of a Western medieval concept of kings ruling with divine right. He wrote of the Irish King Diarmait mac Cerbaill's assassination and claimed that divine punishment fell on his assassin for the act of violating the monarch. Adomnan also recorded a story about Saint Columba supposedly being visited by an angel carrying a glass book, who told him to ordain Aedan mac Gabrain as King of Dal Riata. Columba initially refused, and the angel answered by whipping him and demanding that he perform the ordination because God had commanded it. The same angel visited Columba on three successive nights. Columba finally agreed, and Aedan came to receive ordination. At the ordination, Columba told Aedan that so long as he obeyed God's laws, then none of his enemies would prevail against him, but the moment he broke them, this protection would end, and the same whip with which Columba had been struck would be turned against the king. Adomnan's writings most likely influenced other Irish writers, who in turn influenced continental ideas as well. Pepin the Short's coronation may have also come from the same influence.[8] The Byzantine Empire can be seen as the progenitor of this concept (which began with Constantine I). This in turn inspired the Carolingian dynasty and the Holy Roman Emperors, whose lasting impact on Western and Central Europe further inspired all subsequent Western ideas of kingship.

In the Middle Ages, the idea that God had granted earthly power to the monarch, just as he had given spiritual authority and power to the church, especially to the Pope, was already a well-known concept long before later writers coined the term "divine right of kings" and employed it as a theory in political science. For example, Richard I of England declared at his trial during the diet at Speyer in 1193: "I am born in a rank which recognizes no superior but God, to whom alone I am responsible for my actions", and it was Richard who first used the motto *"Dieu et mon droit"* ("God and my right") which is still the motto of the Monarch of the United Kingdom.[9]

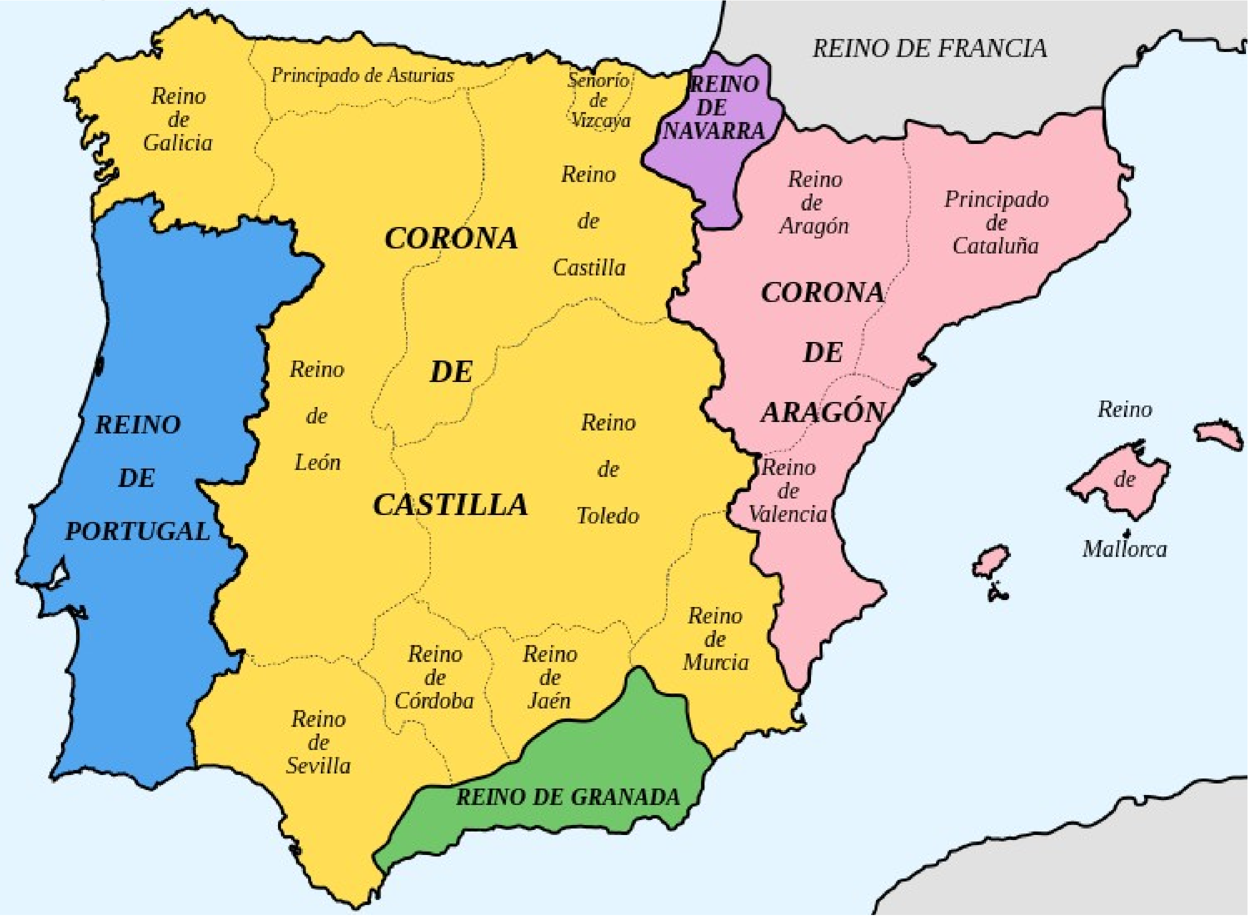
With the rise of nation-states and the Protestant Reformation in the late 16th century, the theory of divine right justified the king's absolute authority in both political and spiritual matters. Henry VIII of England declared himself the Supreme Head of the

Church of England, and exerted the power of the throne more than any of his predecessors. As a political theory, it was further developed by James VI of Scotland (1567–1625), and came to the fore in England under his reign as James I of England (1603–1625). Louis XIV of France (1643–1715) strongly promoted the theory as well.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_right_of_kings

china, stats: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thucydides_Trap

History, fall of the roman empire, stats: **Iberian Kingdoms in 1400**


REINO DE FRANCIA
Reino de Galicia
Principado de Asturias
Señorío de Vizcaya
REINO DE NAVARRA
Reino de Castilla
Reino de Aragón
Principado de Cataluña
CORONA DE CASTILLA
CORONA DE ARAGÓN
Reino de León
Reino de Toledo
REINO DE PORTUGAL
Reino de Valencia
Reino de Mallorca
Reino de Murcia
Reino de Córdoba
Reino de Jaén
Reino de Sevilla
REINO DE GRANADA

Infante: the Iberian kingdoms of Spain https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infante

Journal, history, church: the change from moors/jews/muslims in the iberians peninsula to catholics seems to have been fast tracked here, 1400 and something

In 1497, King Manuel I of Portugal forced all Jews in his kingdom to convert or leave. That same year he expelled all Muslims that were not slaves,[103] and in 1502 the Catholic Monarchs followed suit, imposing the choice of conversion to Christianity or exile and loss of property. Many Jews and Muslims fled to North Africa and the Ottoman Empire, while others publicly converted to Christianity and became known respectively as Marranos and Moriscos (after the old term *Moors*).[104] However, many of these continued to practice their religion in secret. The Moriscos revolted several times and were ultimately forcibly expelled from Spain in the early 17th century. From 1609 to 1614, over 300,000 Moriscos were sent on ships to North Africa and other locations, and, of this figure, around 50,000 died resisting the expulsion, and 60,000 died on the journey.[105][106]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula

romans ruled iberian peninsula for 600 years

600-year occupation of the Iberian Peninsula

History[edit]

Roman rule[edit]

This section **does not cite any sources**. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *(December 2022)* (*Learn how and when to remove this template message*)

Main article: Hispania

Roman conquest: 220 BCE - 19 BCE

In 218 BCE, during the Second Punic War against the Carthaginians, the first Roman troops occupied the Iberian Peninsula; however, it was not until the reign of Augustus that it was annexed after 200 years of war with the Celts and Iberians. The result was the creation of the province of Hispania. It was divided into Hispania Ulterior and Hispania Citerior during the late Roman Republic, and during the Roman Empire, it was divided into Hispania Tarraconensis in the northeast, Hispania Baetica in the south and Lusitania in the southwest.

Hispania supplied the Roman Empire with silver, food, olive oil, wine, and metal. The emperors Trajan, Hadrian, Marcus Aurelius, and Theodosius I, the philosopher Seneca the Younger, and the poets Martial and Lucan were born from families living on the Iberian Peninsula.

During their 600-year occupation of the Iberian Peninsula, the Romans introduced the Latin language that influenced many of the languages that exist today in the Iberian peninsula.

See also: Lusitania, Hispania Tarraconensis, and Hispania Baetica

Pre-modern Iberia[edit]

See also: Visigothic Kingdom, Al-Andalus, Spania, and Kingdom of the Suebi

Germanic and Byzantine rule c. 560

In the early fifth century, Germanic peoples occupied the peninsula, namely the Suebi, the Vandals (Silingi and Hasdingi) and their allies, the Alans. Only the kingdom of the Suebi (Quadi and Marcomanni) would endure after the arrival of another wave of Germanic invaders, the Visigoths, who occupied all of the Iberian Peninsula and expelled or partially integrated the Vandals and the Alans. The Visigoths eventually occupied the Suebi kingdom and its capital city, Bracara (modern day Braga), in 584–585. They would also occupy the province of the Byzantine Empire (552–624) of Spania in the south of the peninsula. However, Balearic Islands remained in Byzantine hands until Umayyad conquest in 707.[citation needed]

Main articles: Al-Andalus and Reconquista

In 711, a Muslim army conquered the Visigothic Kingdom in Hispania. Under Tariq ibn Ziyad, the Islamic army landed at Gibraltar and, in an eight-year campaign, occupied all except the northern kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula in the Umayyad conquest of Hispania. Al-Andalus (Arabic: الإندلس, tr. *al-ʾAndalūs*, possibly "Land of the Vandals"),[38][39] is the Arabic name given to Muslim Iberia. The Muslim conquerors were Arabs and Berbers; following the conquest, conversion and arabization of the Hispano-Roman population took place, [40] (*muwalladum* or *Muladí*).[41][42] After a long process, spurred on in the 9th and 10th centuries, the majority of the population in Al-Andalus eventually converted to Islam.[43] The Muslims were referred to by the generic name *Moors*.[44] The Muslim population was divided per ethnicity (Arabs, Berbers, Muladí), and the supremacy of Arabs over the rest of group was a recurrent causal for strife, rivalry and hatred, particularly between Arabs and Berbers.[45] Arab elites could be further divided in the Yemenites (first wave) and the Syrians (second wave).[46] Christians and Jews were allowed to live as part of a stratified society under the *dhimmah* system,[47] although Jews became very important in certain fields.[48] Some Christians migrated to the Northern Christian kingdoms, while those who stayed in Al-Andalus progressively arabised and became known as *musta'arab* (mozarabs).[49] The slave population comprised the *Ṣaqāliba* (literally meaning "slavs", although they were slaves of generic European origin) as well as Sudanese slaves.[50]

The Umayyad rulers faced a major Berber Revolt in the early 740s; the uprising originally broke out in North Africa (Tangier) and later spread across the peninsula.[51] Following the Abbasid takeover from the Umayyads and the shift of the economic centre of the Islamic Caliphate from Damascus to Baghdad, the western province of al-Andalus was marginalised and ultimately became politically autonomous as independent emirate in 756, ruled by one of the last surviving Umayyad royals, Abd al-Rahman I.[52]

Islamic rule: al-Andalus c. 1000

Al-Andalus became a center of culture and learning, especially during the Caliphate of Córdoba. The Caliphate reached the height of its power under the rule of Abd-ar-Rahman III and his successor al-Hakam II, becoming then, in the view of Jaime Vicens Vives, "the most powerful state in Europe".[53] Abd-ar-Rahman III also managed to expand the clout of Al-Andalus across the Strait of Gibraltar,[53] waging war, as well as his successor, against the Fatimid Empire.[54]

Between the 8th and 12th centuries, Al-Andalus enjoyed a notable urban vitality, both in terms of the growth of the preexisting cities as well as in terms of founding of new ones: Córdoba reached a population of 100,000 by the 10th century, Toledo 30,000 by the 11th century and Seville 80,000 by the 12th century.[55]

During the Middle Ages, the North of the peninsula housed many small Christian polities including the Kingdom of Castile, the Kingdom of Aragon, the Kingdom of Navarre, the Kingdom of León or the Kingdom of Portugal, as well as a number of counties that spawned from the Carolingian Marca Hispanica. Christian and Muslim polities fought and allied among themselves in variable alliances.[c] The Christian kingdoms progressively expanded south taking over Muslim territory in what is historiographically known as the "Reconquista" (the latter concept has been however noted as product of the claim to a pre-existing Spanish Catholic nation and it would not necessarily convey adequately "the complexity of centuries of warring and other more peaceable interactions between Muslim and Christian kingdoms in medieval Iberia between 711 and 1492").[57]

Two warriors embrace before the siege of Chincoya Castle (*Cantigas de Santa Maria*).

The Caliphate of Córdoba was subsumed in a period of upheaval and civil war (the Fitna of al-Andalus) and collapsed in the early 11th century, spawning a series of ephemeral statelets, the *taifas*. Until the mid 11th century, most of the territorial expansion southwards of the Kingdom of Asturias/León was carried out through a policy of agricultural colonization rather than through military operations; then, profiting from the feebleness of the taifa principalities, Ferdinand I of León seized Lamego and Viseu (1057–1058) and Coimbra (1064) away from the Taifa of Badajoz (at times at war with the Taifa of Seville);[58][59] Meanwhile, in the same year Coimbra was conquered, in the Northeastern part of the Iberian Peninsula, the Kingdom of Aragon took Barbastro from the Hudid Taifa of Lérida as part of an international expedition sanctioned by Pope Alexander II. Most critically, Alfonso VI of León-Castile conquered Toledo and its wider taifa in 1085, in what it was seen as a critical event at the time, entailing also a huge territorial expansion, advancing from the Sistema Central to La Mancha.[60] In 1086, following the siege of Zaragoza by Alfonso VI of León-Castile, the Almoravids, religious zealots originally from the deserts of the Maghreb, landed in the Iberian Peninsula, and, having inflicted a serious defeat to Alfonso VI at the battle of Zalaca, began to seize control of the remaining taifas.[61]

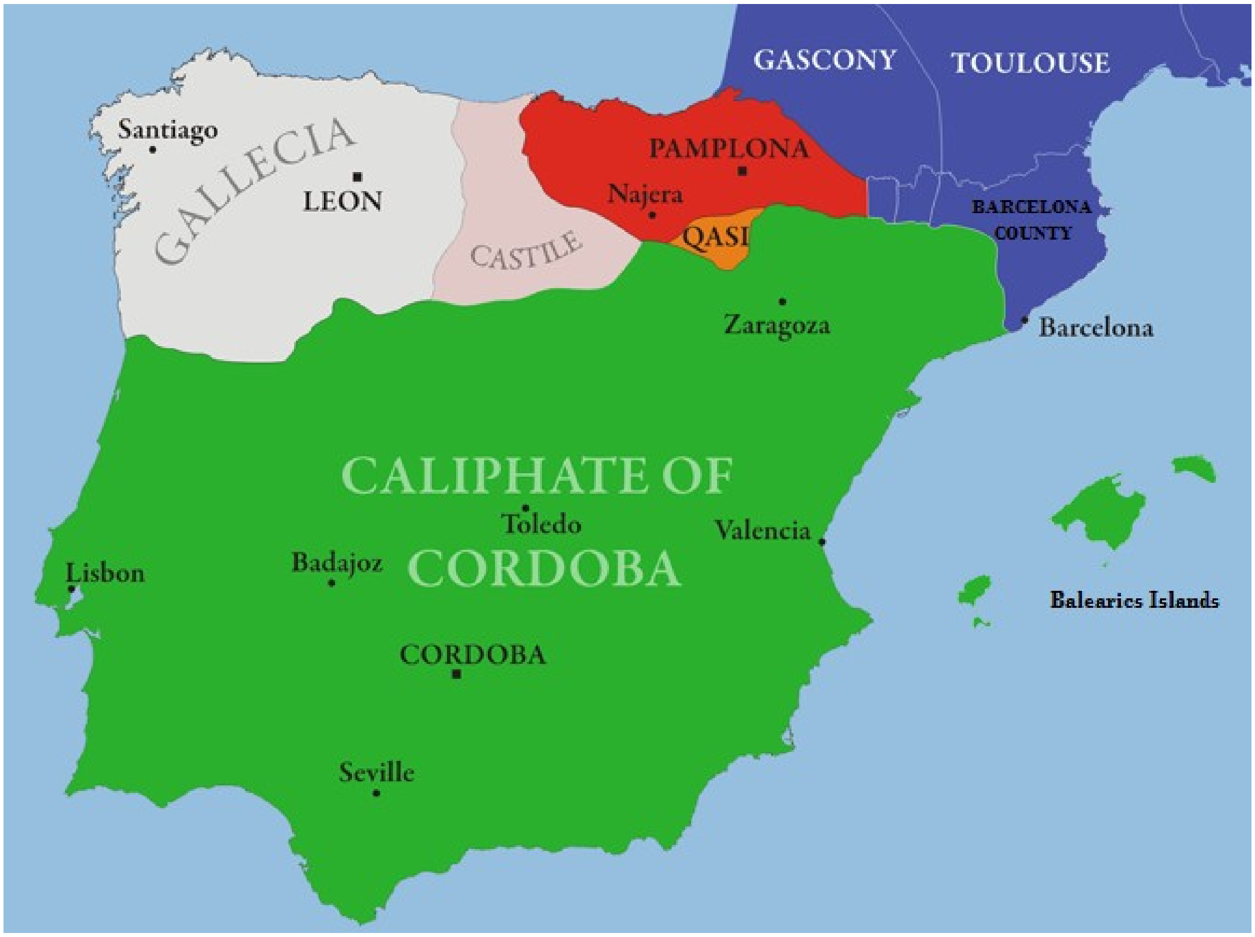
The Almoravids in the Iberian peninsula progressively relaxed strict observance of their faith, and treated both Jews and Mozarabs harshly, facing uprisings across the peninsula, initially in the Western part.[62] The Almohads, another North-African Muslim sect of Masmuda Berber origin who had previously undermined the Almoravid rule south of the Strait of Gibraltar,[63] first entered the peninsula in 1146.[64]

Somewhat straying from the trend taking place in other locations of the Latin West since the 10th century, the period comprising the 11th and 13th centuries was not one of weakening monarchical power in the Christian kingdoms.[65] The relatively novel concept of "frontier" (Sp: *frontera*), already reported in Aragon by the second half of the 11th century become widespread in the Christian Iberian kingdoms by the beginning of the 13th century, in relation to the more or less conflictual border with Muslim lands.[66]

By the beginning of the 13th century, a power reorientation took place in the Iberian Peninsula (parallel to the Christian expansion in Southern Iberia and the increasing commercial impetus of Christian powers across the Mediterranean) and to a large extent, trade-wise, the Iberian Peninsula reorientated towards the North away from the Muslim World.[67]

During the Middle Ages, the monarchs of Castile and León, from Alfonso V and Alfonso VI (crowned *Hispaniae Imperator*) to Alfonso X and Alfonso XI tended to embrace an imperial ideal based on a dual Christian and Jewish ideology.[68]

Merchants from Genoa and Pisa were conducting an intense trading activity in Catalonia already by the 12th century, and later in Portugal.[69] Since the 13th century, the Crown of Aragon expanded overseas; led by Catalans, it attained an overseas empire in the Western Mediterranean, with a presence in Mediterranean islands such as the Balearics, Sicily and Sardinia, and even conquering Naples in the mid-15th century.[70] Genoese merchants invested heavily in the Iberian commercial enterprise with Lisbon becoming, according to Virgínia Rau, the "great centre of Genoese trade" in the early 14th century.[71] The Portuguese would later detach their trade to some extent from Genoese influence.[69] The Nasrid Kingdom of Granada, neighbouring the Strait of Gibraltar and founded upon a vassalage relationship with the Crown of Castile,[72] also insinuated itself into the European mercantile network, with its ports fostering intense trading relations with the Genoese as well, but also with the Catalans, and to a lesser extent, with the Venetians, the Florentines, and the Portuguese.[73]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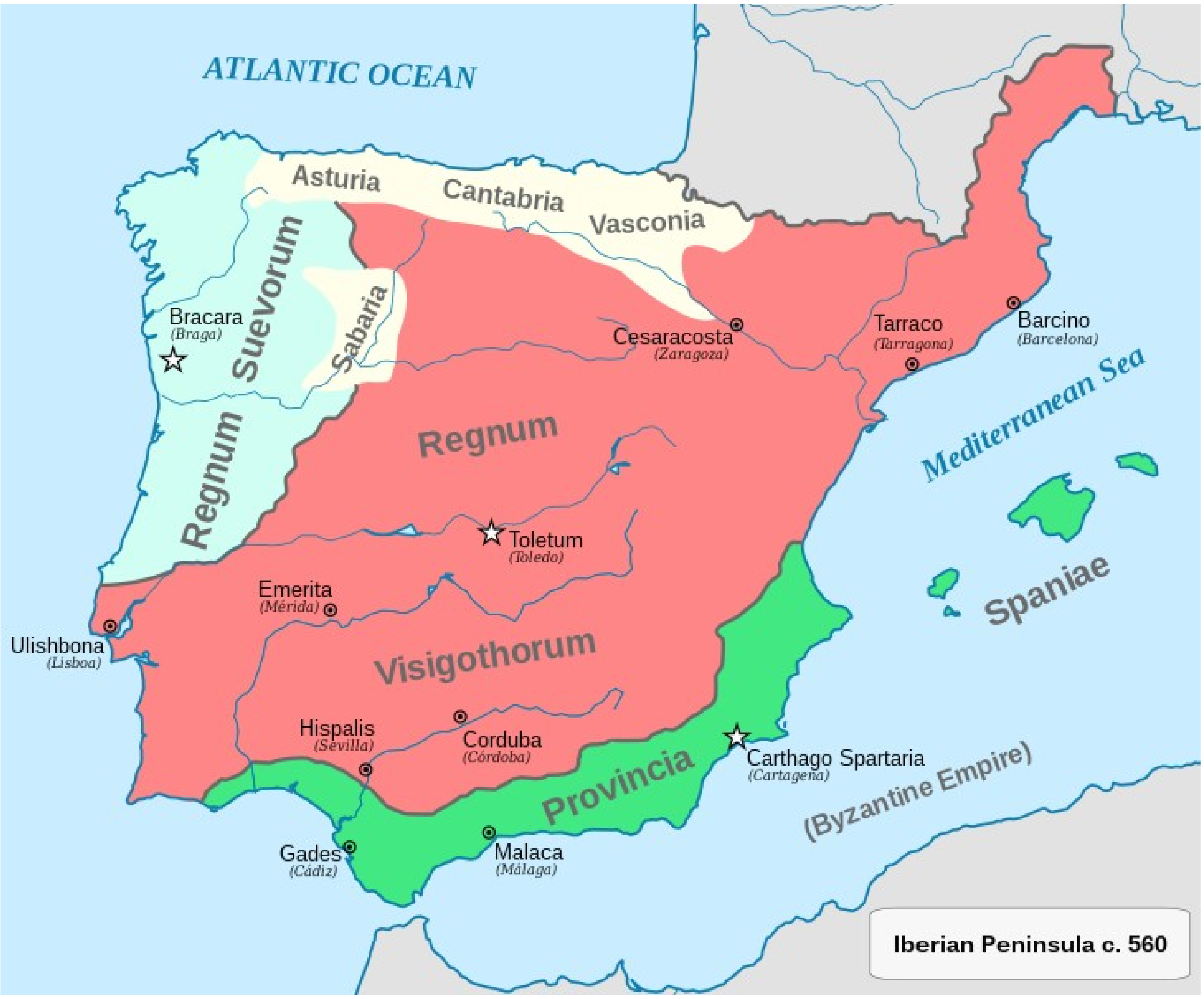
TOULOUSE
Santiago
GALLECIA
LEON
PAMPLONA
Najera
QASI
CASTILE
BARCELONA COUNTY
Barcelona
Zaragoza
CALIPHATE OF CORDOBA
Toledo
Valencia
Lisbon
Badajoz
CORDOBA
Seville
Balearics Islands

File:Al Andalus & Christian Kingdoms.png


ATLANTIC OCEAN
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Vasconia
Regnum Suevorum
Sabaria
Bracara
(Braga)
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(Tarragona)
Barcino
(Barcelona)
Mediterranean Sea
Regnum Visigothorum
Toletum
(Toledo)
Emerita
(Mérida)
Ulishbona
(Lisboa)
Spaniae
Hispalis
(Sevilla)
Corduba
(Córdoba)
Carthago Spartaria
(Cartagena)
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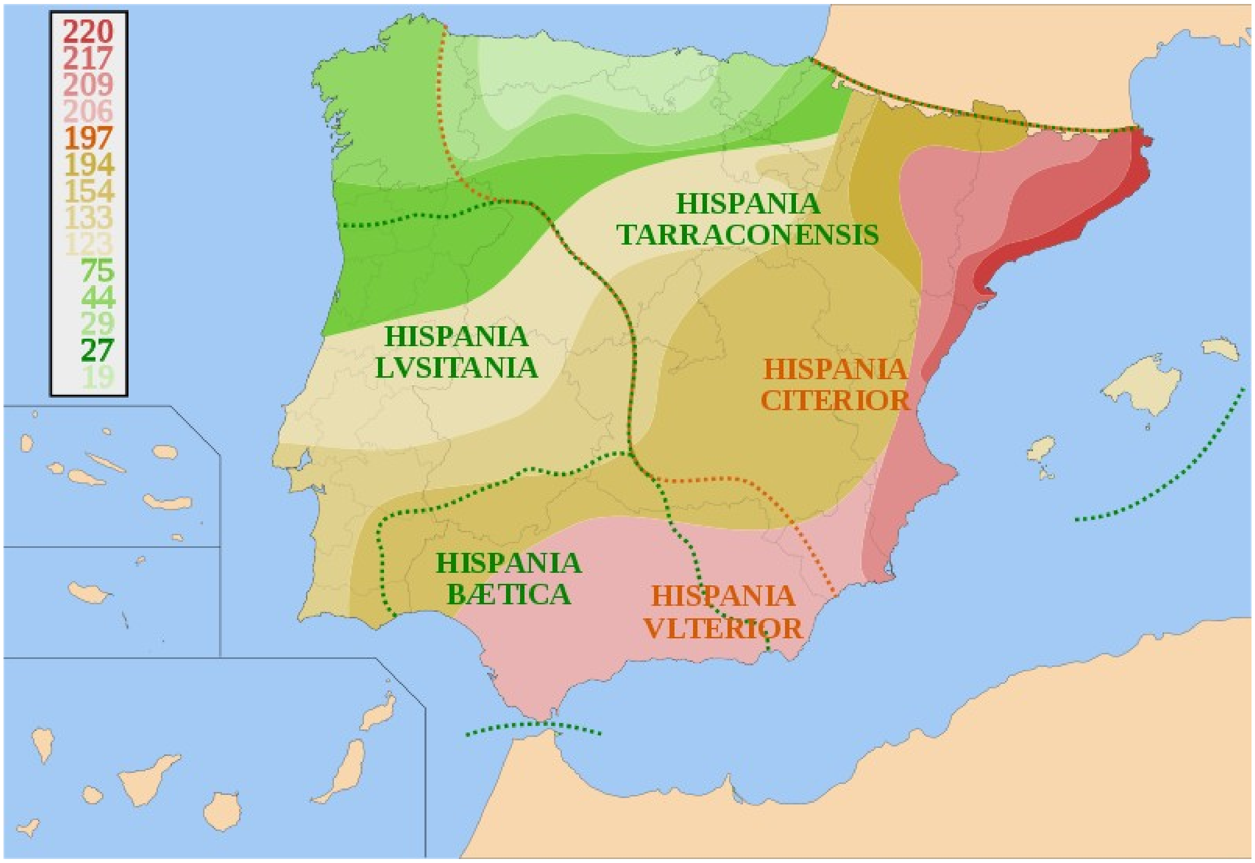
Gades
(Cádiz)
Malaca
(Málaga)
Iberian Peninsula c. 560

File:Iberia 560.svg



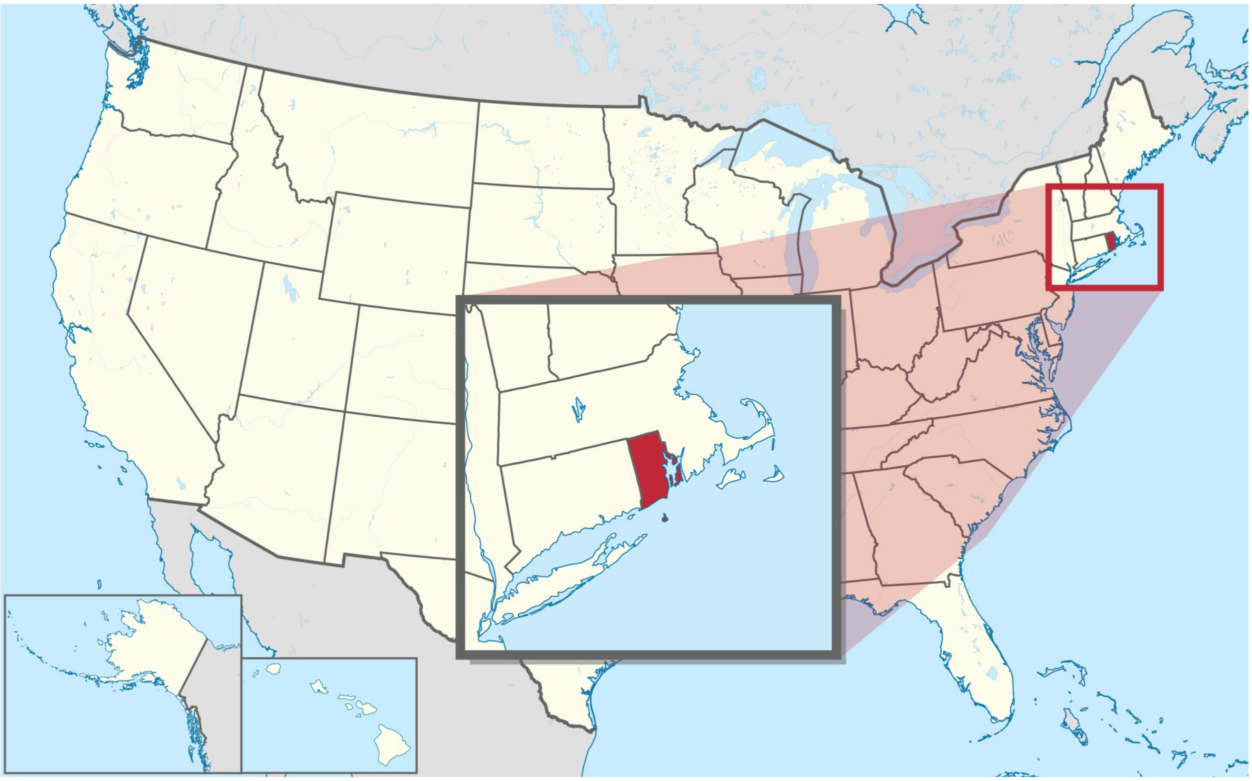
File:Conquista Hispania.svg

Stats, history: feb15 **the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

Rhode Island was unique among the Thirteen British Colonies in having been founded by a refugee, Roger Williams, who fled religious persecution in the Massachusetts Bay Colony to establish a haven for religious liberty. He founded Providence in 1636 on land purchased from local tribes, thereby creating the first settlement in North America with an explicitly secular government.[10] The Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations subsequently became a destination for religious and political dissenters and social outcasts, earning it the moniker "Rogue's Island".[11]

Rhode Island was the first colony to call for a Continental Congress, which it did in 1774, and the first to renounce its allegiance to the British Crown, which it did on May 4, 1776.[12] After the American Revolution, during which it was heavily occupied and contested, Rhode Island became the fourth state to ratify the Articles of Confederation, which it did on February 9, 1778.[13] Because certain of its citizens favored a weaker central government, it boycotted the 1787 convention that had drafted the United States Constitution,[14] which it initially refused to ratify;[15] it finally did ratify it on May 29, 1790, the last of the original 13 states to do so. [16][17]

It had been officially named the **State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations** since the colonial era, but came to be commonly known as "Rhode Island". In November 2020, the state's voters approved an amendment to the state constitution formally dropping "and Providence Plantations" from its full name.[18][19] Its official nickname is the "Ocean State", a reference to its 400 miles (640 km) of coastline and the large bays and inlets that make up about 14% of its total area



Government, inflation, markets, stats: feb15

Goldman: 83% of 1 day calls expired at a zero, 91% of 1 day puts expired at a zero.

House always wins...

Some Wild Options Statistics From Goldman

83% of 1 day calls expired at a zero, 91% of 1 day puts expired at a zero.

WED FEB 15, AT 12:40 PM

PREMIUM

4

read later, markets, stats: great short piece written by somebody who seems to know his

stuff. nbever seen him before. learned a lot, saved comments

"This Does Not Seem Normal, Nor Healthy"

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 15, 2023 - 10:30 AM

By Peter Tchir of Academy Securities

Yesterday we got the “new” CPI.

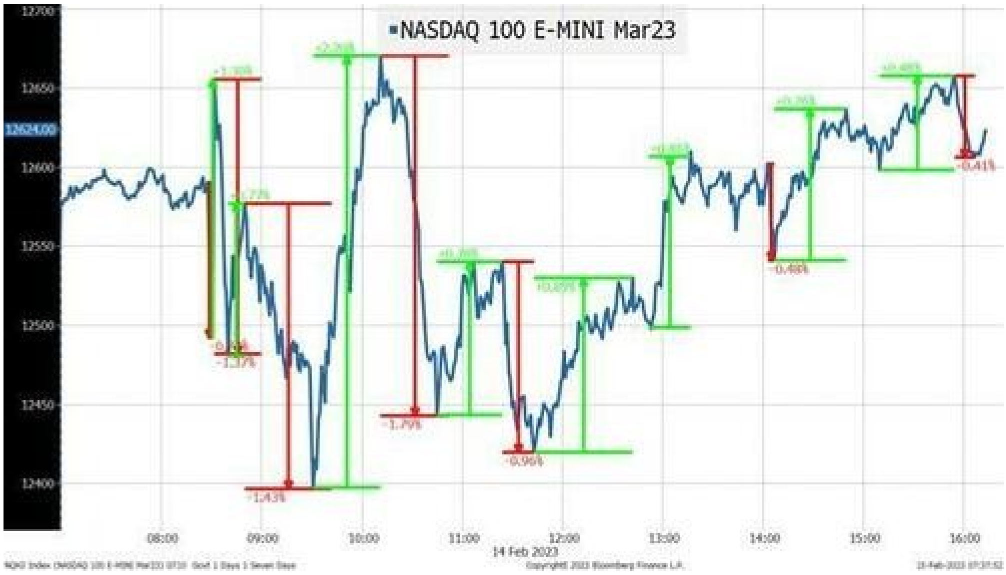
We already knew about the upward revisions to prior months as the way they changed the weightings to focus more on “sticky” inflation metrics meant inflation was lower early in the year, but higher later in the year, relative to what had been thought a mere week ago.

CPI came in right around revised expectations on a monthly basis. Since many had thought we would get an upside surprise, **just meeting expectations might explain some, but not all of the initial market reaction**. Goods inflation continues to be weak (expect that to continue with excess inventories still an issue). Service inflation remained strong, but we will start seeing how that does in the coming months and whether or not it is persistent or was subject to a wave of pent-up demand that has been largely satisfied after the late year spending binge.

The 10-year yield dropped from about 3.68% down to a low of 3.62%, back to 3.7%, down to 3.65% then pretty much steadily climbed to 3.795%, where buyers emerged, right on cue, finishing the day at 3.75%.

There were 4 Fed speakers yesterday as well. My overall sense is that while sticking to the more “watchful” and “data dependent” theme that Powell has been leading with, the mentality is starting to shift away from “disinflation” and back to “inflation resurgence”.

Though clearly equities did not get that message, though, to be perfectly honest, I have no idea what message equities got yesterday.



The fluctuations in and around the number seemed unusual, even by recent standards. “Program” trades seemed to be able to drive the market very quickly.

Given the data, the Fed comments and treasuries, stocks were very resilient which is worth noting (especially as they move off their overnight lows as the U.S. open nears).

The bulk of the equity rally (from the European close at 11:30 am, did coincide with treasuries improving, so there is a logic there, but **even then stocks seem to be trading very illiquidly**.

My Takeaways from this “Chop Chop” Trading?

There is little depth to liquidity. At any level, there are all sorts of algos competing for a fraction of a cent, but any material flow is cutting through the “Faux” liquidity like a knife through butter.

This does not seem normal, nor healthy.

Given the shift in the inflation narrative (at least for the coming week or so) along with Fed speakers, I expect to see some pressure on Treasury yields. **The Citi economic surprise indicator went from a 6 month low of -25 on January 18th to an almost 9 month high of +25 last week – a move worth paying attention to.**

Equities went from trading “long” last week, where barely any bid was held, to trading “short” yesterday, where there was an almost palpable “urge” to rally.

That fits my narrative that this market swings from overbought to oversold and vice versa in record time (likely helped by a healthy does of 0DTE trading).

While I have to respect the stock market resilience yesterday, it is difficult to be bullish with a slightly (just slightly) bearish view on rates here. Maybe stocks can trade the “good news” as “good news”, but I suspect that will be difficult.

My view that equities can change their positioning far more rapidly than the past (so I don’t think the “squeezy” feeling we got yesterday, lasts). The relative YTD performance of the Dow (3%) the S&P 500 (8%) and the Nasdaq Composite (14%) is striking. If you dig into “most shorted” stocks, the relative performance is somewhere between stunning and mind-boggling. Yes, there is generally more breadth to recent rallies, than we saw in 2022, but it is still a high beta, highly shorted grab more than anything else.

Government, stats: feb15 **Florida orange growers are harvesting their smallest crop in nearly 90 years, the result of a freeze, two hurricanes and a citrus disease that is laying waste to its groves.**

Stats, censorship, government: feb15 wsj suggests people skip breakfast to save money as an option against sudden price increases for daily morning staple food products.

Feb 14, 2023 at 10:10 am ET

To Save Money, Maybe You Should Skip Breakfast

By Gabriel T. Rubin

Several breakfast staples saw sharp price increases due to a perfect storm of bad weather and disease outbreaks—and continued effects from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Egg prices increased 8.5% in January from a month earlier and are up 70.1% over the past year, the highest annual rate since 1973. The deadliest avian-influenza outbreak on record has devastated poultry flocks across the U.S., leading the price of eggs to rise more than any other grocery item in 2022, according to Information Resources Inc. U.S. egg inventories were 29% lower in the final week of December 2022 than at the beginning of 2022, according to the USDA.

Frozen, noncarbonated juices and drinks—a category that includes frozen orange juice—rose by 1.5% in January from a month earlier, and the 12.4% annual increase is the highest in over a decade. Florida orange growers are harvesting their smallest crop in nearly 90 years, the result of a freeze, two hurricanes and a citrus disease that is laying waste to its groves.

Breakfast cereal increased more modestly in January from a month earlier—just 0.4%—but prices in the category were up 15% over a year, in part because of elevated global grain prices resulting from disruptions related to the war in Ukraine.

Breakfast lovers might be better off just having a cup of coffee—but go with roasted, not instant. Prices for roasted coffee declined by 0.1% last month, but instant coffee rose by a 3.6% monthly increase for instant coffee.

Journal, readlater: feb15 **crazy rough stat: "Where finance represented a few percent of the entire economy in previous decades, it now accounts for roughly 20% of the economy: nothing but churn."**

Finance sells its "services" as *hedges*, but this is merely PR cover for predation. Finance creates no real-world goods or services; it is a structure of exploitation that is more like a criminal syndicate than a sector of the economy.

Given its parasitic, predatory nature, it's not surprising that finance is the primary engine of extreme wealth-income inequality. The fortunes of the few assembled over the past two decades largely trace back to the expansion of debt and leverage (i.e. financialization) which emphasizes marketing as consumption expands not from earnings but from the expansion of debt and leverage.

The problem is parasitic, predatory finance is inherently unstable, as it destabilizes the real economy by distorting every level of regulation and governance and deranges incentives to reward the least civic-minded, the least ethical and the sleaziest self-absorbed gamblers, those who demand a bailout when their *private gains* turn into *private losses*.

We're too big to fail, they whine, and the naive public bought that fraud in 2008-09.

this chart is sort of a fallacy as it assumes all production after the dot-com bubble was "industrial", You'd think what would be considered industrial production would not represent total production value, as the world has shifted from an industrial economy to a data driven economy. But I could be wrong because I don't know if that industrial production is including big tech, or at least properly representing it in the data discrepency seen in the chart present below, where the presenter is attempted to show the divergance of market value from true value by showing industrial production flatlining compared the stock market. Is inddustrial production fully representing total production? If it was, then yes, the chart would be very meaningful. But we don't klnow that, and I have strong susp[icions that it is not. But anyways, here it is

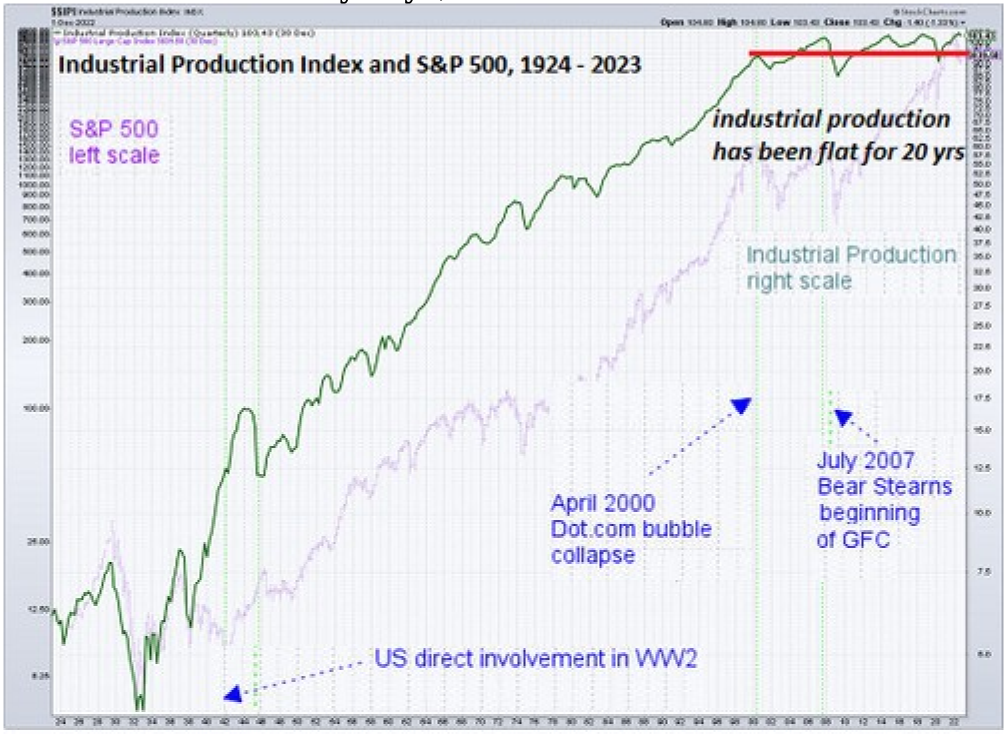
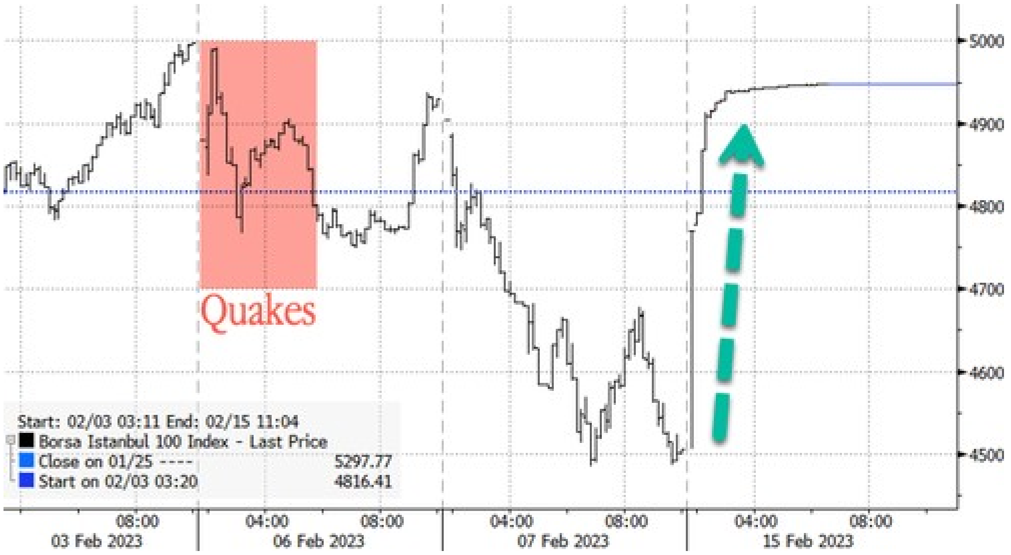


chart courtesy of David E.   notes in black by www.oftwominds.com

Markets, government, stats, jurnal, readlater; this is a great, real life example of how government intervention can change the markets. Everything was in freefall, then they give the announcement, but ins tead

Turkey Soar On State Support As Quake Deaths Surpass 40,000



We get this..

The Borsa Istanbul 100 Index jumped 9.82% today, as the main equity benchmark recovered much of its losses since the twin earthquakes rocked the country's southeast region on Feb. 6.

After a week-long suspension, Turkish stocks soared Wednesday after the country's sovereign wealth fund supported financial markets to prevent further declines following last week's twin earthquakes. The death toll in Turkey and neighboring Syria has surpassed 40,000.

Here are the top headlines via Bloomberg of the intervention to save financial markets:

- *Turkey Stocks Surge as State Support Underwrites Reopening Boost*
- *Turkey Injects Billions of Liras to Prop Up Stocks Before Open*
- *Turkey Wealth Fund to Support Equities With New Mechanism*
- *Turkey Set to Temporarily Suspend Some Gold Imports*
- *Turkey Plans Tax Waiver for Share Buybacks on Stock Exchange*

War, Russia, government: feb15 **Truck Overturns In Arizona, Spills Nitric Acid, Triggers Shelter-In-Place Alert**

An emergency shelter-in-place was issued, then dropped, **and then re-issued on Wednesday** for nearby residents in Tucson after a truck carrying nitric acid overturned on Feb. 14, **killing the driver** and triggering a hazmat warning.

Residents were warned to avoid the area and seek alternate routs of travel, while anyone within a one-mile perimeter of the incident has been instructed to turn off air conditioning and heaters in order to avoid bringing in outside air.

Shelter in Place Alert Issued

The Arizona Department of Transport (DOT) announced the crash around 3 p.m. local time. By 5:09 p.m., the Arizona DPS said the tanker was leaking hazardous material.

“Interstate 10 remains closed in both directions between Rita and Kolb roads in Tucson,” per the Arizona DPS. “Motorists should continue to avoid the area and seek an alternate route.” The DPS added in a Twitter post: “We anticipate an extensive closure. Please avoid the area.”

Meanwhile, the Arizona DOT said that there is “no estimated time to reopen the road.”

Africa, war: feb15 **At Least 32 Civilians Killed in DR Congo, Says the UN**

At least 32 civilians have been killed by rebel groups in eastern Congo’s Ituri province, said a spokesman for the United Nations.

Twenty people were killed by the militia group CODECO and a dozen were killed by the Allied Democratic Forces, which is allied to the Islamic State group, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a press conference on Monday.

Calling the situation “confusing,” Dujarric said it is hard for the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo to get more information due to restricted movement in the area.

Fighting between CODECO, a loose association of various ethnic Lendu militia groups, and Zaire, a mainly ethnic Hema self-defense group, has been ongoing since 2017 but has worsened recently. At least 32 civilians were killed by CODECO last month, say local officials. In December, the United Nations said the insurgent group was expanding its areas of control, attacking civilians and Congo’s military, and taxing communities in the areas that it holds.

The killings come amid surging violence across eastern Congo, where conflict has been simmering for decades as more than 120 armed groups are fighting in the region, most for land and control of mines with valuable minerals, while some groups are trying to protect their communities.

Stats, war, government: feb15 **Australia Removes Chinese-Made Cameras From Politicians' Offices**

War, Erdogan, energy, government: feb15 **US to Sell Another 26 Million Barrels of Oil From Strategic Oil Reserve**

Yet according to a new Reuters report, the Department of Energy had announced it would conduct the sale of the 26 million barrels. This, Reuters noted in its report, would push the SPR even lower than it already is, which is the lowest in 40 years.
The reason for the low levels of the country’s strategic petroleum reserve is the 180-million-barrel sale that President Biden mandated last year in a bid to reduce exorbitant retail fuel prices resulting from the global oil price rally, itself a market reaction to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the consequent barrage of sanctions the collective West unleashed on it.

The additional sales, contrary to many expectations, did the job, not least because oil prices themselves began to decline after the initial jump amid the heightened geopolitical uncertainty. Yet worry began to emerge about the state of the SPR and when it would be replenished.

The administration announced a range of between $67 and $72 per barrel, at which it would begin buying crude to refill the SPR but prices have not declined to those levels since last year.

By Charles Kennedy for Oilprice.com

War, Erdogan: feb15 **Turkish Opposition Doesn't Want to Delay the Elections**

Iraq Asks US to Replace Russian Mi-17 Helicopters With American Aircraft Due to Spare Parts Shortage

War, erdgan, stats: feb15 **First UN team since quake crosses into rebel-held Syria**

More..

Damascus Opens New Border Crossings as Militants Obstruct Aid Efforts

The Syrian government has officially opened two new border crossings in northern Syria in order to provide earthquake relief aid to people in opposition-held territory, Deputy Head of the Russian Reconciliation Center, Major General Oleg Yegorov, said at a briefing on 13 February.

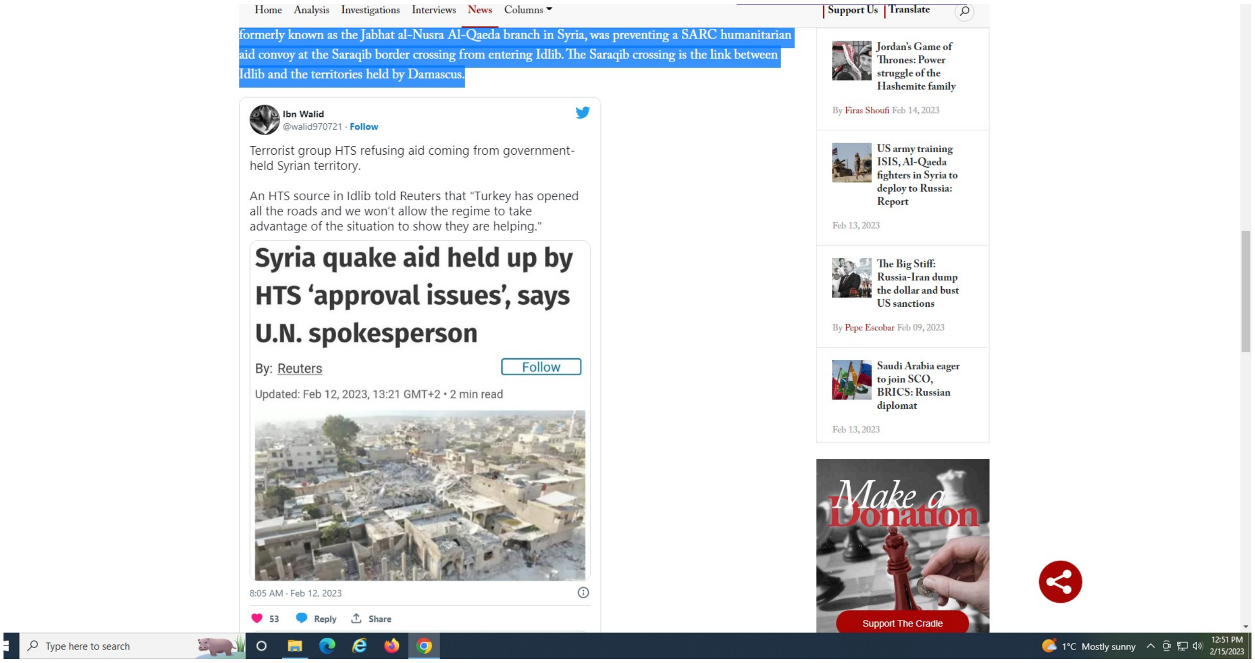
“In compliance with President Bashar al-Assad’s instructions in the interest of delivering assistance to affected people in territories not controlled by the Syrian government, checkpoints have been unilaterally opened in Saraqib and Abu Azeidin. Convoys with humanitarian cargoes, which include food products, heating devices, and tents … are ready to set off for the affected areas escorted by representatives of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC),” Yegorov said.

Yegorov’s statement followed high-level talks between Assad and UN aid chief Martin Griffiths in Damascus on the same day, during which the Syrian president agreed to open the crossings.

“It’s going to make a big difference. We are now using just one crossing,” a UN spokesman told media in reference to the Bab al-Hawa crossing with Turkiye.

While western media outlets have attempted to pin the hindered aid delivery efforts to northwestern Syria on “the Assad government’s mismanagement and refusal to engage with all areas,” it appears to be armed groups who have impeded humanitarian efforts.

On 12 February, a UN spokesman told media that the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) extremist group, formerly known as the Jabhat al-Nusra Al-Qaeda branch in Syria, was preventing a SARC humanitarian aid convoy at the Saraqib border crossing from entering Idlib. The Saraqib crossing is the link between Idlib and the territories held by Damascus.



formerly known as the Jabhat al-Nusra Al-Qaeda branch in Syria, was preventing a SARC humanitarian aid convoy at the Saraqib border crossing from entering Idlib. The Saraqib crossing is the link between Idlib and the territories held by Damascus.

Ibn Walid
@walid970721 · Follow

Terrorist group HTS refusing aid coming from government-held Syrian territory.

An HTS source in Idlib told Reuters that “Turkey has opened all the roads and we won’t allow the regime to take advantage of the situation to show they are helping."

Syria quake aid held up by HTS ‘approval issues’, says U.N. spokesperson

By: Reuters

Updated: Feb 12, 2023, 13:21 GMT+2 • 2 min read

8:05 AM · Feb 12, 2023

Jordan’s Game of Thrones: Power struggle of the Hashemite family
By Firas Shoufi Feb 14, 2023

US army training ISIS, Al-Qaeda fighters in Syria to deploy to Russia: Report
Feb 13, 2023

The Big Stiff: Russia-Iran dump the dollar and bust US sanctions
By Pepe Escobar Feb 09, 2023

Saudi Arabia eager to join SCO, BRICS: Russian diplomat
Feb 13, 2023

That day, an HTS source was quoted as saying that the group “won’t allow the regime to take advantage of the situation to show they are helping,” despite Damascus having openly announced its intention to provide aid to all areas of Syria. The following day, HTS leader Abu

Muhammad al-Julani claimed during a press conference that his group “does not have teams ready to secure these deliveries.” This was seen by many as HTS’ outright refusal and rejection of any aid deliveries coming from government territory to the opposition-held north, given that Jolani failed to provide a proper explanation as to why this aid could not make its way through.

“There is no need to dispatch our technical teams to bring aid in from regime territory … The Bab al-Hawa crossing is there … For those who want to help, Bab al-Hawa is open, God willing,” the former Nusra emir said, despite the fact that the Bab al-Hawa crossing was badly damaged in the earthquake.

During Monday’s briefing, Yegorov added that the “lack of security guarantees on territories controlled by illegal armed groups complicates the delivery of assistance to those affected by the earthquake, who are in dire straits.”

In a since-deleted news article by Syrian outlet *North Press Agency* (NPA) released on 14 February, NPA cites an exclusive source as saying that a day earlier, international organizations suspended their operations and withdrew from the town of Soran in the northern Aleppo countryside after members of the Turkish-backed militant coalition, the Syrian National Army (SNA) looted a humanitarian aid delivery. As a result, ‘clashes erupted’ between the militants and the town’s inhabitants.

Stats, government: feb15 Indonesia's 'Trial of the Century' Ends in Death Sentence for Head of Internal Affairs Department

Medan, Indonesia – Indonesia’s so-called “trial of the century” has concluded with a senior police officer sentenced to death for the murder of his bodyguard.

Ferdy Sambo, the former head of Indonesia’s Internal Affairs department and a two-star general, was handed the death penalty on Monday by Chief Justice Wahyu Imam Santoso for the killing of his aide-de-camp, Police Brigadier Nofriansyah Yosua Hutabarat, in a case widely seen as a litmus test of police accountability in Indonesia.

Feb. 15 Marks 34th Anniversary of Soviet Withdrawal From Afghanistan

Kyrgyzstan to Host Russia-Led Defense Bloc Drills

Quake Death Toll Passes 40,000 in Turkey, Syria

Islam, stats, censorship, middle east: Florists with wilting bouquets of red roses and street vendors clutching unsold balloons were heartbroken in the Afghan capital on Tuesday after the Taliban's morality police banned Valentine's Day celebrations.

Florists with wilting bouquets of red roses and street vendors clutching unsold balloons were heartbroken in the Afghan capital on Tuesday after the Taliban's morality police banned Valentine's Day celebrations.

While Valentine's Day has never been widely celebrated in Afghanistan, some well-off residents in cities have developed a tradition of marking the lovers' day in recent years.

In Kabul's famed Flower Street, shops were full of heart-shaped garlands and red stuffed animals, but hopelessly empty of customers.

In the window of one outlet, a poster signed off by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice warned shoppers: "Avoid celebrating lovers' day!"

The poster said Valentine's Day "is not Islamic and is not part of the Afghan culture but a sloganeering day of the infidels".

"Celebrating the day of lovers is showing sympathy to the Christian Pope," it read.

Officers from the ministry patrolled the area in their white uniforms, trailed by an armed escort, an AFP correspondent reported.

Kneeling in front of his shop, Omar -- who did not share his surname -- pruned thorns and withered petals from his stock of flowers.

"[The Taliban authorities] published and distributed their order to every shop," he told AFP.

"I don't think I could sell these flowers today, people aren't buying," he said.

"You can see we have no customers -- the situation is very bad."

An AFP reporter saw a young couple furtively buy flowers and quickly leave the scene when they saw the morality police patrol.

"The situation has changed -- we can't celebrate it like other years," said browsing shopper Zahrah, married for seven years.

"But we do celebrate it. There are some restrictions and the situation is not good, but we celebrate it at home."

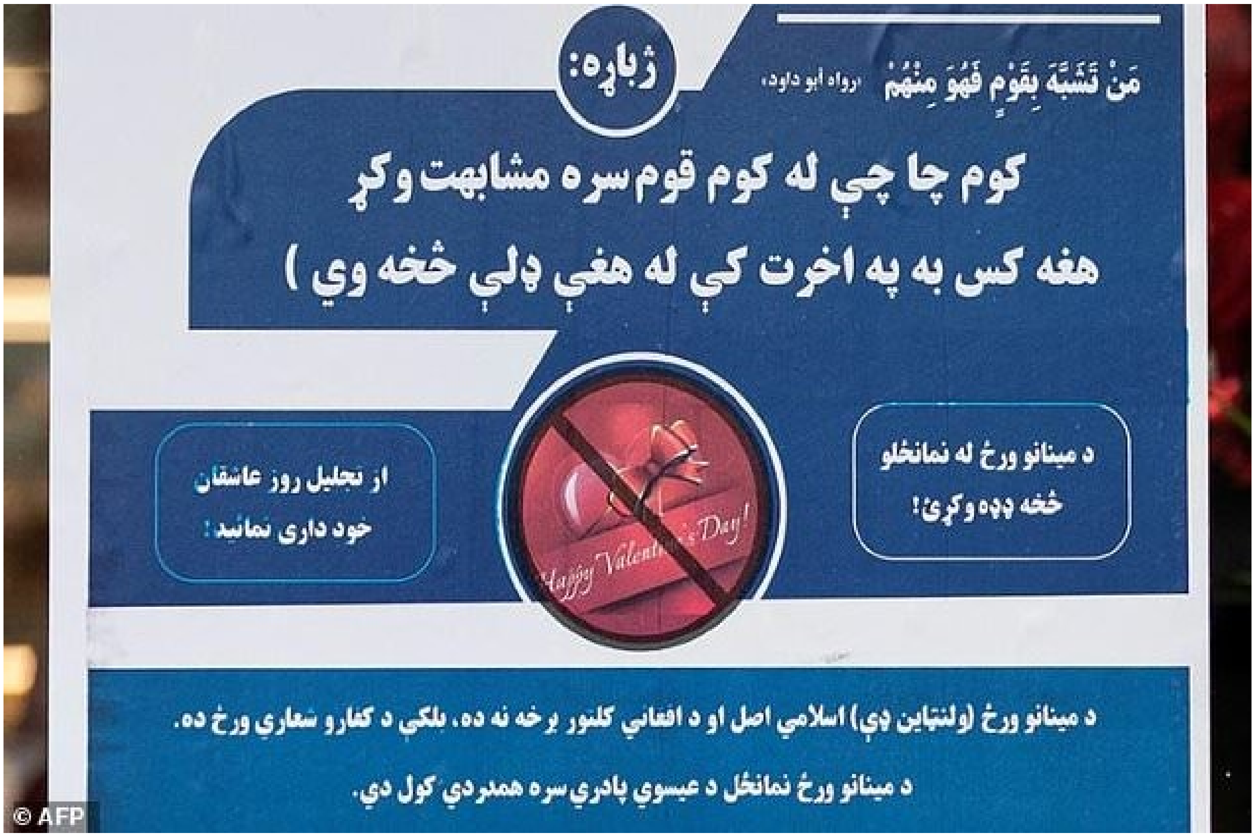
Afghan men are reflected on the glass of a gift shop along Flower Street in Kabul

The vice ministry could not be reached for comment on the exact nature of the ban.

The Taliban authorities have issued various restrictions on social life in the country since they came to power in August 2021.

Music, social media apps and video games have all come under scrutiny by the ultra-conservative government.

The authorities have particularly cracked down on Afghan women, effectively squeezing them out of public life.



ژباړه:

مَنْ تَشَبَّهَ بِقَوْمٍ فَهُوَ مِنْهُمْ «رواه أبو داود»

کوم چا چې له کوم قوم سره مشابهت وکړ
هغه کس به په اخرت کې له هغې ډلې څخه وي)

د مینانو ورځ له نمانځلو
څخه ډډه وکړئ!

از تجلیل روز عاشقان
خود داری نمائید!

د مینانو ورځ (ولنټاین ډې) اسلامي اصل او د افغاني کلتور برخه نه ده، بلکې د کفارو شعاري ورځ ده.

د مینانو ورځ نمانځل د عیسوي پادرۍ سره همدردي کول دي.

© AFP

Journal, readlater, middle east, war: feb15 UNICEF: Hundreds of Afghan Children Died in January Due to Cold Weather, Illness (add vs ther countries)

Tech, ai, war: feb15 **Dutch Host First Summit on 'Responsible' Use of AI in Military**

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Delegations from both the United States and China are set to attend a summit on the "responsible" use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military this week in the Netherlands, the first of its kind.

Middle east, iran, war: **US Says There're 'No Discussions' on Reviving Iran Deal feb15 Stoltenberg: Finland, Sweden Could Join NATO Separately**

Iran, China Sign 20 Cooperation Agreements in Beijing

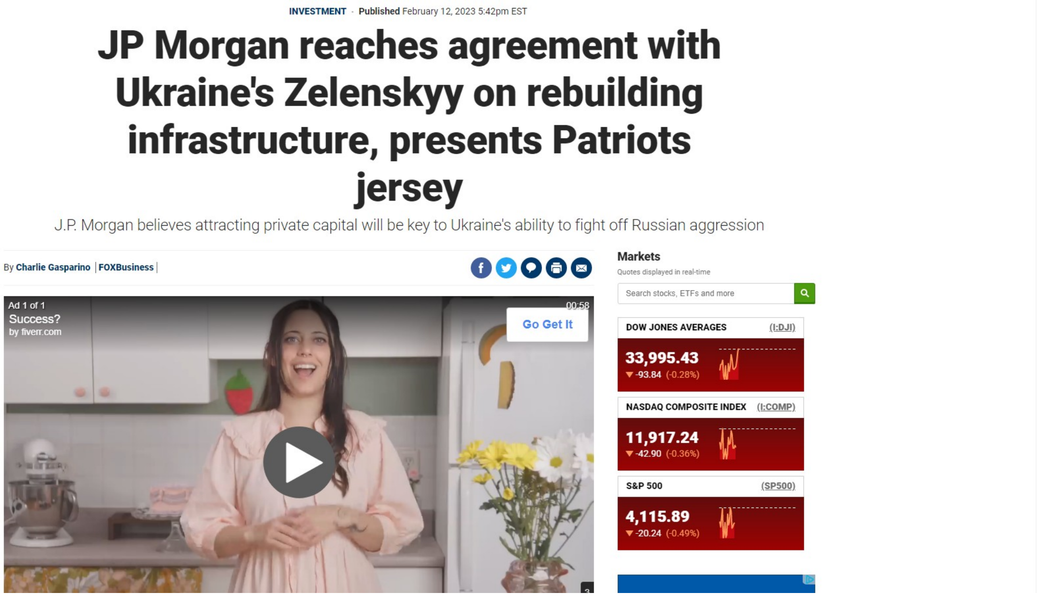
Russia Denies Claims It Plans to Destabilize Moldova

Putin Talks to Azerbaijan President, Discusses Disputed Southern Caucasus Region

Norway to Donate Eight Leopard 2 Tanks to Ukraine

Austria Refuses to Train Ukrainian Soldiers on Leopard Tanks

Journal, stats, government, war: feb15 Actual example of people, to steal a quote from Nathan Rothchild “buying land when there is blood on the streets”. Yes, today, JPM is literalluy offering investors the ability to profit off of the destruction of the Ukraine. But only for certain private clients, of course, as their will likely be a minimum buy-in.



INVESTMENT · **Published** February 12, 2023 5:42pm EST

JP Morgan reaches agreement with Ukraine's Zelenskyy on rebuilding infrastructure, presents Patriots jersey

J.P. Morgan believes attracting private capital will be key to Ukraine's ability to fight off Russian aggression

By **Charlie Gasparino** | **FOXBusiness** |

Ad 1 of 1
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DOW JONES AVERAGES (I:DJI)
33,995.43
▼ -93.84 (-0.28%)

NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX (I:COMP)
11,917.24
▼ -42.90 (-0.36%)

S&P 500 (SP500)
4,115.89
▼ -20.24 (-0.49%)

priceless: JPM announces it will be offering private clients--usually handled by divisions known as "private-banks" which tailor to ultra-high income investors--the opportunity to literally "buy land when there is blood on the streets" through special investment fund that plans to assist in the rebuilding efforts for the country

"J.P. Morgan, the nation's largest bank, has signed a memorandum of understanding with Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelenskyy with the eye on attracting private capital for a new investment fund to rebuild Ukraine's infrastructure that has been destroyed in its war with Russia, FOX Business has learned.

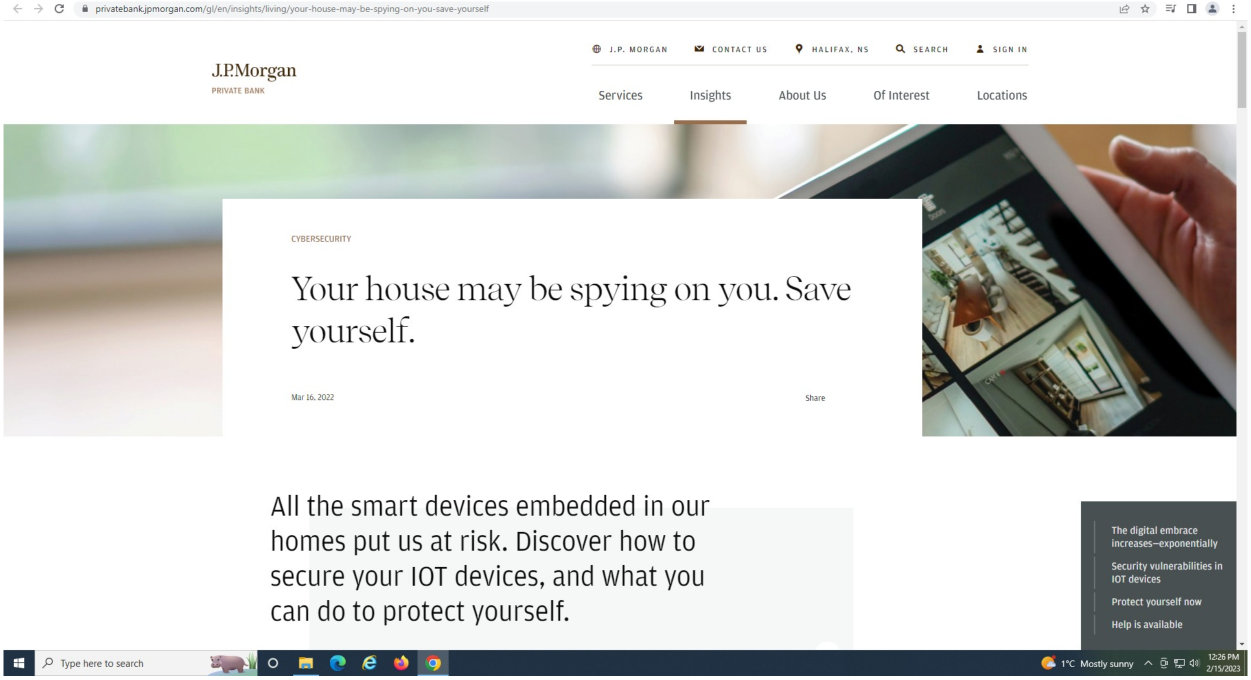
J.P. Morgan bankers spent most of last week meeting with Zelenskyy and his senior staff in Ukraine where they discussed the creation of a fund seeded with $20 billion to $30 billion in private capital, according to people with direct knowledge of the matter.

Other ideas discussed with the Ukrainian president were the creation of a bank administered by Wall Street firms that would make investments in oil refineries, roads, bridges and other pieces of economic infrastructure destroyed in Vladimir Putin's year-long campaign to annex the country and rebuild the old Soviet Union, these people add."

J.P. Morgan bankers were on the ground in Kyiv and other cities, dodging bombs, and witnessing firsthand how the war has crippled the country’s economy. After a series of meetings with various ministers, they met directly with Zelenskyy on Friday night. As a gesture of goodwill on the eve of Sunday's Super Bowl, the bankers also presented Zelenskyy with a New England Patriots jersey with the number "91," to signify the year Ukraine gained independence from the old Soviet Union, these people say.

"Ukraine’s reconstruction will have a huge price tag, with the World Bank estimating in December that it could cost between 500 and 600 billion euros ($525 billion-$630 billion). Last July, Ukrainian officials estimated the “recovery plan” will cost about $750 billion. As the war goes on and more of Ukraine is destroyed, the price tag will increase."

Stats, government, censorship, tech, ai, journal: feb15 **jpm's private banking division warns their clients that their house.......could be spying on them...**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J.P.Morgan
PRIVATE BANK
J.P. MORGAN
CONTACT US
HALIFAX, NS
SEARCH
SIGN IN
Services
Insights
About Us
Of Interest
Locations
Share
The digital embrace increases—exponentially
Security vulnerabilities in IOT devices
Protect yourself now
Help is available
Type here to search
1°C Mostly sunny
12:26 PM
2/15/2023

CYBERSECURITY

Your house may be spying on you. Save yourself.

Mar 16, 2022

All the smart devices embedded in our homes put us at risk. Discover how to secure your IOT devices, and what you can do to protect yourself.

CYBERSECURITY

Your house may be spying on you. Save yourself.

Mar 16, 2022

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All the smart devices embedded in our homes put us at risk. Discover how to secure your IOT devices, and what you can do to protect yourself.

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The seemingly benign digital devices we have in our homes may actually threaten our well-being.

Already the average U.S. household now has more than 10 internet-connected devices in residence, and that number is rapidly growing—both in the United States and across the globe.[1] Indeed, by 2023, it is estimated there will be three times more networked devices on the planet than humans.[2]

Yet all these new “smart devices,” including fitness equipment, digital personal assistants, gaming consoles, thermostats and security cameras, etc., can potentially endanger not only our privacy and physical safety, but our finances as well. Just think: Even President Biden’s connected exercise bike had to be modified so it would not endanger U.S. national security.

Of course, no one is likely to give up the digital gadgets that make life easier and fun. But it is wise for all of us to recognize there’s a new and urgent need to guard the door into our lives that internet-enabled devices prop open.

The digital embrace increases—exponentially

How many internet-connected devices do you have at home right now? Don’t just count the televisions, gaming consoles, computers, printers, laptops, tablets, phones, digital watches, digital personal assistants, music systems and nanny cams.

We also have to keep an eye on the ever-growing list of internet-enabled devices that help make our homes a Sanctuary. That includes security systems and all the smart devices installed in our homes: refrigerators and vacuums as well as lighting, thermostats, and yes, workout equipment.

In fact, property technology, or “PropTech,” is already a new category in the world of real estate. Smart home technology has even become standard in some upscale homes and multi-family dwellings.

Security vulnerabilities in IOT devices

How dangerous might these devices be to you and your family?

Your digital conveniences—fitness and health data, home entertainment systems, energy usage, voice recordings and sites you access—all can be used to build a profile of you and your family that criminals can leverage to commit financial fraud, privacy invasions and even home break-ins, both physical and cyber.

You might not have even been aware you signed terms and conditions to allow these devices to listen, collect usage data and allow manufacturers to sell or share your information with third parties.

Cybercriminals can put even the most innocent-seeming devices to nefarious uses:

- A home thermostat could reveal you are not at the house during the week and only home on the weekends when the temperature has been remotely set higher.
- A smart vacuum can create a map of your home layout and share the data back to the manufacturers, potentially giving insights to thieves.
- Fitness equipment could be used to listen to your conversations, as well as capture and share your personal health information.

Protect yourself now

It’d be natural to think that internet connectivity is so woven into our daily lives that there is little you can do—or to despair, thinking that meaningful action would require hours of your time or a tech-obsessed teenaged child. Not so. There are some simple things you can do fairly quickly.

First, we recommend that you have at least two separate networks in your home. Use one for all your business, sensitive transactions and remote work. Dedicate a separate network for less sensitive transactions, for instance, your children's or parents’ online activities, schoolwork, family entertainment and social media. If you have a highly connected home, consider adding a third network, possibly solely for smart devices.

Next, and it cannot be stressed how important this simple step remains: Make sure your passwords are complicated, changed regularly, and different across devices and networks. Consider using a reputable password manager to help you securely manage all those usernames and passwords.

Put a webcam cover on your computers, laptops, tablets and fitness equipment when you’re not using their cameras. And be sure to put your devices on “mute” when you’re not using them.

Avoid adding new smart devices to your home network without professional input, as correct device set up is as critical as device security. And, before you move into a new home, find out what sort of internet-enabled devices may be built into them.

Help is available

You do not have to tackle the challenge of your digital life alone. While President Biden obviously has top security professionals watching his digital back, you can enlist the help of experts too. Many reputable firms can help you with both installation and security upkeep.

You also can contact your J.P. Morgan team to learn more about our cybersecurity and fraud awareness programs, or to schedule a session with our cybersecurity experts.

And you can stay aware of the latest trends and protection measures you might take by simply visiting our Cybersecurity and Fraud Prevention Hub on a regular basis. To understand how you can more securely utilize the various “smart devices” in your home, reach out to your J.P. Morgan team for a list of best practices on keeping your Internet of Things (IoT) and smart devices secure.

The world of home tech is changing rapidly. Keep you and your family safe.

Find out more about cybersecurity and fraud prevention

[1] Statista, "Average number of connected devices residents have access to in the U.S. households in 2020", February 2022

[2] RCR Wireless, “Connected devices will be 3x the global population by 2023, Cisco says” February 2020

- Lifestyle
- Cybersecurity
- Life Events
- Fraud

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This information is provided for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended, nor should it be relied upon, to address every aspect of the subject discussed herein. The information provided in this document is intended to help clients protect themselves from cyber fraud. It does not provide a comprehensive listing of all types of cyber fraud activities and it does not identify all types of cybersecurity best practices. You, your company or organization is responsible for determining how to best protect itself against cyber fraud activities and for selecting the cybersecurity best practices that are most appropriate to your needs.

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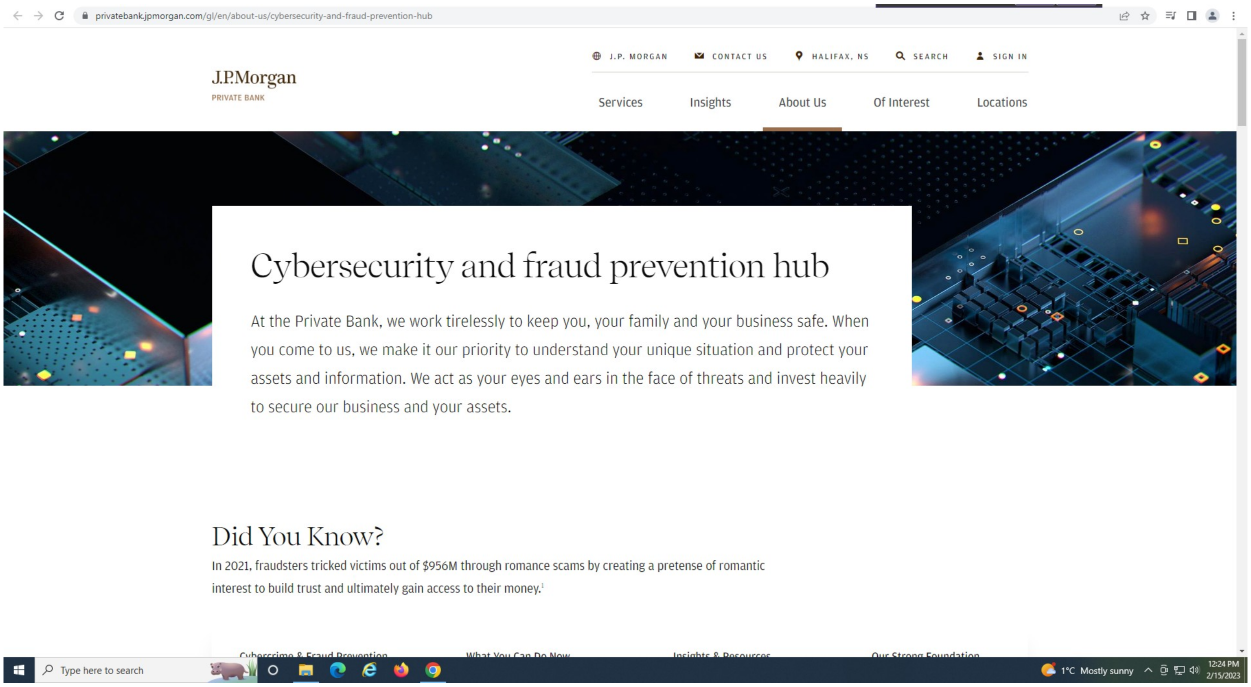
Stats: feb15 **In 2021, fraudsters tricked victims out of $956M through romance scams by creating a pretense of romantic interest to build trust and ultimately gain access to their money, according to the cybersecurity section of jpm's private banking divisions website..**


privatebank.jpmorgan.com/gl/en/about-us/cybersecurity-and-fraud-prevention-hub
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J.P.Morgan
PRIVATE BANK
Services
Insights
About Us
Of Interest
Locations
Cybercrime & Fraud Prevention
What You Can Do Now
Insights & Resources
Our Strong Foundation
Type here to search
1°C Mostly sunny
12:24 PM
2/15/2023

Cybersecurity and fraud prevention hub

At the Private Bank, we work tirelessly to keep you, your family and your business safe. When you come to us, we make it our priority to understand your unique situation and protect your assets and information. We act as your eyes and ears in the face of threats and invest heavily to secure our business and your assets.

Did You Know?

In 2021, fraudsters tricked victims out of $956M through romance scams by creating a pretense of romantic interest to build trust and ultimately gain access to their money.[1]

Dating or defrauding? What to know about romance scams

Feb 13, 2023

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With Valentine’s Day upon us, it is the opportune time for fraudsters to strike. Explore how you can protect your loved ones from an online attraction that could ultimately be a scam.

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Marlene Ruiz, Global Fraud Awareness

Nadia Manara, Global Fraud Awareness

Online dating apps have made it so much easier to make a connection. But scammers are also online—preying on people's desire to meet *the one* and tricking them into cyber sweetheart relationships while draining their funds.

Since the pandemic, romance scams have steadily increased, according to a recent report by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).[1] Many scams disproportionately target individuals over 60, who represented 32% of all victims in 2021; individuals in the 30–50-plus age group embodied approximately 15%.

How the scams play out

A typical romance scam begins with the creation of a fake online identity. Once the fraudster makes a connection with a potential target, they endeavor to appear genuine, caring and attentive. Usually, the relationship evolves very quickly as the scammer seeks to gain the target's trust, paving the way for fraud to occur.

The first red flag may be a request for funds. Often, fraudsters will fabricate a reason to ask for money—and if they sense vulnerability, the amount may increase with each request. Common inducements are: paying for medical emergencies, travel expenses (supposedly to visit), or investment opportunities. Once their victims agree to send money, fraudsters specify how they wish to receive the funds. Requests for payment via wire transfers, payment apps or cryptocurrencies are typical.

Fraudsters exploit the premise of the relationship in an attempt to trick victims—and a significant amount of money may be at risk. According to the latest FBI report, in 2021, victims of online confidence fraud and romance scams reported more than $956 million in losses, a 60% increase over 2020—and a 101% increase since 2019.[2]

Five ways to protect your loved ones

1. **Conduct due diligence.** Look into the identity of any individual who approaches you or a family member online.

2. **Be instinctual.** Pay attention to red flags, such as inconsistencies in information shared, excuses to not meet in person—or via video chat—and especially any requests for money or information about the value of financial holdings. Be wary if things seem too good to be true.

3. **Safeguard personal information.** Don't answer probing questions about financial circumstances, and never share details such as bank account numbers, trusted contact details or login credentials.

4. **Protect assets.** Do not send any money anywhere without a thorough review of the person who is going to receive it. Safeguard financial accounts—and encourage your family members to do so, too—by creating strong login credentials and enabling notification alerts about any unauthorized activity.

5. **Reduce exposure.** Help your loved ones minimize their digital profiles: Details shared on social media and online platforms may give fraudsters enough information to target and trick.

Remember, fraudsters count on the power of shame to prevent their victims from reporting romantic scams. Assure any family member or friend who may be the victim of romantic deception that they are not alone—and have nothing to be embarrassed about. Many people do find love through online connections. But it's like dating in any setting: Take it slow and verify before you trust.

We can help

If you believe you (or your loved ones) may have been targeted in any kind of online scam, freeze your credit and speak with your J.P. Morgan team immediately.

[1] The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2021 Internet Crime Report. Data as of March 2022.

War, Russia: feb14 **China Says US Sent 10 Balloons Over Its Territory**

Yes, it is the DPP that puts partisan interests over everything, creating obstacles in people's daily lives. After coming to power in 2016, they immediately tore apart the agreement with the mainland on maintaining direct flights, mail, and business ties. As a result, families were torn apart, communication hindered and normal business activities curbed.

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202302/14/WS63eac373a31057c47ebae8b4.html

War, Erdogan: feb14 nikkei, u.s shuts down key naval base due to concerns of earthquake activity: "The statement explained the decision was related to a recently conducted seismic assessment, which identified the possibility of a large-scale earthquake occurring while a submarine was under maintenance at the shipyard."

INDO-PACIFIC

Earthquake outweighs China in U.S. Navy's decision to close docks

Submarine maintenance put on hold as seismic concerns are addressed

The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Alabama (SSBN 731) is seen docked at Naval Base Kitsap’s Delta Pier, at the Trident Refit Facility in Bangor, Washington. © U.S. Navy

KEN MORIYASU, Nikkei Asia diplomatic correspondent February 8, 2023 13:00 JST

TOKYO -- The samurai, merchants and villagers living on Japan's east coast were puzzled on one January day in 1700 when a tsunami hit their towns. There was no associated earthquake in Japan that seemed to have triggered the devastating waves.

History books recorded the incident as the "orphan tsunami."

It wasn't until 300 years later, in the 1990s, that the orphan tsunami was linked to its parent: a magnitude-9.0 earthquake that hit the U.S. Pacific Northwest on Jan. 26, 1700, some 8,000 kilometers away.

Now, fears of another giant earthquake occurring in similar waters have forced the U.S. Navy to suspend operations at four key dry docks in Washington state.

The Navy has announced that it will temporarily halt operations at three dry docks in Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility -- including dry dock 6, the only one on the West Coast capable of handling an aircraft carrier. It will also suspend one dry dock at the Trident Refit Facility, Bangor, the primary maintenance facility for the Navy's Pacific-based ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) fleet.

Together, the closures at the Pacific Northwest's largest naval shore facility will hamper the country's ability to provide maintenance for its nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers.

The Navy said in a statement that it will take "additional measures to further ensure the safety of the shipyard workforce, sailors, the local public, the environment and the submarines" in case an earthquake strikes. "We will begin implementing these mitigations immediately and safely return our dry docks to full capacity as soon as possible," Vice Adm. Bill Galinis was quoted as saying.

The U.S. aircraft carrier USS Nimitz departs Dry Dock 6 at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Bremerton, Washington, after nine months of maintenance work. © U.S. Navy

The Navy also said the suspensions do not affect the nation's strategic deterrent capability or the ability of the fleet to continue its overall mission. But already with an expanding backlog of vessels awaiting maintenance, this will likely impact the number of combat-ready ships at a time of great power competition with China.

The statement explained the decision was related to a recently conducted seismic assessment, which identified the possibility of a large-scale earthquake occurring while a submarine was under maintenance at the shipyard.

Ever since the Nisqually earthquake hit the southern part of Puget Sound in February 2001, the Navy has been conscious of seismic risks to the shipyard, allocating money to remediation.

But while the quake caused $2 billion in damage, its scale was magnitude-6.8. The real fear is of a magnitude-8 or magnitude-9 earthquake, ultrastrong temblors that have previously occurred in the Cascadia subduction zone.

Earthquakes of such proportions in the Cascadia Subduction Zone are said to have a recurrence interval of about 500 years, plus or minus 200 years. The last magnitude-9 level earthquake happened on that January evening in 1700.

A potential giant earthquake could trigger a series of large tsunamis and lead to landslides, land subsidence and widespread flooding -- which would have disastrous consequences should a nuclear-powered submarine or carrier be in the dry dock.

"This development is quite troubling, given the already unacceptable backlog in U.S. nuclear submarine maintenance," said Tom Shugart, a former U.S. submariner and an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security.

This is especially so, considering the key role submarines play in deterring an increasingly powerful Chinese military, he said.

"I'd like to think that the Navy conducted a holistic assessment of these relative risks -- the likely highly remote risk of an earthquake causing unacceptable damage to a docked submarine or ship, versus the risk of a failure of deterrence of China caused in part by a somewhat hobbled U.S. submarine force," Shugart said.

Blake Herzinger, a former intelligence officer with the U.S. Navy and a nonresident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, said the Navy will be looking to rectify the loss of dry dock capacity as soon as possible because it will be a "critical gap."

If boats wait longer to go into maintenance, they will be entering dry dock in worse shape, which means they will take longer to get out, Herzinger said.

"The knock-on effect becomes exponential. What used to be six months behind schedule becomes eight months, then 10, then 12. Pretty soon you'll start having submarines breaking because they're not getting maintenance when they should," he said.

The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730) receives upgrades at the dry dock of the Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Puget Sound. © U.S. Navy

Herzinger noted that the subsurface environment is where the U.S. Navy still has a considerable advantage. "China has invested heavily in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities across the western Pacific with particular emphasis on targeting us aircraft carriers with ballistic missiles while they're maneuvering at sea," he said. "Submarine capability effectively neutralizes that Chinese capability."

In the past, the U.S. Navy has operated 13 naval shipyards but many were closed after the end of the Cold War when the defense budget was trimmed in the hope of a "peace dividend."

The U.S. is now down to four public shipyards -- in Norfolk, Virginia; Portsmouth, Maine; Puget Sound, Washington; and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. All are over 100 years old.

The docks in Washington state are especially important as they prepare the ships that are headed to the western Pacific, where tensions with China lie.

The temporary closure of the dry docks in Washington is not expected to influence U.S. plans to assist Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines.

"This will not affect AUKUS," said Brent Sadler, a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, referring to the security pact between the U.S., U.K. and Australia.

"The construction of nuclear submarines is in Rhode Island and Virginia," Sadler said, pointing to the shipyards run by General Dynamics/Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Industries/Newport News Shipbuilding.

War, china, Erdogan: feb14 **TUE FEB 14, AT 2:41 PM 4,039 5 In Sudden Narrative Shift, Pentagon**

Admits Mystery Objects 'Probably' Private Craft Not Tied To Spying

Edward Snowden called it (and so did we)... just a day ago, as we reported: NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden says the **hysteria over UFOs being shot down over America and Canada is a distraction** from Seymour Hersh's story about the U.S. being responsible for blowing up the Nord Stream pipelines.

Less than 24 hours later, on Tuesday, *Bloomberg* reports that "The US government has assessed that three unidentified objects downed since last Friday **were likely for commercial use and not foreign intelligence gathering**."

USA Today: "Little By Little" Russia Is Winning Key Ground War

USA Today raised some eyebrows when it deviated from the usual narrative by acknowledging "little by little" Russia is winning the ground war in a pivotal area of Ukraine, citing a quote given by a pro-Ukraine spokeswoman.

'Little by little they are winning': Tide turns in key Ukraine city: Updates as Russian offensive begins.

Russia gains ground in Bakhmut: 'Little by little they are winning'

The battle for the pivotal city of Bakhmut in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region has seen some of the fiercest fighting of the invasion. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office said the situation in Bakhmut's northern suburb of Paraskoviivka was “difficult" amid intense shelling.

Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said Russian forces appeared to be adding manpower: “We’re seeing a very tough battle in which the Russians aren’t sparing neither themselves nor us.”

Moscow controls both main roads into the city, leaving one back route left – a slender supply line, the BBC reports.

"They have been trying to take the city since July," Iryna Rybakova, press officer for Ukraine's 93rd Brigade, told BBC. "Little by little they are winning now. They have more resources, so if they play the long game they will win. I can't say how long it will take.

"Maybe they will run out of resources. I really hope so."

Moldovan leader urges vigilance, says Russia sought to subvert government

Moldova’s president claimed Monday that Moscow was plotting to overthrow her government with the aid of external saboteurs to put the nation “at the disposal of Russia” and derail its European Union aspirations. President Maia Sandu said her nation's intelligence services had confirmed plans – intercepted by Ukraine – developed by the Russian secret services to destroy Moldova's democracy.

"I want to ask you to stay vigilant, be attentive and trust the official information, as the most aggressive form of attack is the information attack," she said. "The Kremlin’s attempts to bring violence in our country will fail. We should keep calm. We should trust the Republic of Moldova."

Ukraine officials blast former Italian premier Berlusconi

Ukraine officials took former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to task Monday after he blamed Zelenskyy for the war. Belusconi, breaking with current Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on the conflict, said Russia would not have invaded

Ukraine if Zelenskyy “would have ceased attacking the two autonomous republics of Donbas."

Meloni’s office said her government maintains "solid and unwavering" support for Ukraine. Kyiv officials were more dramatic in their dissent.

"Berlusconi's senseless accusations against Zelenskyy are an attempt to kiss Putin's hands, bloodied up to the elbows," Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko said on Facebook. He accused Berlusconi, a Putin supporter, of trying to "show his loyalty to the Russian dictator."

Keeping Zaporizhzhia or capturing Luhansk? Russian military faces dilemma

While making a push for the entire Donbas region in eastern Ukraine, the Kremlin remains intent on retaining control of the southern Zaporizhzhia province, the British Defense Ministry says in its latest assessment of the war.

The reason is Russia wants to establish a "land bridge'' from its Rostov region to Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula it illegally annexed in 2014. That land connector would be threatened if Ukraine recaptured Zaporizhzhia.

On the other hand, "Ukrainian success in Luhansk (province) would further undermine Russia’s professed war aim of ‘liberating’ the Donbas,'' the ministry said. "Deciding which of these threats to prioritize countering is likely one of the central dilemmas for Russian operational planners.''

Contributing: The Associated Press

This article originally appeared on USA TODAY: Ukraine updates: Russian offensive begins, tide turns in Bakhmut

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Moldovan Airspace Closed On Reports Of Drone Breach As Russia Rejects Coup Accusations; second significant airspace breach in under a week, after a Russian cruise missile fired from

the Black Sea briefly briefly entered Moldovan air space days ago

President Maia Sandu had described an elaborate plan by Russian intelligence to destabilize and collapse the government using color revolution-style tactics. She claimed that Kremlin agents are preparing to flood the country with Russian, Belarusian and Serbian agents provocateurs to steer protests and unrest in order to **"change the legitimate government to an illegal government controlled by the Russian Federation."**

U.S. 'deeply troubled' by Israel's legalizing 9 outposts

"We are deeply troubled by Israel's announcement that it will reportedly advance thousands of settlements and begin a process to retroactively legalize nine outposts in the West Bank that were previously illegal under Israeli law," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a press briefing on Monday. "Like previous administrations, we strongly oppose these unilateral measures, which exacerbate tensions, harm trusts between the parties, and undermine the prospects for a negotiated two-state solution."

House Committee Planning Taiwan Trip to 'Infuriate' Beijing

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Monday said that the US had sent 10 "high-altitude" balloons over its airspace since last year while refuting allegations that the Chinese balloon the US shot down was a surveillance device.

"US balloons have often entered other countries' airspace illegally. Since last year, US high-altitude balloons have flown over Chinese airspace over ten times without authorization from China. The US needs to reflect on its own behavior and change course rather than attacking others and stoking confrontation," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a press conference.

Wang didn't specify whether China thought the balloons were used for surveillance purposes. In response to his comments, the White House said any claims that the US has sent "surveillance balloons" into China were false.

Ai, tech: feb14 **This drone can soar through the skies and swim like a fish underwater**

A research team at the Chinese University in Hong Kong recently demonstrated that, despite giving off an aura of extraterrestrial technology to onlookers, it's not out-of-this-world for objects to traverse between water and air in the blink of an eye.

This remarkable capability was highlighted by videos from various military branches showing Unidentified Aerial Phenomena performing such a feat.

History, tech: **Oldest workshop discovered in Ethiopia, dating back 1.2 million years feb14**

In Melka Kunture, modern-day Ethiopia, a new study ascertained the oldest workshop in human history, dating back to 1,2 million years ago. As stated by the researchers, this workshop includes the production of obsidian bifaces.

The study also suggests that this finding raises the possibility that our ancestors' production of stone objects may have started more than half a million years earlier than the earliest evidence.

"The fact that there were no other types of tools at Simbiro, with the exception of these high-quality obsidian tools, leads us to believe that this was a specialized production site," says Mussi, excavation director since 2011. "In other words, this is a production workshop, the oldest ever known, since those known so far date back no more than 300,000 years".

"These findings highlight a fundamental stage in the development of human intelligence: innovation, which is linked to creativity," said Margherita Mussi. "It is the first example of the development of 'parallel thinking,' which means bringing together knowledge and technical skills previously acquired in other productions."

https://interestingengineering.com/culture/oldest-workshop-dates-back-12-million-years

The study was published in *Nature Ecology&Evolution* on January 19.

A team cracked the Mary, Queen of Scots' hidden message letters

Ai, tech: feb14 **Relativity Space's 3D-printed rocket could finally launch this month**

actual, actualy freezing of bodies for the hope to one day come back to life. Always heard about it, now here's ACTUAL evidence of it happening, and on mass......WOW

This form of scientific donation has become so popular in most European countries that there are waiting lists at universities willing to accept bodies due to donations—and they're charging fees now too!

Tomorrow Biostasis already has around ten people preserved for training purposes alone. Hundred of others are waiting to be selected with the hope that they can come back to life after they are dead.

Some people just want to get their brains preserved. In case their future selves prefer a 3-D printed body or nobody at all.

The goal of German Doctors

Tech. Eu said that the "standby ambulance" of the business has already been active, with co-founder Emil Kendziorra trying to establish Europe's first cryogenics company.

As soon as someone passes away, Tomorrow Biostasis reacts right away to keep their body and/or brain in a condition of stasis.

https://interestingengineering.com/science/german-doctors-aims-bring-back-dead

read later, ai, tech, stats: Will We Ever Cheat Death and Become Immortal With Mind Uploading?

https://interestingengineering.com/science/cheating-death-and-becoming-immortal-with-mind-uploading

History, ai, tech: feb14 AI helps decipher 2,000-year-old scroll on life after Alexander the Great

AI has entered a scroll.

Thanks to machine learning, a 2,000-year-old damaged scroll on the dynasties that succeeded Alexander the Great could finally be deciphered after it was destroyed alongside Pompeii when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD.

"It's probably a lost work," Richard Janko, the Gerald F. Else distinguished university professor of classical studies at the University of Michigan, said during a presentation at the joint annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Society for Classical Studies, held in New Orleans last month, *Live Science* reported.

Stats, ai, tech: feb14 AI image generator hit by $1.8 trillion lawsuit from Getty Images

The stock image agency claims that over 12 million copyrighted images—along with their descriptions and metadata— were used to train Stable Diffusion, an AI image creator.

"Getty Images Claims Stable Diffusion Has Stolen 12 Million Copyrighted Images. Demands $150,000 For Each Image," AI expert Barsee wrote on Twitter.

"That's nearly $2 trillion, btw, which only makes copyright look ridiculous in the end," he said.

A Twitter user, while replying in the thread of Tweets, said, "AI took their whole business. Instead of innovating, they [Getty Images] are getting salty.

Meanwhile, Images created by Stable Diffusion can replicate the easily recognized Getty watermark, providing damning proof that Stability AI did browse the Getty library.

Impact on how AI image creators

Getty Images has demanded up to $150,000 for each infringement image in addition to the removal of the infringing images and damages for copyright law violations.

Ai, tech: feb14 How CGI has taken animals out of the scene in Hollywood

tech, ai, stats: feb14 **Here's how to create stunning digital AI art in seconds**

I recently took up a short course named **Put the Art in Artificial Intelligence** by Machine Learning Scientist **Jesper Dramsch** and was seriously impressed with AI and its capabilities in terms of how it enables users to create spectacular pieces of art based merely on a set of text-based instructions. Here's an honest review of why this should be a go-to course for newbies or aspiring artists to develop their skills.

Put the art in artificial intelligence: What's it all about?

Imagine ordering someone to create a piece of art or an image and getting it created within the blink of an eye. That would be amazing, right?

That's precisely what Jesper teaches in this course – a basic step-by-step guide on how you can create stunning digital art pieces by using tools that have a very easy learning curve. If you're a beginner, you'll take to these tools as a fish does to water.

The tool we're talking about here is known as Stable Diffusion AI – a platform that creates your artwork based on your prompts. Across the **11 lessons** in this course that span a total of **1 hour and 19 minutes**, you'll learn how to write better prompts to create spectacular art pieces.

Through every stage, you're bound to learn something new. However, apart from the priceless knowledge imparted in the course by Jesper, I liked his focus on three things.

1. Ethics of generative art and AI

As you move forward, you'll come across a lesson where Jesper stresses an important issue about being ethical in the use of AI. The power of AI to create anything out of the smallest figment of human imagination also means it can be used for nefarious purposes. And Jesper means it well when he quotes the famous line from the movie "Spiderman," when he says 'With great power comes great responsibility.'

Jesper sheds light on why it's important to study or take a peek at the models used to train these AI tools. He also mentions specific examples and certain biases in data that may not produce an impartial result. That makes it crucial to study the license, limitations, and biases of any AI tool to make sure we don't create harmful content that's meant to demean any person or community and spread misinformation.

2. What to learn next?

Coming second-to-last in this course, Jesper discusses the exceptional possibilities of AI and how it can be used to repair damaged images or create extensions of artwork about what it could possibly look like. In a nutshell, you can use Stable Diffusion AI to get inspiration when you're creating any artwork for a client.

3. Resource

Jesper also provides a really helpful LookBook that's a brief, abridged version of the video course in text form. It consists of example images created by AI using different prompt styles, so if you ever need to revise the course, this LookBook will save you time having to go through the lessons all over again.

What have people said about this course?

How will this course help you?

Jesper talks about this point as well. Here's a brief on how taking this course will help you in the long run.

- Generating inspiration for physical art pieces
- Generating prototypes for clients
- Breaking the creative block by creating diverse ideas
- Trying a fusion of different art styles to come up with something new
- Get faster iterations of ideas to speed up the decision-making process

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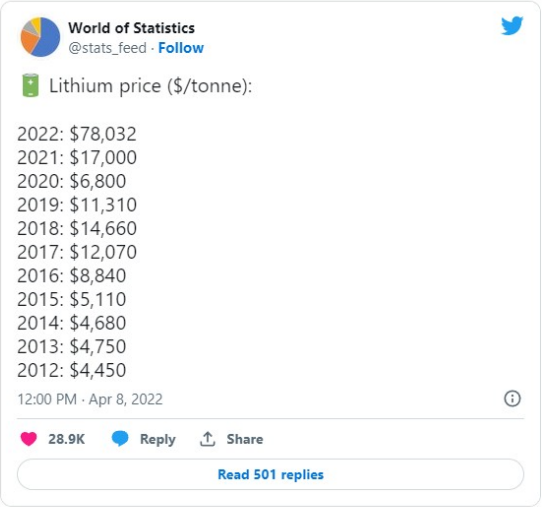
War, Russia, government: feb14 Massive lithium reserves found in the Himalayan region of Kashmir

Study reveals common ingredient linked to higher risk of heart disease

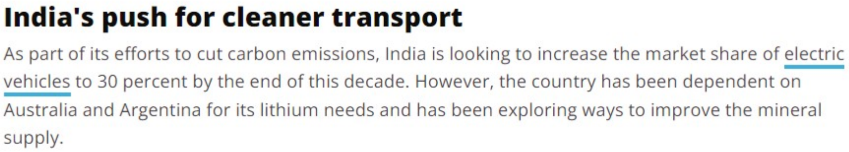


World of Statistics
@stats_feed · Follow

Lithium price ($/tonne):

2022: $78,032
2021: $17,000
2020: $6,800
2019: $11,310
2018: $14,660
2017: $12,070
2016: $8,840
2015: $5,110
2014: $4,680
2013: $4,750
2012: $4,450

12:00 PM · Apr 8, 2022



India's push for cleaner transport

As part of its efforts to cut carbon emissions, India is looking to increase the market share of electric vehicles to 30 percent by the end of this decade. However, the country has been dependent on Australia and Argentina for its lithium needs and has been exploring ways to improve the mineral supply.

Photographer reveals dark side of lithium extraction in South America

Approximately 2.2 million litres of water is needed to produce one ton of lithium.

Approximately 2.2 million litres of water is needed to produce one ton of lithium.

The production of lithium through evaporation ponds uses a lot of water - around 21 million litres per day. Approximately 2.2 million litres of water is needed to produce one ton of lithium.

“The extraction of lithium has caused water-related conflicts with different communities, such as the community of Toconao in the north of Chile,” the FoE report specifies.

Stats, tech, government: feb14 Recycling facilities can now recover nearly all of the cobalt and nickel and over 80% of the lithium from

used batteries and manufacturing scrap left over from battery production

Stats, tech, ai: feb14 Lockheed Martin's new jet was flown by AI for 17 hours in worlds first

In December 2021, during a test flight from California's Edwards Air Force Base, a special Lockheed Martin F-16 fighter jet trainer called the VISTA X-62A became the first tactical aircraft to be controlled by AI.

Amazon hosts a first in Quantum computing: Aquila, a neutral-atom Quantum computer

Amazon has been working on ChatGPT-like AI for a long time, says Amazon CEO

the boutique beats the large clunky organization in cutting-edge. That's marketing theory if I remember correctly. Amazon, as an organization, doesn't is too focused on maintenance now. Lacks the vigor of the new boutique

"Most large, deeply technical companies like ours, have been working on these very large, generative AI models themselves for a long time," Amazon CEO Andy Jassy said.

Microsoft released Bing with ChatGPT-like powers, and the search engine finally looks impressive. In the latest news, Microsoft has started rolling out new Bing early access to waitlisted users. As for Google, Bard failed to show promise after a goof-up during the demo. Employees expressed their disappointment with the "early launch" of Bard and said that the announcement was handled in a "botched" manner.

Is Amazon falling behind in the generative AI race?

Now even though AI and machine learning technology can be found across Amazon Web Services and Amazon's operations (Amazon has voice assistant, Alexa, and code recommendation generator, CodeWhisperer), the company's supporters are concerned that it is trailing behind in the "generative" AI race, *FT* reported.

"Microsoft is clearly in the lead and has won a lot of mindshare here," Matt McIlwain, managing director of Madrona Venture Group, a major, early investor that has worked closely with Amazon over two decades., told *FT*.

'ChatGPT lacks Alexa's personality

Insider reported in January that Amazon employees had used internal Slack channels to enquire about how they should use ChatGPT at work. A company lawyer has asked workers not to share any confidential company data with ChatGPT as responses could look similar to Amazon's internal data. The lawyer told Insider that Amazon is developing similar technology to ChatGPT.

Dave Limp, Amazon's senior vice president for devices and services, told *The Times* that "competition is generally healthy" and dismissed ChatGPT stating that it lacked Alexa's personality, memory, and knowledge of current events.

Stats, government, tech: feb14 **demand for lithium could increase 20 times by 2050.**

Lithium has to scale twenty times by 2050 as automakers face generational challenge

The world will need more than twenty times the amount of lithium than was mined last year to meet demand by mid-century, according to new data from Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, driven by growth in energy storage and electric vehicles. Annual production of 11.2 million tonnes LCE will be needed by 2050 with energy storage making […]

Tech, ai, stats: feb14 **New methods that make damaged DNA legible are producing stunning revelations about the deep past.**

And the number of ancient human individuals for whom we now have whole-genome data has jumped drastically, from just five in 2010 to 5,550 in 2020.

By indicating that India’s population came from a mix of ancestors, these techniques have undermined the caste system. DNA from a 2,500-year-old battlefield in Sicily has revealed that ancient Greek armies were more diverse than historians depicted.

Old samples can unravel modern health mysteries, too. Last year scientists identified a single mutation that made people 40% likelier to survive the Black Death—and it’s also a risk factor for autoimmune issues like Crohn’s disease.

Differences in how cultures believe human remains should be treated will keep creating ethical and logistical questions for scholars seeking to work with ancient DNA. But its revelations are already rewriting history.

Tech, ai: **read later: What are genome editing and CRISPR-Cas9?**

What are genome editing and CRISPR-Cas9?

Genome editing (also called gene editing) is a group of technologies that give scientists the ability to change an organism's DNA. These technologies allow genetic material to be added, removed, or altered at particular locations in the genome. Several approaches to genome editing have been developed. A well-known one is called CRISPR-Cas9, which is short for clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats and CRISPR-associated protein 9. The CRISPR-Cas9 system has generated a lot of excitement in the scientific community because it is faster, cheaper, more accurate, and more efficient than other genome editing methods.

CRISPR-Cas9 was adapted from a naturally occurring genome editing system that bacteria use as an immune defense. When infected with viruses, bacteria capture small pieces of the viruses' DNA and insert them into their own DNA in a particular pattern to create segments known as CRISPR arrays. The CRISPR arrays allow the bacteria to "remember" the viruses (or closely related ones). If the viruses attack again, the bacteria produce RNA segments from the CRISPR arrays that recognize and attach to specific regions of the viruses' DNA. The bacteria then use Cas9 or a similar enzyme to cut the DNA apart, which disables the virus.

Researchers adapted this immune defense system to edit DNA. They create a small piece of RNA with a short "guide" sequence that attaches (binds) to a specific target sequence in a cell's DNA, much like the RNA segments bacteria produce from the CRISPR array. This guide RNA also attaches to the Cas9 enzyme. When introduced into cells, the guide RNA recognizes the intended DNA sequence, and the Cas9 enzyme cuts the DNA at the targeted location, mirroring the process in bacteria. Although Cas9 is the enzyme that is used most often, other enzymes (for example Cpf1) can also be used. Once the DNA is cut, researchers use the cell's own DNA repair machinery to add or delete pieces of genetic material, or to make changes to the DNA by replacing an existing segment with a customized DNA sequence.

Genome editing is of great interest in the prevention and treatment of human diseases. Currently, genome editing is used in cells and animal models in research labs to understand diseases. Scientists are still working to determine whether this approach is safe and effective for use in people. It is being explored in research and clinical trials for a wide variety of diseases, including single-gene disorders such as cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, and sickle cell disease. It also holds promise for the treatment and prevention of more complex diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, mental illness, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.
Ethical concerns arise when genome editing, using technologies such as CRISPR-Cas9, is used to alter human genomes. Most of the changes introduced with genome editing are limited to somatic cells, which are cells other than egg and sperm cells (germline cells). These changes are isolated to only certain tissues and are not passed from one generation to the next. However, changes made to genes in egg or sperm cells or to the genes of an embryo could be passed to future generations. Germline cell and embryo genome editing bring up a number of ethical challenges, including whether it would be permissible to use this technology to enhance normal human traits (such as height or intelligence). Based on concerns about ethics and safety, germline cell and embryo genome editing are currently illegal in the United States and many other countries.

Scientific journal articles for further reading

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Russia, sanctions, energy, war: feb14 **Tanker Rates To Haul Gasoline Soar 400% After Russian Sanctions**

Tanker Rates To Haul Gasoline Soar 400% After Russian Sanctions

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, FEB 14, 2023 - 07:55 AM

Clean product tanker rates soared last week after the European Union and G-7 nations targeted Russia's petroleum sales. Restrictions on Russian crude exports began in early December. The sanctions have been a ploy by Western countries to limit Russian crude and crude product exports, though it's definitely not working.

Sanctions have redirected Russian energy flows from Europe to Asia. The rejiggering of supply chains means Russia has to rely more on tankers. According to Bloomberg, this has led to a 400% surge in the daily rates for clean product tankers.

The latest data from the Baltic Exchange in London shows clean product tankers rates have reached $55,857 per day, surging 58% just last Thursday.

War, Russia, government: feb14 **Two More Trains Derail Across US After Ohio Catastrophe**

About ten days after a train carrying vinyl chloride derailed and exploded, releasing dangerous chemicals into the air and water near the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, two more trains derailed on Monday alone.

Early Monday morning in East Texas, an 18-wheeler collided with a train. The truck was dragged half a mile down the tracks. The 'accident' derailed 21 cars operated by Union Pacific.

When first responders arrived at the scene, the truck driver was dead, according to Splendora Police Department. The police department said the train was carrying hazardous materials though the crash didn't rupture any tanks.

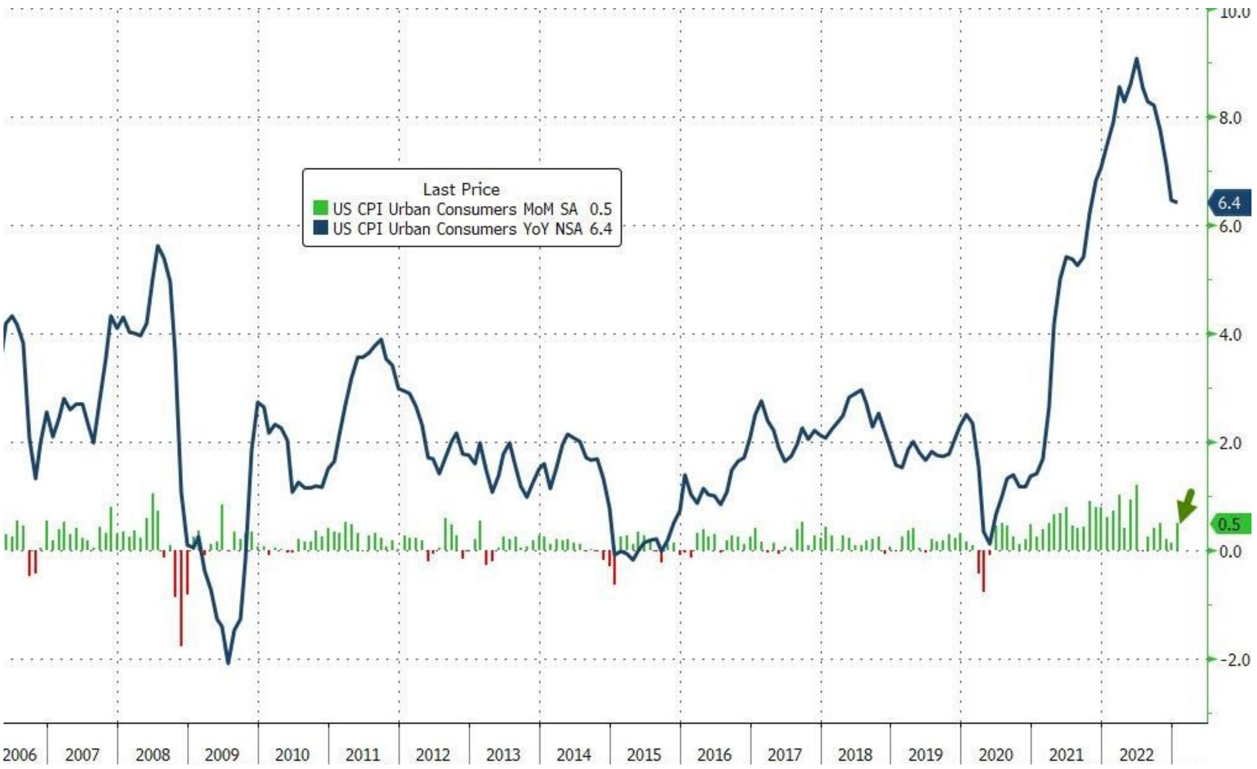
A fourth airborne object which strayed into US airspace on Sunday afternoon over Lake Huron resulted in the Pentagon scrambling a F-16 fighter jet, as these potential balloons have been deemed hazardous to civilian aviation.

But what US defense officials described as an unidentified "octagonal" object wasn't taken down so easily, with the first Sidewinder missile fired from the F-16 reportedly missing its target. Each AIM-9x Sidewinder missile costs the American taxpayers a cool $400,000.

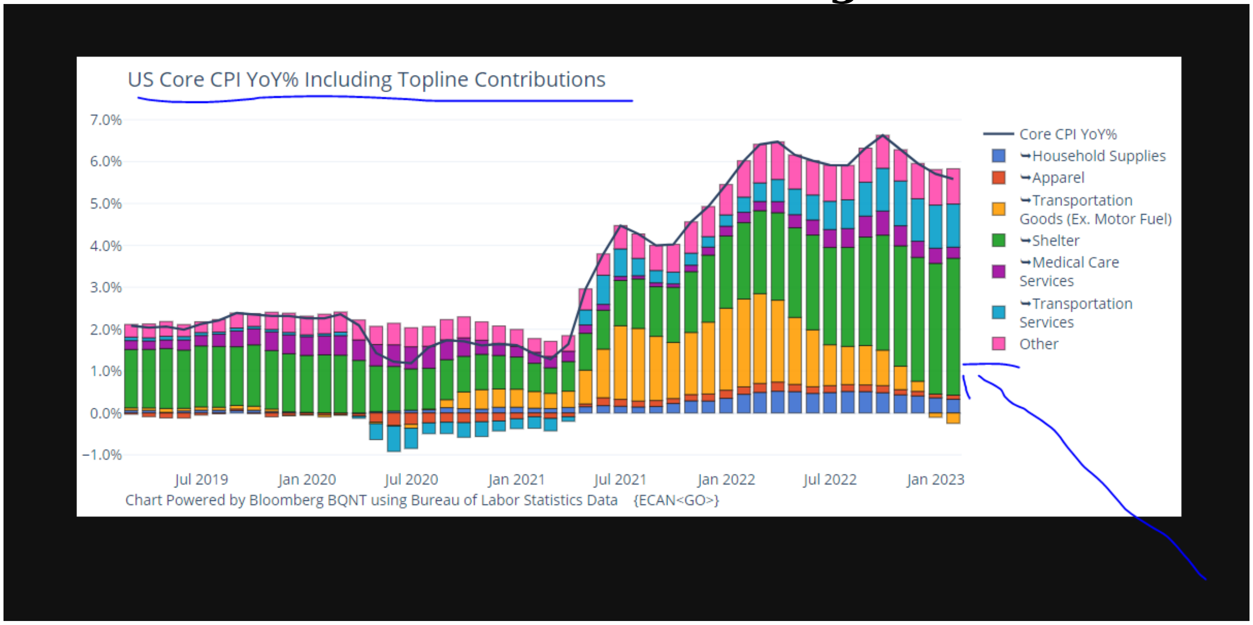
Government, inflation: feb14 **The Layoffs Continue: Ford To Cut 3,800 Workers In Europe**

.the rise in Americans' cost of living outpaced their income gains for the 22nd month in a row...

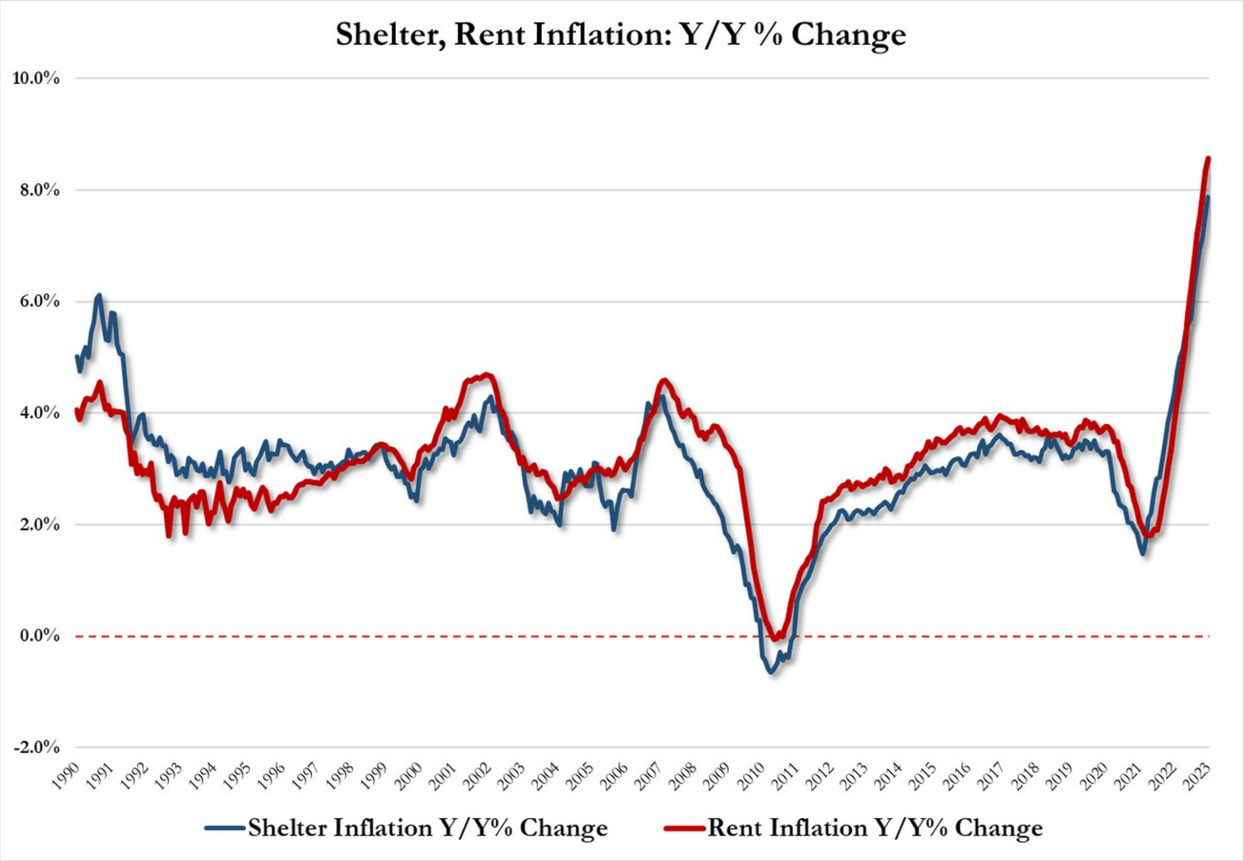
Core CPI Rises 32nd Straight Month, Headline Inflation Hotter Than Expected YoY Driven By Lagging Shelter consensus was for a reaccleration to +0.5% MoM in January and that is what it printed, prompting a hotter than expected +6.4% YoY CPI print

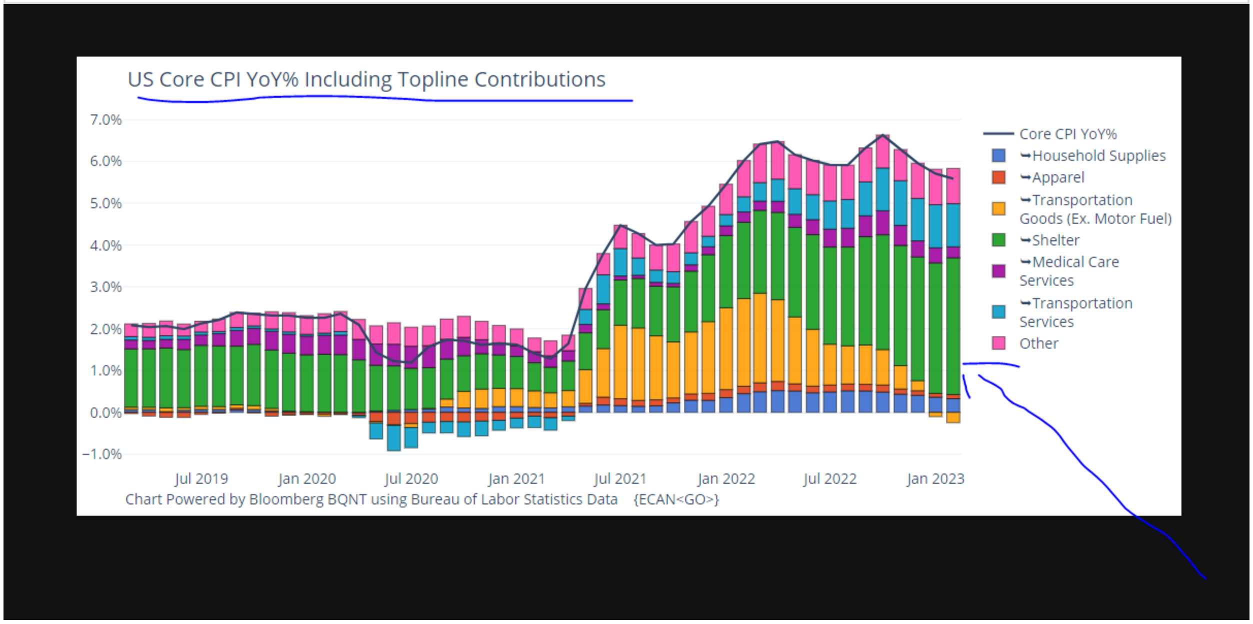


Stats, inflation, journal: feb14 Core CPI was expected to rise 0.4% MoM and printed in line - the 32nd month in a row of rising Core CPI

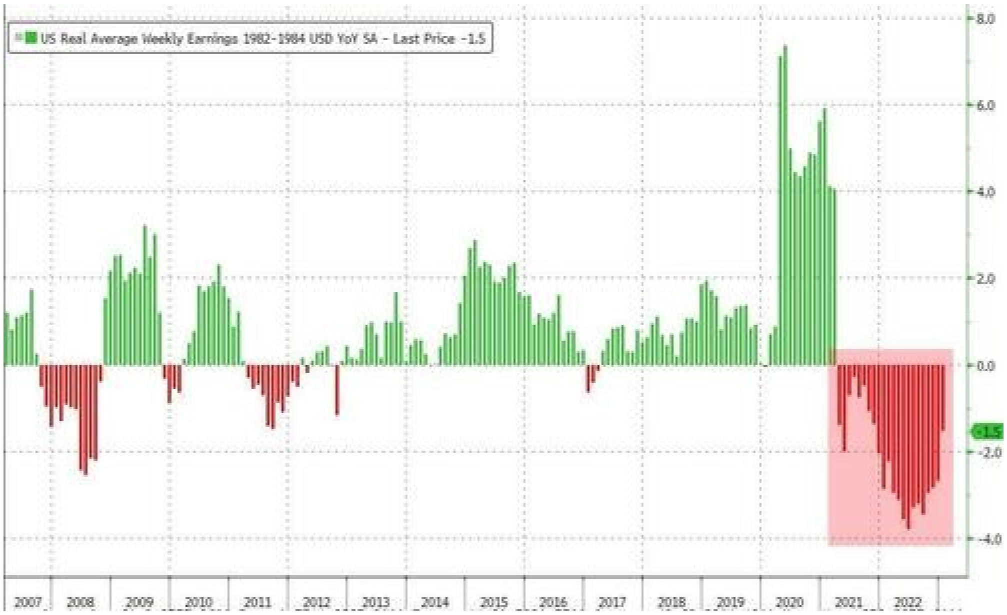


end of year rent inflation





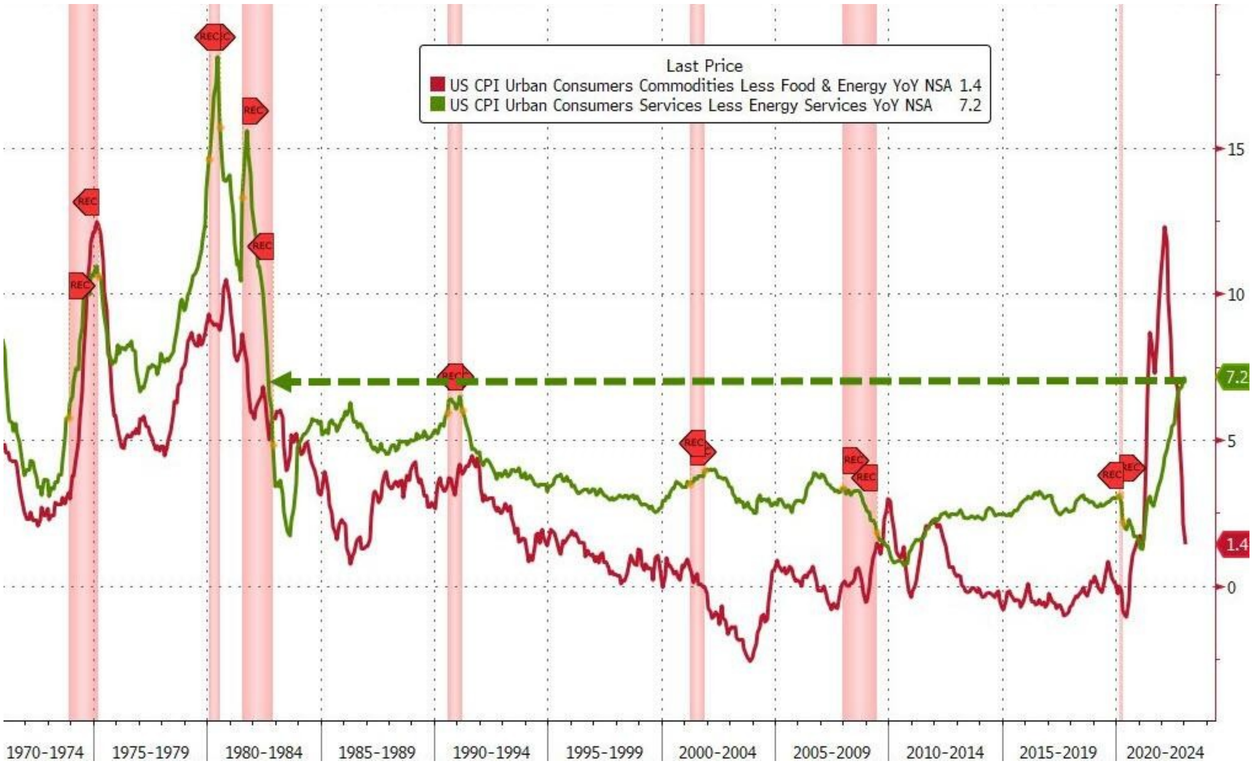
rise in Americans' cost of living outpaced their income gains for the 22nd month in a row (down 1.5% YoY)...



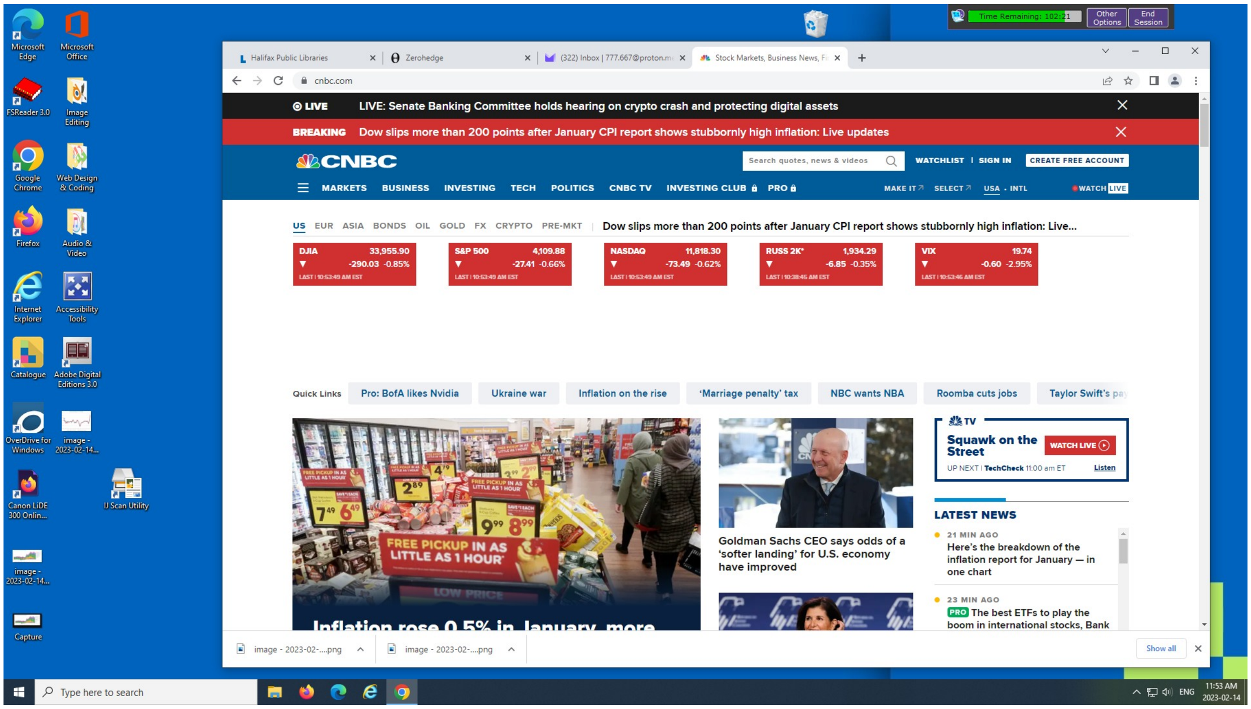
Source: Bloomberg

Just don't forget the economy is "strong as hell".

Services CPI soared to its highest since July 1982 and Goods inflation continues to slow...



Feb14 nice view of the market reaction just by looking at CNBC's front page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'Marriage penalty' tax
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LIVE: Senate Banking Committee holds hearing on crypto crash and protecting digital assets

Dow slips more than 200 points after January CPI report shows stubbornly high inflation: Live updates

Dow slips more than 200 points after January CPI report shows stubbornly high inflation: Live...

DJIA	33,955.90	-290.03	-0.85%
S&P 500	4,109.88	-27.41	-0.66%
NASDAQ	11,818.30	-73.49	-0.62%
RUSS 2K*	1,934.29	-6.85	-0.35%
VIX	19.74	-0.60	-2.95%

LAST | 10:53:49 AM EST

LAST | 10:53:49 AM EST

LAST | 10:53:49 AM EST

LAST | 10:38:45 AM EST

LAST | 10:53:46 AM EST

Inflation rose 0.5% in January, more

Goldman Sachs CEO says odds of a 'softer landing' for U.S. economy have improved

Squawk on the Street

UP NEXT | TechCheck 11:00 am ET

21 MIN AGO

Here's the breakdown of the inflation report for January — in one chart

23 MIN AGO

The best ETFs to play the boom in international stocks, Bank

100 thouusands protestors again, IU guess....protesting netanyuha's literal theocratic 'democracy' and its decidision to allow the country head to elect and dismiss all judges at will , or something. can't remember. just saving the story because it shows that the protests are still occurring, even like more than a mont later..

Israel: 100,000 protest against controversial judicial overhaul

Citizens and MPs gather to denounce plan as ‘the beginning of the end of the State of Israel’

Across the country, businesses closed and an estimated 100,000 people, including schoolchildren, took to the streets, in what Haaretz said was “set to be one of the largest demonstrations in Israeli history”.

More than 80,000 rallied outside the Knesset in Jerusalem. Protesters then walked through the city, blocking roads.

Protesters blocking roads in Jerusalem are confronted by police, on 13 February 2023 (Oren Ziv/MEE)

“We will shake the legs of this corrupt government,” Kema Bresler, founder of the Black Flags protest group, told the crowd, who chanted: “Democracy or rebellion.”

Anat, a protester in her 20s who went to the protest with her friends, told Middle East Eye: “I have come to keep Israel democratic.”

Demonstrators waved Israeli flags and placards that read "Save Israel democracy" and "The whole world is watching".

Another read: “1933 Germany. 2023 Israel? Biden, you can stop it!”

Dana Foss, holding the sign, told MEE: “If the laws are passed, it will be the beginning of the end of the state of Israel.

“In the end there will be a critical mass [of protesters] and they will realise that they cannot ignore us.”

An Israeli protester holds up a sign comparing the rise of authoritarianism in inter-war Germany to that in Israel, on 13 February, 2023 (Oren Ziv/MEE)

Renana Amir, who came with her two elementary school children, said: “This is mainly for the future of the younger generation.”

The plan would give parliament the power to override Supreme Court decisions through a simple majority vote, and de facto control over court nominees, a role currently held by a mixed panel of politicians, judges and bar association members.

It would also limit the court’s ability to bar legislation that infringes on human and civil rights.

Israel has no constitution, and there is little separation between the executive and legislative branches, as governments nearly always hold a majority in the Knesset. This has historically meant the Supreme Court is the most effective check on government power.

Israelis continue weekend protests against Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plans

Read More »

Netanyahu and his allies say the reforms are necessary to correct a power imbalance between elected representatives and the nation's top court, but the plans have drawn fierce opposition from groups including lawyers, and raised concerns among business leaders, widening already deep political divisions in Israeli society.

Israel's Channel 12 news released a poll on Saturday revealing that 62 percent of Israelis want the proposed judicial plans to be either paused or halted altogether. Hundreds of thousands have demonstrated across the country since they were announced.

US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron have both voiced concern about the overhaul.

Israeli economists have warned the plan has already damaged the country’s finances. Numerous businesses gave staff the day off to protest, even arranging shuttle buses.

Employees from the country’s booming tech industry were among the demonstrators.

“Most of the industry is funded from outside the country, and we don’t want to live in a place where the brainiest flee abroad,” said Lior Ben Arieh, who works at Ortra, a conference management company.

“We’ve heard from companies and colleagues abroad who are really worried about visiting and are afraid of the democratic situation in Israel. We are here to fight for what is left.”

Israel has no constitution, and there is little separation between the executive and legislative branches, as governments nearly always hold a

majority in the Knesset. This has historically meant the Supreme Court is the most effective check on government power.

Opposition leader and former premier Yair Lapid, a bitter Netanyahu rival, addressed the crowd in front of the Knesset on Monday.

Lawmakers "pretend they don't hear, pretend they don't care, but they hear and they're afraid", he said.

"We are not here just to pay taxes and send our children to the army. We will not shut ourselves in our houses when they try to turn the State of Israel into a dark dictatorship and silence us," he added.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid at the Knesset protest in Jerusalem on 13 February, 2023 (Oren Ziv/MEE)

"Outwardly they grin sarcastically, saying that [the protests] won't change anything, but inside they tremble,” said Lapid, who some have said should not to cooperate with any negotiations or talks with the coalition. "A day will come when each of the men and women who are out here on the street will be able to say to their children: When the day the State of Israel needed me the most, I was there."

Former defence minister Benny Gantz told protesters: "The entire opposition and many more Israeli citizens who voted for the coalition parties are united against the 'targeted assassination' that is being carried out against Israeli democracy."

Another former defence minister and former chief of staff, Moshe Yaalon, said: “We did not fight against enemies from outside to give the country over to criminals from within. One man [Netanyahu]… has taken us all hostage.”

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Erdogan, war: feb14 Turkey Won't Allow New Syrian Refugee Influx After Quake: Minister

Turkey Won't Allow New Syrian Refugee Influx After Quake -Minister

By Reuters

Feb. 13, 2023, at 9:04 a.m.

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Turkey Won't Allow New Syrian Refugee Influx After Quake -Minister

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FILE PHOTO: Turkey’s Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu meets with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the State Department in Washington, U.S., January 18, 2023. REUTERS/Leah Millis/Pool/File Photo**REUTERS**

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey will not allow a new influx of refugees from Syria after last week's devastating earthquake, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Monday.

"Claims that there is a new influx of refugees from Syria to Turkey (after the earthquake) are not true. We will not allow that; it is out of question," Cavusoglu said at a news conference in Ankara.

"All of these border crossings are for humanitarian aid. That does not mean that Syrians are coming to Turkey through these crossings," he said.

"We are facilitating humanitarian aid for Syrians, but we are not allowing a new Syrian refugee influx. These are two separate issues," he said.

Readlater, censorship, stats, government: feb14

article from 1996 about top selling pharmaceutiicals , 26-02-1996 Print

The world's top selling drug in the year 2000 will be Astra Merck's Losec (omeprazole), with sales of $3.6 billion, says a new report from Datamonitor. By 2000, Losec will have toppled the current top-seller, Glaxo Wellcome's Zantac (ranitidine) into fifth place, with projected sales of $1.76 billion, says the study, Global Pharmaceutical Forecasts to 2005, which is available through the Marketletter offices.

Second to Losec will be Eli Lilly's depression treatment Prozac (fluoxetine), but with sales of $2.8 billion it will still be a long way behind, says the study.

Prospects For Market leaders Looking at the prospects for the leading players to the millennium, Datamonitor says Merck & Co is well-placed to retain its strong leadership. It has an interest in five of the 25 forecast top-sellers, and they will earn it $7 billion. Further into the future, the study believes Merck & Co will be able to sustain this level of performance to 2005 with three of the world's top five drugs.

Datamonitor believes Pfizer will have the largest share of sales of the 25 top-sellers by 2005, with four expected to produce sales over $5 billion worldwide. It notes that its forecast for Pfizer conflicts with current industry views on the need for mergers between the leading players, but it says the Pfizer model demonstrates that well-managed companies, focused on achieving organic growth driven by R&D, will be able not only to survive but also to prosper.

Glaxo Wellcome will also be well-positioned at the turn of the century, despite the expiry of patents on Zantac. It will be less dependent on any single product, and will have four of the world's top-selling 25 drugs by 2005, says the study.

Eli Lilly's strong dependence on Prozac will reveal its vulnerability as sales of the drug begin to decline, says Datamonitor. While the Humulin insulin products will continue strongly, Lilly's new antiosteoporosis drug raloxifene (a selective estrogen receptor modulator) must be successful if the strong position forecast for the company in 2000 is to continue to 2005.

World's Top 25 Drugs: Forecasts To 2000 Brand Generic Indication Company 2000 Sales ($m)

Censorship, government: feb14 **Microsoft Suspends Relationship With Group Blacklisting Conservative News**

Peru's Boluarte Vows to Crush 'Narcoterrorism' After Deadly Police Ambush

Canada's Trudeau Sees 'Some Sort of Pattern' in Downed Aerial Objects

Algeria Arrests Activist's Family After Her Escape to France

Stats, middle east, readlater: feb14 **read later: 2019–2021 Iraqi protests**

War, middle east, readlater: feb14 Popular Mobilization Forces: still don't understand, but looks important

According to Faleh A. Jabar and Renad Mansour for the Carnegie Middle East Center, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki used these forces to combat the emergence of ISIL and maintain his influence in predominantly Sunni areas.[39]

The People's Mobilization Forces (PMF) were formed by the Iraqi government on 15 June 2014 after top Iraqi Shia cleric Ali al-Sistani's non-sectarian[39] fatwa on "Sufficiency Jihad" on 13 June.[1] The fatwa called for defending Iraqi cities, particularly Baghdad, and to participate in the counter-offensive against ISIL, following the Fall of Mosul on 10 June

2014.[1][58] The forces brought together a number of Shia militias, most of which receive direct support from Iran, along with a small number of Sunni tribesmen by uniting existing militias under the "People's Mobilization Committee" of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior in June 2014.[59] The forces would fall under the umbrella of the state's security services and within the legal frameworks and practices of the Ministry of Interior. On 19 December 2016, Iraqi President Fuad Masum approved a law passed by parliament in November that incorporated PMU in the country's armed forces. The pro-Assad website *Al-Madsar News* reports that, with this incorporation, the PMU are now subject to the supreme commander of the national armed forces and will no longer be affiliated to any political or social group.[60][*better source needed*] However, many of these irregulars have continued to operate independently of the Iraqi state.[61]

On 21 March 2017, the PMU announced the launch of a special forces course, in order to create a Special Forces Division. The training program covered a variety of missions with direction from the Iraqi Special Operations Forces.[62][*better source needed*] On December 11, 2017, the PMU began to be entirely consolidated under the Iraqi Armed Forces, following a call by Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani to integrate.[43] However, as late as May 2018, this integration had yet to take place, and PMF members remained without the same wages and privileges as soldiers in the regular Iraqi Armed Forces.[63]

According to some sources, the Popular Mobilization Forces have made a fundamental difference on the battlefield, as they have undermined the superiority of ISIL at the level of guerrilla warfare, as well as at the level of the psychological operations.[64]

Feb14 The Philippines has filed nearly 200 diplomatic protests against China's aggressive actions in the disputed waters in 2022 alone.

Erdogan, war: feb14 they're only now getting there: First Hezbollah Aid Convoy Reaches Syria's Latakia

"The affected people need all the help they can get, and Syria has always stood by Lebanon throughout its ordeals … [We will] stand beside them in this disastrous challenge," Safieddine said.

"The West revealed the culture to which it belongs and confirmed that it perpetuates false slogans in defending human rights," he added, referring to the US sanction policy, which since the quake hit, has made it highly difficult for aid to reach Syria.

On 10 February, the US announced a temporary, 180-day sanctions-waiver for the Caesar Act, in an apparent admission that Washington’s sanctions do indeed hinder humanitarian efforts, which it attempted to deny many times. This decision followed a storm of criticism, as well as warnings by UN officials against the ‘politicization’ of earthquake relief efforts.

Last week, the Iraqi resistance faction, the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), announced that the departure of their engineering team to the affected areas of Syria in order to aid relief efforts. Following the quake, the Iraqi government was among the first countries to send aid to Syria in disregard of western sanctions, along with Algeria, Iran, and the UAE.

As rescue teams in Syria and Turkiye continue to remove bodies from the rubble, the death toll from last week’s disaster has topped 36,000 people, and is expected to continue rising.

journal, stats, government, middle east: feb14 britian influencing gas pricing for an entire country through the imf's international 'loan programme'.

In order to implement a major prior condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for striking a staff-level agreement with Pakistan, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet Monday approved up to 124% hike in the tariff of gas across the board for six months — January to June.

Under this initiative, debt relief was extended through the suspension of principal and interest payments. So far, 37 debt rescheduling agreements with 15 creditor countries have been signed.

Reforms in the energy sector and controlling the circular debt remained on top of the agenda during the talks held with the IMF mission that concluded 10-day parleys in Islamabad last Thursday.

Islam, stats: islam and the monkey: feb14 a specific example, current

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's police arrested at least 50 suspects in the kidnapping and lynching of a man already detained on charges of blasphemy, officials said Monday.

A mob of hundreds of enraged Muslims descended on the police station in the Nankana district of eastern Punjab province on Saturday. Members of the mob had been alerted that a man identified only as Waris desecrated a copy of Islam's holy book, the Quran.

According to the district police chief, Babar Sarfraz Alpa, the mob had accused Waris of pasting images of himself, his wife and a knife on pages of the book, displaying and throwing them in the streets.

Charges of blasphemy carry the death penalty under Pakistani law.

Officials said the mob stormed the Warburton police station on Saturday. Some used a wooden ladder to climb a wall and open the main gate, allowing the mob to enter. By the time police reinforcement could reach the scene to save the prisoner's life, the mob had already lynched him and were about to burn his body. Police dispersed the crowd.

The slain man, Waris, was arrested in 2019 on a blasphemy charge and was in prison until mid-2022.

Police say Waris again desecrated the Quran, and that some witnesses grabbed and beat him. Police took Waris into custody. But the mob later attacked the police station and killed him, saying they were punishing him for insulting the Quran.

Stats, energy, sanctions, war, government, germany: feb14 think tank: Europe Has Spent 792 Billion Euros to Shield Citizens From Energy Crisis

European countries have forked out over £700bn (€792bn) to shield businesses and households from soaring gas prices since the start of the energy crisis, according to the latest research from Bruegel.

The think tank has calculated that since September 2021, the EU has now earmarked or spent €681bn in energy crisis spending, while the UK has allocated €103bn and Norway just over €8bn.

Germany was by far the biggest spender, splashing out nearly €270bn since September 2021.

The figures mark a sharp increase since the last report three months ago when Bruegel calculated a €706bn total, as countries grappled with a challenging winter with Russia cutting off gas supplies to Europe last year.

Russia reduced flows significantly from the Nord Stream 1 pipeline and halted flows into multiple countries.

Bruegel urged governments to shift towards more targeted support, prioritising lower income levels as countries start running out of fiscal space to maintain such broad funding.

Funding has chiefly focused on non-targeted measures such as VAT cuts on petrol or retail power price caps.

However, the think-tank argued that dynamic needed to change over the coming months.

War: feb14 nato chief to step down in October after 9 years in office.

Feb14 Russian Arms Supplies to India Worth $13 Billion in Past Five Years

Feb14 Switzerland said Friday it had blocked Spain from sending Swiss-made anti-aircraft guns to Ukraine, in line with its strict military neutrality.

Feb14 Russia Claims US Army Training ISIS, al-Qaeda Fighters in Syria to Deploy to Russia, Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) told TASS on Monday.

US recruiting IS jihadists for terrorist attacks in Russia and CIS, says intel agency

The SVR stressed that the US was planning to send terrorists in small groups

Sixty such terrorists with combat experience in the Middle East were selected this year in January.

According to the SVR, they are undergoing a fast-track training course at the US base in Syria’s Al-Tanf, where they are being taught how to make and use improvised explosive devices, as well as subversive methods. "Particular emphasis is paid to planning attacks on heavily guarded facilities, including foreign diplomatic missions," the Foreign Intelligence Service said.

The SVR stressed that the US was planning to send terrorists in small groups. "In the near future, there are plans to deploy militants in small groups to the territory of Russia and the CIS countries. They will be tasked with plotting and carrying out terrorist attacks against diplomats, civil servants, law enforcement agents and servicemen," the statement said. According to the US plot, they will conduct this scheme in cooperation with clandestine cells of international terrorist groups, such as Hizb ut-Tahrir, Jamaat Ansarullah and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (outlawed in Russia).

The SVR also reported that special attention was paid to the involvement of natives of the Russian North Caucasus and Central Asia. All this demonstrates the complete loss of any moral principles in the US security services. "Obsessed with the insane idea of ’exsanguinating’ Russia, Washington’s experts consider it acceptable to use terrorists directly for their own dirty purposes. Such actions put Washington on a par with major international terrorist groups," the SVR concluded.

Feb14 Dutch F-35s Intercept Three Russian Military Aircraft Near Poland - Netherlands' Defence Ministry

Dutch F-35s Intercept Three Russian Military Aircraft Near Poland - Netherlands' Defence Ministry

By Reuters

Feb. 13, 2023, at 6:57 p.m.

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FILE PHOTO: A Dutch soldier stands guard as a Royal Netherlands Air Force F-35 takes off at Graf Ignatievo airbase, Bulgaria, April 14, 2022. REUTERS/Stoyan Nenov**REUTERS**

(Reuters) - Two Dutch F-35 fighters intercepted a formation of three Russian military aircraft near Poland and escorted them out, the Netherlands' defence ministry said in a statement late on Monday.

"The then unknown aircraft approached the Polish NATO area of responsibility from Kaliningrad," according to Reuters' translation of the ministry's statement.

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In boost for Africa, Senegal to make COVID shots
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Meta stock craters over bleak forecast, metaverse bets

Adidas drops Kanye West over offensive behavior

Kaliningrad is a Russian Baltic coast enclave located between NATO and European Union members Poland and Lithuania.

"After identification, it turned out to be three aircraft: a Russian IL-20M Coot-A that was escorted by two Su-27 Flankers. The Dutch F-35s escorted the formation from a distance and handed over the escort to NATO partners."

The Il-20M Coot-A is NATO's reporting name for the Russian Ilyushin Il-20M reconnaissance aircraft while the Su-27 Flankers are NATO's reporting name for the Sukhoi Su-28 fighter aircraft.

Political Cartoons on World Leaders

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Russia's defence ministry did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for a comment.

The Netherlands' defence ministry said that eight Dutch F-35s are stationed in Poland for February and March.

(This story has been refiled to clarify the interception happened near Poland)

(Reporting by Lidia Kelly in Melbourne; Editing by Matthew Lewis)

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Tags: Poland, Russia, European Union, Europe, Netherlands

Stats, Africa: feb13

At the request of the Federal Government of Somalia and in support of Somali National Army engagements against al-Shabaab, U.S. Africa Command conducted a collective self-defense strike Feb 10, 2023.

The strike occurred in a remote area approximately 45 km southwest of Hobyo, Somalia, and about 472 km northeast of Mogadishu.

The initial assessment is the strike killed 12 al-Shabaab fighters.

Given the remote location of the operation, the command assesses that no civilians were injured or killed.

Rooting out extremism requires intervention beyond traditional military means.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has publicly stated that economic reform, social and political reconciliation, and religious tolerance are key pillars of his strategy to mobilize society against international terrorist. Military actions are only a part of the Federal Government of Somalia's efforts to comprehensively address their security challenges.

The U.S. is one of several countries providing humanitarian aid, stabilization efforts, economic development, and military assistance to the Federal Government of Somalia in their ongoing campaign.

U.S. Africa Command is the defense arm of the U.S. whole-of-government approach with African partners -- diplomacy, development and defense. This three-pronged, or "3D" approach brings together multiple agencies from within the U.S. government to increase cooperation and support for partner-led, U.S.-enabled solutions to shared security challenges, including violent extremism or terrorism.

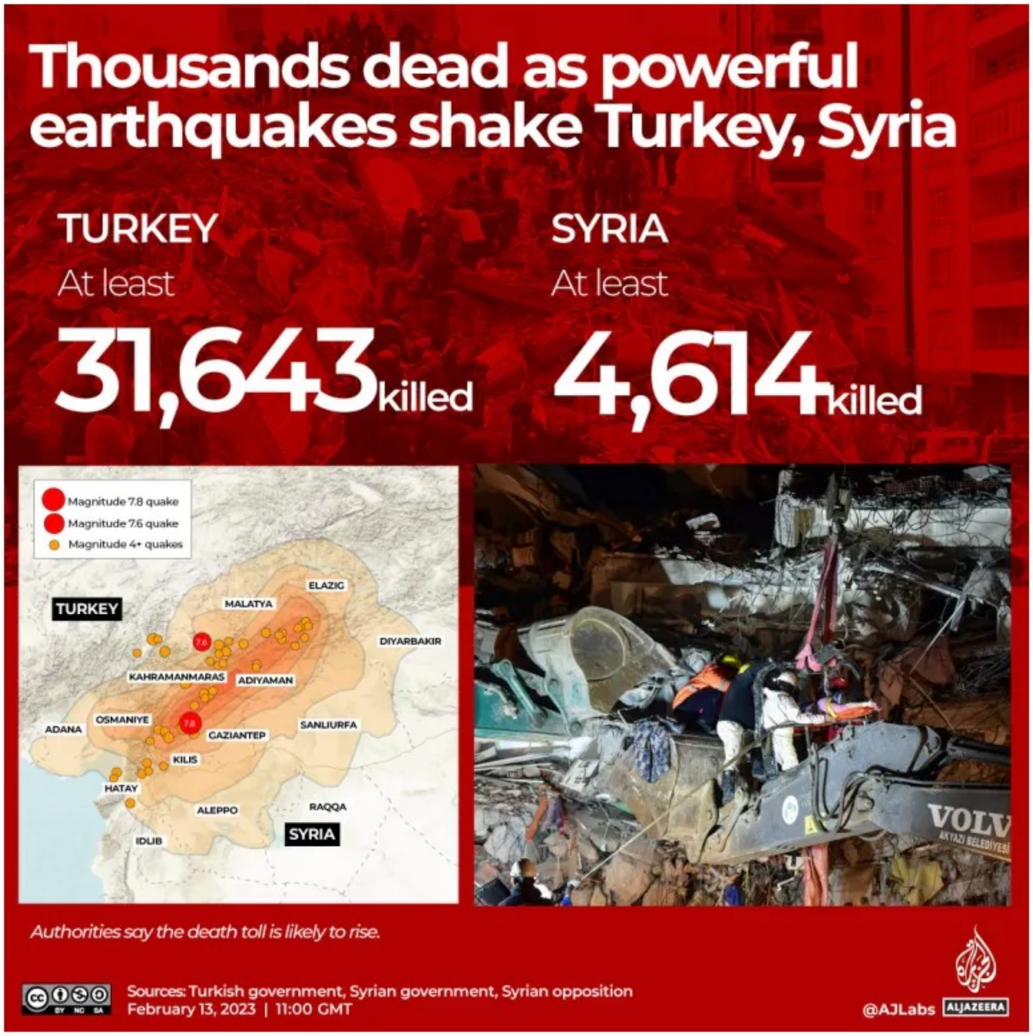
"U.S. Africa Command provides support to the Somali government to address terrorist threats, but we are only part of the U.S. efforts there," said Gen. Michael Langley, AFRICOM commander. "Our Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development colleagues have programs that help build resilience through education and training; develop agricultural diversity; improve markets and trade; and strengthen democracy and good governance.”

Somalia remains central to stability and security in all of East Africa. U.S. Africa Command's forces train, advise, and assist partner forces to help give them the tools they need to defeat al-Shabaab, the largest and most deadly al-Qaeda network in the world.

U.S. Africa Command will continue to assess the results of this operation and will provide additional information as appropriate. Specific details about the units involved and assets used will not be released in order to ensure operations security.

The Federal Government of Somalia and U.S. Africa Command will continue to take great measures to prevent civilian casualties. Protecting civilians remains a vital part of the command's operations to promote greater security for all Africans. To view the U.S. Africa Command Quarterly Civilian Casualty reports, visit: https://www.africom.mil/what-we-do/airstrikes/civilian-casualty-report.

Feb13 36 000 dead now..


Thousands dead as powerful earthquakes shake Turkey, Syria
TURKEY
At least
31,643 killed
SYRIA
At least
4,614 killed
Magnitude 7.8 quake
Magnitude 7.6 quake
Magnitude 4+ quakes
TURKEY
ELAZIG
MALATYA
DIYARBAKIR
KAHRAMANMARAS
ADIYAMAN
OSMANIYE
ADANA
GAZIANTEP
SANLIURFA
KILIS
HATAY
ALEPPO
RAQQA
SYRIA
IDLIB
Authorities say the death toll is likely to rise.
Sources: Turkish government, Syrian government, Syrian opposition
February 13, 2023 | 11:00 GMT
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(Al Jazeera)

Political aftershocks in Turkey

By **RYAN HEATH**

02/13/2023 09:43 AM EST

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While our attention is focused on unidentified flying objects, there are a bunch of very identifiable political campaigns, geopolitical tensions, and backlash to government taking shape on-the-ground.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations **Nikki Haley** will launch her presidential campaign Wednesday.

Munich Security Conference this morning published its annual report ahead of its gathering, which starts Friday.

THE HELL IN TURKEY

Is a death toll of 36,000 from the 7.8 magnitude earthquake in southern Turkey and northern Syria, the end of either the death count or the political effects? Almost certainly not.

How can it be, given that there is 100ft deep crevice and a rescue operation that has often lacked essentials from water and body bags to cranes? Some families told AP it took rescue teams four days to arrive to their buildings — virtually extinguishing opportunities to find survivors trapped in the rubble.

Turkey’s President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** appears more focused on a centralized cover-up than an effective on-the-ground response. That centralization starts with an emergency decree that will last in Turkey’s southern provinces until just two weeks before the country’s May election.

Ritual shaming of building contractors has begun — Turkish Vice President **Fuat Oktay** said 131 suspects had so far been identified as responsible for the collapse of some of the thousands of buildings. But that’s cold comfort for survivors— since many have lost their entire families, despite that information about the flawed buildings was well-known before the quake.

REALITY CHECK: Turkey-based Canadian journalist **Nick Ashdown** puts the situation into perspective for those not familiar with Turkish politics: “Imagine not only 10 cities half gone and the government floundering. Imagine not only that the government was begged to do something that could have prevented 95 percent of the devastation and didn't, but also that they are now gaslighting a desperate public."

By the numbers: In addition to tens of thousand dead, the Turkish economy is now going to take a massive hit. Already struggling with the world's highest inflation rate — at over 50 percent — there's now going to be a 10 percent hit to GDP, sending the country into a deep recession, Bloomberg reported.

YOU KNOW IT'S TOTALLY MESSED UP WHEN:

- The government misuses statements by earthquake scientists, to cover for their lack of preventative action
- The main local airport was built directly on the faultline, wrecking the runway, and hindering relief efforts
- The government seizes an aid truck from an opposition party, the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party
- Ukraine has sent emergency crews to help, despite being neck deep in its own hot war
- U.N. Aid chief **Martin Griffiths** has admitted the U.N. failed Syrians, after taking 5 days to turn up

An Austrian army spokesperson said early on Saturday, via a written statement, that clashes between unidentified groups in the Hatay province had left dozens of personnel from the Austrian Forces Disaster Relief Unit seeking shelter in a base camp with other international organizations. German agencies also briefly suspended their work.

Search for earthquake survivors enters final hours in Turkey

By Mehmet Guzel, Suzan Fraser and Sarah El Deeb | AP

February 13, 2023 at 4:58 p.m. EST

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ADIYAMAN, Turkey — The desperate search for earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria entered its final hours Monday as rescuers using sniffer dogs and thermal cameras surveyed pulverized apartment blocks for any sign of life a week after the disaster.

Are you on Telegram? Subscribe to our channel for the latest updates on Russia’s war in Ukraine.

Teams in southern Turkey’s Hatay province cheered and clapped when a 13-year-old boy identified only by his first name, Kaan, was pulled from the rubble. In Gaziantep province, rescue workers, including coal miners who secured tunnels with wooden supports, found a woman alive in the wreckage of a five-story building.

Stories of such rescues have flooded the airwaves in recent days. But tens of thousands of dead have been found during the same period, and experts say the window for rescues has nearly closed, given the length of time that has passed, the fact that temperatures have fallen to minus 6 degrees Celsius (21 degrees Fahrenheit) and the severity of the building collapses.

Erdogan, war, middle east: feb13 The quake’s financial damage in Turkey alone was estimated

at $84.1 billion, according to the Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation, washinton post

Grief and desperation in Idlib as earthquake compounds crises

North-west Syrian province was a place of last resort for people fleeing war – then came Covid, cholera and new catastrophe

Tents dot the hillside overlooking former homes in Al-Haram, Syria. Photograph: Alessio

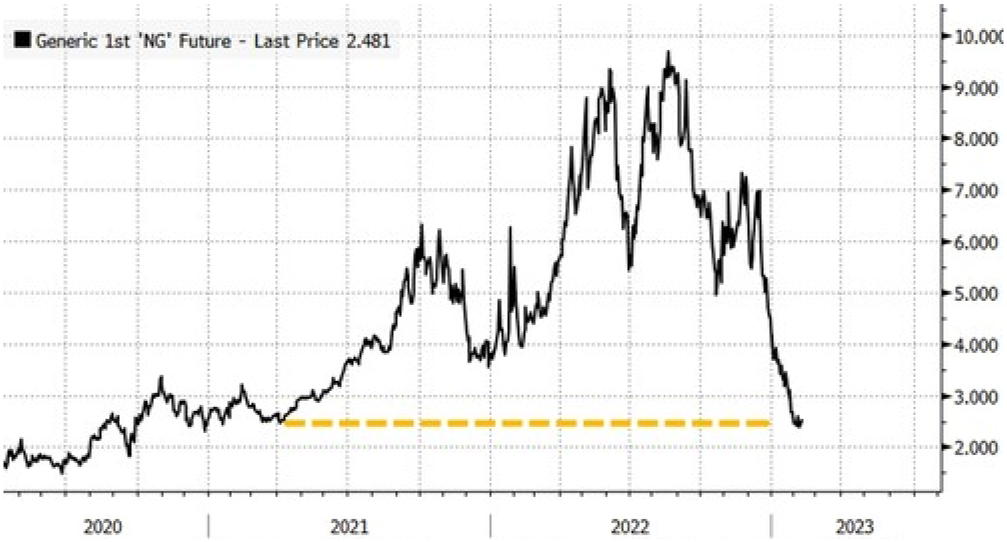
Idlib had been a place of last resort for thousands displaced by more than a decade of war. Across the province, some pitched their tents among ancient Byzantine ruins in sheer desperation for somewhere to live. Elsewhere, tent cities stretched for miles in the shadow of looming limestone mountains.

The Syrian rebel leader Ahmed Hussein al-Shara, better known by the nom de guerre Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, the de facto ruler of Idlib, told the Guardian that the province was crying out for international aid, after accusations that he had played a role in blocking aid to parts of rebel-held Syria. “We are a new government with a lot on our shoulders and the scale of this crisis is bigger than the capabilities we have,” he said.

The Salvation Government, a political organisation that nominally rules the rebel-held north-west, launched a website to record the number of people displaced and missing, in an effort to respond swiftly. But since the earthquake only 52 trucks carrying food and other aid have entered the region, where at least four-fifths of the estimated 5 million population are classed as in urgent need by the UN.

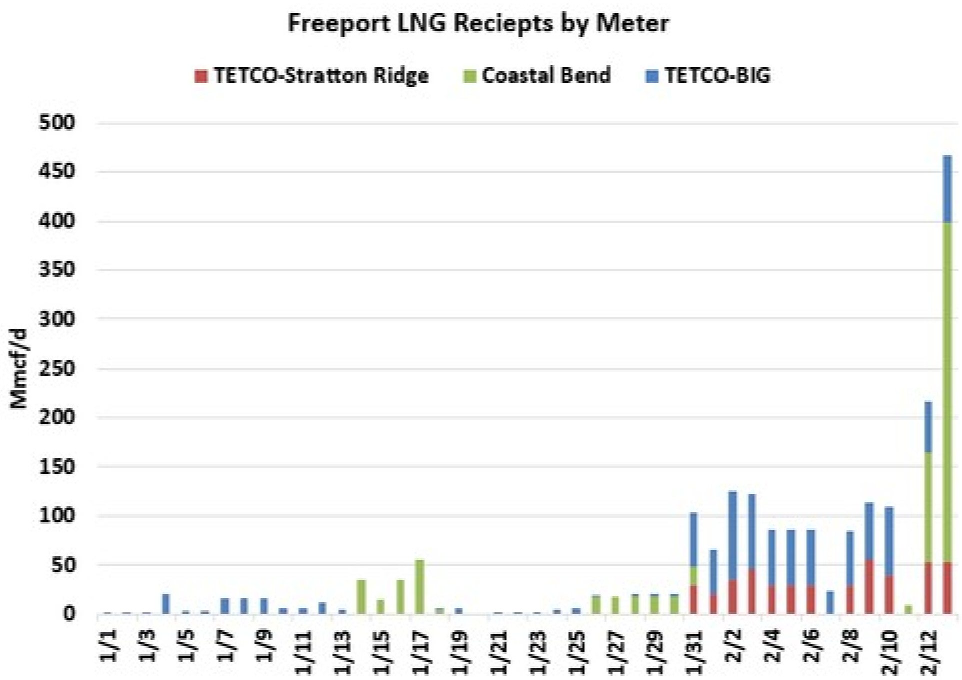
Readlater, war, sanctions, energy, Erdogan, Russia, government, stats, markets: feb13 NatGas Slides As Mild Weather Trumps Freeport LNG's First Cargo Since June Blast

Natural gas prices fell Monday morning as mild weather for the Lower 48 dents heating demand, and inventories remain plentiful as the winter season winds down. There's still too much production as prices hover around $2.45 per million British thermal units (MMBtu).

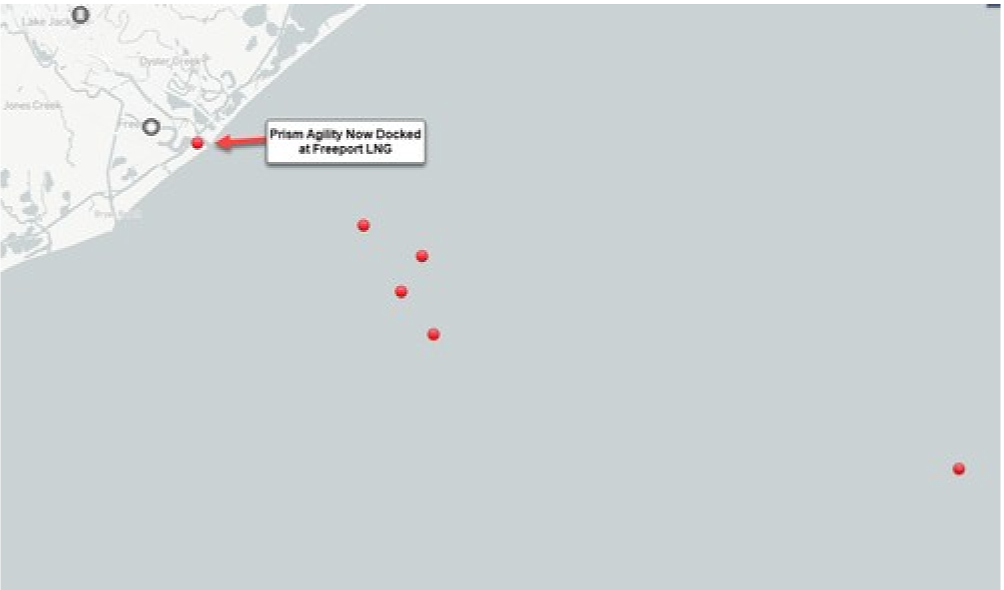


The bearish backdrop of the NatGas market trumped signs of a nearing partial restart at the Freeport liquefied natural gas plant in Texas.

Freeport LNG has shown its first material flows since June 2022, with yesterday's late-cycle nominations settling at 164 Mmcf/d and this morning's early flows totaling 398 Mmcf/d via TETCO Stratton Ridge and Coastal Bend. If we also include TETCO-BIG meter station, those totals rise to 216 Mmcf/d and 467 Mmcf/d.



The Kmarin Diamond LNG Tanker arrived at Freeport LNG on February 10 and departed on February 12 with a partially laden hold. After the Kmarin Diamond left, Prism Agility moved in and is now the second tanker to dock at Freeport LNG. There are five more LNG tankers lying in wait off the coastline.


Lake Jackson
Oyster Creek
Jones Creek
Freeport
Prism Agility Now Docked at Freeport LNG

Criterion Research explains what has to happen next for a partial restart to occur.

At Criterion, we currently believe the initial tanker was loaded down with LNG that was already stored onsite after the June 2022 incident. Freeport does not yet have the approval to reinstate service of the liquefaction trains, and the new gas flowing on site seems to be tied to the earlier approval to "commence *commissioning, including cooldown, of the LNG rundown piping system and LNG train 3 (Unit 13)."*

Traders will watch Freeport this week to see what news comes from the facility, as a partial restart seems imminent.

totaling agree: International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach on Sunday denied that the organization was on the wrong side of history by helping Russians and Belarusians qualify for the 2024 Paris Summer Games.

World No. 1 Daniil Medvedev, banned from Wimbledon, ends grass season with QF defeat in Mallorca

Daniil Medvedev finished his tennis season on grass after a straight-set loss to Roberto Bautista Agut in the quarterfinals of the Mallorca Championships on Thursday.

The Russian international lost 6-3, 6-2 after entering the match with an 8-2 record on the surface this year, with his losses coming in consecutive finals in Germany and the Netherlands.

Medvedev, the defending champion in Mallorca, had only one break opportunity against the 20th-ranked Bautista Agut, who had advanced without having to play in the last 16 because Nick Kyrgios withdrew with an abdominal injury. It was the fourth win against a No. 1 player for the Spaniard, with his three previous victories coming against Novak Djokovic. "I had to play very good to beat Daniil," Bautista Agut said. "He's the No. 1, the last champion here in Mallorca. He just beat me a few days ago. I played a really complete match."

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Medvedev, who will not play at Wimbledon because of the ban on Russians over the war in Ukraine, needed to come from behind to get past Aslan Karatsev in the round of 16 on Wednesday. The Russian had also beaten Bautista Agut in two sets in the quarterfinals in Germany last week. Bautista Agut will play in the semifinals against Antoine Bellier, a 303rd-ranked Swiss qualifier who got past Tallon Griekspoor of the Netherlands 5-

7, 7-6 (5), 6-2. Bellier became the lowest-ranked semifinalist since then-No. 335 Juan Manuel Cerundolo triumphed in Cordoba in 2021.

Second-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas had cruised into the quarterfinals but needed three sets against American Marcos Giron to make it to the last four on Thursday. His 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-3 victory came in more than 2½ hours.

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“It was a lot of work today. It was not easy,” Tsitsipas said. “I had to deal with the heat, had to deal with my opponent playing great. It was a big physical effort. I had the fighting spirit.”

The sixth-ranked Greek, who leads the tour with 38 wins this season, will next face Frenchman Benjamin Bonzi, who defeated Germany’s Daniel Altmaier 6-3, 6-4.

Inflation, government, journal: feb13

Nonetheless, current risks are of a close encounter with inflation of the third kind: not the cyclical, transitory, supply-driven kind we can ignore; nor the cyclical, demand-driven kind we easily fought with monetary or fiscal policy; but rather the nasty *structural* mixture of supply *and* demand driven inflation that comes with unstable geopolitics, the weaponization of commodities and supply chains, and a shift back to national security, industrial policy, and protectionism. Which is where UFOs and Top Gun antics come in.

More..

- **The Chairman of the US House Armed Services Committee is pledging to remove all Chinese goods from US defence supply chains**, with a major dislocating impact along them. The Economist covers ‘The history and limits of America’s favourite new economic weapon: America has ramped up controls on technology trade with China’.
- **Secret British cross-party talks to try to rebuild ties to the EU**, particularly in regards to defense, Russia, and China, are surely no coincidence; not as another UK insider says its armed forces are in such a parlous state that ‘If the UK went into battle today, I doubt we’d survive’.

according to top banker, economic theories or market mental models no longer working today is as hard for people to stomache as ‘little green men’,

Do we really have *unidentified* flying inflation? No: it's just that comfortable economic theories or market mental models no longer working today is as hard for some to admit as the existence of little green or grey men. T

I'm imagining of of large speedsheet showing pricing of everything changing due to condition, all in ways that will seem obvious in hindsight, for some random reason. He continues on..

That’s despite Russia’s actions, the West’s responses, balloons being shot down all over, and NordStream 2 being blown up. All of this is inflationary, and structural, on both the supply and the demand side.

Unidentified Flying Inflation

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, FEB 13, 2023 - 11:10 AM

By Michael Every of Rabobank

War: feb13 February 10, 202311:24 AM ASTRussia announced it will cut oil output by 500,000 barrels a day in retaliation for G7 sanctions

War, Russia: feb13 Ukraine Short On Ammo With Russia Gaining, Despite West's Billions, Stoltenberg Admits--Much-awaited major Russian offensive has begun...

A war of attrition becomes a battle of logistics," while acknowledging that "Yes, we have a challenge. Yes we have a problem . . . but we have a strategy to tackle that."

Stoltenberg

February 10, 202311:24 AM ASTRussia announced it will cut oil output by 500,000 barrels a day in retaliation for G7 sanctions

War, Russia: Feb13 100 cars derailed in East Palestine, Ohio near the state’s border with Pennsylvania with roughly 5,000 residents. The accident launched fifty of those hundred freight cars from the tracks.contained pressurized vinyl chloride, a highly flammable carcinogenic gas

The chaos began early last week when a train of more than 100 cars derailed in East Palestine, Ohio near the state’s border with Pennsylvania with roughly 5,000 residents. The accident launched fifty of those hundred freight cars from the tracks. Twenty of the freight cars on the train were carrying hazardous materials, ten of which were detailed. While the accident had no fatalities, of those ten cars, **five contained pressurized vinyl chloride, a highly flammable carcinogenic gas.**

China, war: feb13 China insists the object was a civilian weather balloon that had been blown off course, but has not said whom it belonged to or

offered other details.The U.S. action “seriously violated international norms and set a pernicious precedent,” ministry spokesperson Tan Kefei said in a statement issued late Thursday.

Beijing said the U.S. “overreacted” by shooting it down. The Foreign Ministry has labeled the action “irresponsible” and calls U.S. claims that it was spying “part of the U.S. side’s information warfare against China.”

The U.S. has flatly contradicted China’s version of events, saying that imagery of the balloon collected by American U-2 spy planes as it crossed the country showed that it was “capable of conducting signals intelligence collection” with multiple antennas and other equipment designed to upload sensitive information and solar panels to power them.

In 1956, Chinese authorities intercepted American spy balloons and displayed remnants at an exhibition in Beijing, accusing the U.S. of violating their airspace.

War: feb13 Russia-Ukraine War 2.0: First Tanks, Then F16s. Where Does This End?

Almost as soon as major NATO countries, led by the US, promised to supply Ukraine with battle tanks, the cry went up warning that tanks alone would be unlikely to turn the war’s tide against Russia.

The subtext – the one western leaders hope their publics will not notice – is that Ukraine is struggling to hold the line as Russia builds up its troop numbers and pounds Ukrainian defenses.

A permanent partition of Ukraine into two opposed blocs – one more pro-Russian, the other more pro-NATO – is looking ever more likely.

Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelensky, has not been shy in telling the West what he expects next: fighter jets, especially US-made F16s.

Kyiv is keen to break what western media have termed a “taboo” by getting NATO aircraft directly involved in the Ukraine war. There is a good reason for that taboo: the use of such jets would let Ukraine expand the battlefield into Russian skies, and implicate Europe and the US in its offensive.

But why assume the West’s taboo on supplying combat jets is really any stronger than its former taboo on sending NATO battle tanks to Ukraine? As one European official observed in a Politico article: “Fighters are completely inconceivable today, but we might have this discussion in two, three weeks.”

And sure enough, within days, Zelensky’s office said there had been “positive signals” from Poland about supplying Ukraine with F16s. French President Emmanuel Macron also refused to rule out the possibility of contributing combat jets.

US Eases Some Sanctions on Syria for 180 Days

The exemption was announced on Thursday night and came days after a devastating earthquake hit northern Syria and Turkey. As of Sunday, over 33,000 people have been killed in the earthquake. More than 4,500 people died in Syria, and at least 29,605 have been killed in Turkey.

As many as 5.3 million people in Syria may have been left homeless by the earthquake

Dhanapala said the UNHCR has been “rushing aid” to the badly affected parts of Syria, but “it’s been very, very difficult”.

“There are 6.8 million people already internally displaced in the country. And this was before the earthquake.”

Meanwhile, a second UN aid convoy of 14 trucks has crossed into rebel-held areas of Syria – after an initial six vehicles went in on Thursday.

“The full scale of the devastation in Syria is only beginning to come to light,” said Al Jazeera’s Kristen Saloomey, reporting from the UN in New York.

Although more aid convoys are getting through the one authorised border point into the hardest-hit areas, our correspondent said critics argue it is too little, too late.

“The majority of [people made homeless from the quake are] in areas the Syrian government doesn’t control, where people had already been uprooted by years of war,” she said.

On Friday the UN also released another $25m in emergency funding for Syria, bringing the total so far to $50m, Saloomey said, “but an assessment team is now on the ground and the needs are expected to well exceed that”.

Middle east, china, readlater: Beijing has cemented its footing in the Middle East since the United States pivoted away from the region during the administration of former US president Donald Trump. https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3163528/china-and-iran-seek-boost-infrastructure-and-energy-links

Iranian President to Visit China as Beijing Aims to Mend Ties After Riyadh Summit

Iran also signalled its displeasure over the joint statement with visiting Vice-Premier Hu Chunhua, who led a delegation to Tehran one week after the summit. Hu said China firmly supported Iranian efforts to defend sovereignty and territorial integrity and was ready to work with Iran to promote bilateral cooperation.

On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Uzbekistan in September, Xi told Raisi that China viewed its relations with Iran from a "strategic and long-term perspective" and was ready to increase communication and coordination with Iran.

In January last year, Beijing and Tehran announced plans to boost infrastructure and energy links as a landmark 25-year cooperation agreement came into force.

Middle east, war, sanctions, government: feb13 Egyptian Companies Forced to 'Do Illegal Things to Stay in Business'

A lack of foreign currency and tough banking requirements to finance imports is forcing many Egyptian manufacturers to engage in smuggling and illegal trade activity to stay afloat, manufacturers and analysts told Middle East Eye. With bogus export practices seemingly widespread, Egypt's official trade figures may also be inflated.

For Egyptian businesses dependent on importing raw materials and machinery to manufacture goods it has been a turbulent past year.

The currency has devalued three times against the US dollar since March, losing half its value, while inflation has surged, reaching 22 percent in December.

"Due to inflation and the depreciation, our buying power is over 50 percent less than the start of last year," Gamal*, a Cairo-based garment and textile manufacturer, told Middle East Eye, using a pseudonym.

"It is difficult and expensive to import raw materials and close to impossible to import machinery, even if you have the money."

> **'A lot of people are doing this through the black market. There are all kinds of games going on, and everyone knows that'**
>
> ***- Egyptian economy analyst***

The skies started to darken for manufacturers last February when Russia invaded Ukraine, which drove up the price of energy, caused delays in the supply chain, and created market uncertainty. Some $22bn was pulled out of the country's debt market by foreign investors.

Then in March, Cairo depreciated the Egyptian pound to meet International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements after Egypt sought a $3bn loan, its fourth in six years from the lender, to meet its growing debt obligations. The move drove up the cost of importation for businesses, particularly for firms that did not earn 50 percent or more of their earnings in foreign currencies from exports.

In May, domestic regulations imposed an additional burden when the Central Bank of Egypt required businesses to use foreign currency for letters of credit (LC) – a bank-issued document that guarantees payment upon delivery of goods or services – instead of dealing directly with international suppliers.

At the same time, the government increasingly restricted the amounts that foreign currency bureaus were allowed to exchange.

Dollar deposits at banks also started to dry up as account holders transferred their savings into Egyptian pounds to take advantage of local banks offering fixed-term savings certificates with interest rates of over 18 percent, and up to 25 percent as of January.

"A lot of people exchanged US dollar deposits for Egyptian pounds and then bought the certificates, so this has vacuumed foreign currency out of the local banking system," said an Egyptian official off the record.

No choice but illegal

All of this left manufacturers who were more reliant on sales to the domestic market bereft of dollars and unable to acquire raw materials. This has had a major impact on Egypt's garment and textile industry, which employs some 1.5 million people.

'The foreign exchange problem is affecting the market dramatically. A lot of local companies selling domestically are not working at more than 50 percent capacity due to the lack of currency and the difficulty of getting raw materials," an industry player told trade publication World Textile Information Network in January.

To stay in business, manufacturers have had to resort to roundabout means to get goods and foreign currency.

"If manufacturers want to buy legally, it is impossible to get goods into the country. So buyers go on Facebook pages to find wholesalers selling containers of fabric. There's lots of smuggling of fabric, yarn and other accessories," said Gamal.

More sophisticated techniques are being used to get dollars into company bank accounts, as under government regulations deposits have to be from direct exports.

"If you have say $100,000 you are unable to deposit in the bank, you need to change the money's status into the proceeds of exports," said Gamal.

To do this, a manufacturer exports a container of low-quality goods to a friend who owns a business in another country, such as Dubai. The Egyptian manufacturer then transfers the desired amount to be repatriated as dollars to the "partner in crime", as Gamal put it, through a black market exchange dealer in Cairo.

"After the shipment and money is sent, you issue an invoice and your partner in crime deposits the money in their account and then makes a transfer to Egypt. You then have the money to pay for imports," said Gamal.

Companies are also genuinely exporting products to proper customers, he said, but over-invoice with the acquiescence of the buyer.

"This requires sending a large sum of money to the customer to cover the price difference," said Gamal. "We have no choice but to do illegal things to stay in business."

All kinds of games

In financial crime circles, such a practice is known as trade-based money laundering (TBML).

The Financial Action Task Force, a Paris-based body that sets international standards to prevent money laundering, defines TBML "as the process of disguising the proceeds of crime and moving value through the use of trade transactions in an attempt to legitimise their illicit origins. In practice, this can be achieved through the misrepresentation of the price, quantity or quality of imports or exports."

While Egyptian manufacturers are not using TBML to legalise proceeds of crime - the funds are their own - they are nonetheless using ways to get money into the financial system that is illegal under Egyptian law.

"A lot of people are doing this through the black market. There are all kinds of games going on, and everyone knows that," said a Cairo-based political-economy analyst who requested anonymity.

How IMF loans keep Sisi afloat as Egypt sinks deeper into debt
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"You can basically pay foreign exchange dealers for whatever you want, but at a higher rate. There is a big financial incentive to do this, and if it is easy to do so through corrupt ways, everyone will do it instead of going out of business."

The financial costs of accessing dollars through such roundabout ways are taking their toll on businesses.

"There is only so much business you can do through these transfers, as it takes a lot of working capital," Gamal said.

"If you have X capital, you have to expand it by 1.5 or 1.8 times to move it out of the country and back in, as you lose on the goods sent, the black market rate to convert Egyptian pounds to dollars, and on the transfer.

"You also have to wait for the goods to be exported, and the transfers to happen."

Gamal said that the only other option that Egyptian businesses have is to get a bank loan, but with interests at around 18-20 percent, "it is not worth it".

"After the last devaluation, prices are crazy," he added, in reference to the pound's depreciation by 13 percent to a historic low of 32.20 to the dollar, from 27.60 at the open of trade, in January.

The elephant in the room

Smuggling and trade misinvoicing are distorting Egypt’s real import and export figures, with Gamal estimating that around half of garment and textile businesses, as well as other enterprises, are engaging in such illicit activity.

Egyptians struggle to afford food as Sisi says it's 'not end of the world'

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"You have to bear in mind that when the government is telling you in the news that they have increased export numbers by such and such a figure, this is probably due to the bogus exports," he said.

The analyst agreed.

"This does distort trade figures and produces misleading data. And poor data is part of Egypt’s economic problems. The government talks up the figures with a big propaganda campaign to make it sound positive, but if you look at the facts and the numbers it is a mess," he said.

"Egypt has been reduced to begging and is completely dependent on Gulf countries and international money (to meet its debt obligations) because of the complete failure of the regime’s economic model. No one is allowed to say this. It is the elephant in the room."

The foreign currency crunch may ease after close to $1bn flowed into Egypt the day after the January depreciation, while the government has also started clearing import backlogs at ports.

But such inflows "are nowhere near enough," said the analyst.

"Many companies are going out of business, and there is a big difference between the reality on the street versus what you see (on Egyptian) TV. There is still a flourishing black market, which shows ministers are lying and that we’ve not bottomed out. The problem remains a dollar shortage."

War: feb13 China Spots Mystery Object Over Waters Near Northern Port City

Germany Offers Temporary Visas for Turkish, Syrian Quake Victims

HTS Militants Block Aid Coming From Damascus-Held Territory

Wagner Owner Says War in Ukraine Could Drag on for Years

Moldovan Govt Quits Amid Economic Turmoil, Tension With Russia
Nearly One Million French March as Pension Protests Continue
Barcelona Cuts Ties With Twin City Tel Aviv Over Israeli 'Apartheid'
Disputed Spratly Islands Now Home to Supermarkets for Chinese Soldiers
Four City Inspectors Slain at Mexico's Playa Del Carmen Resort
US Top Envoy Calls for 'Dialogue' in Rare Call With Nicaragua FM
Seven Police Officers Killed in Cocaine Hotspot of Central Peru
Niger Says at Least 10 Soldiers Killed in Insurgent Ambush
Morocco Recalls Ambassador to France as Tensions Grow
Sudan Military Finishes Review of Russian Red Sea Base Deal
Doctor Says 57 Killed in Week of Fighting in Somaliland City

War: feb13 US Military Recovery Of Unidentified Object Downed Over Alaska Faces Severe Conditions; “Recovery operations continue today near Deadhorse, Alaska,” U.S. Northern Command said in a statement to news outlets Saturday. “We have no further details at this time about the object, including its capabilities, purpose, or origin.”

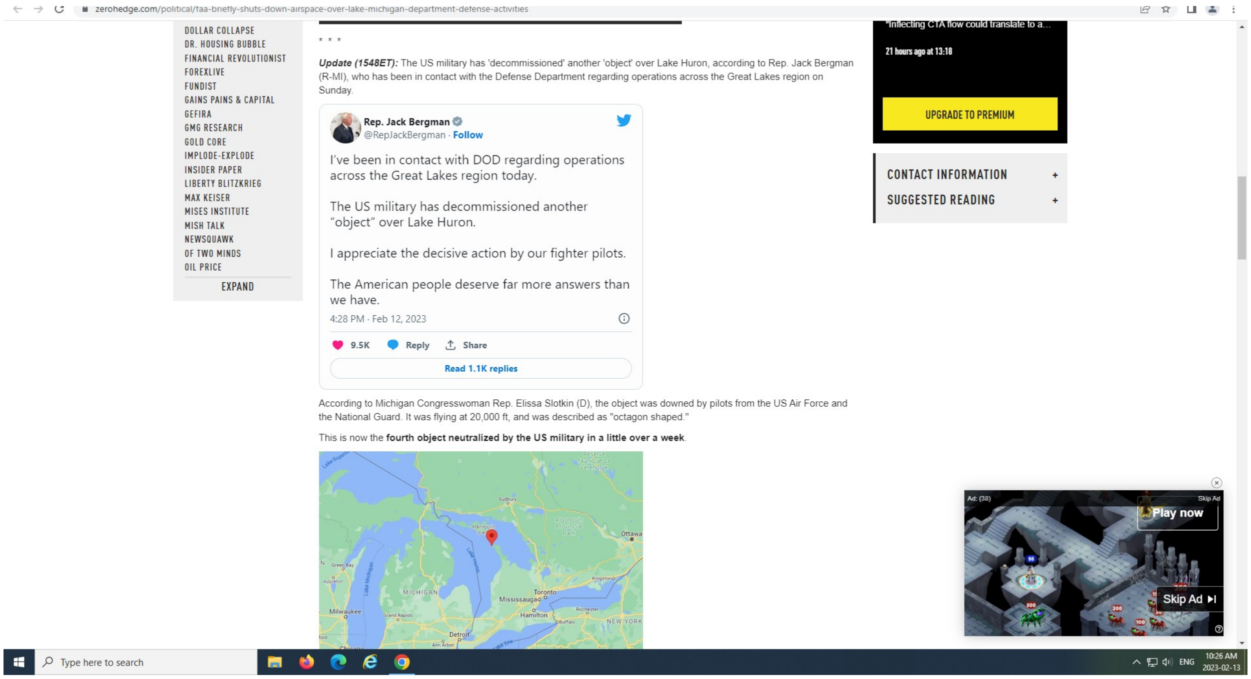
War: feb13 'Octagonal' Object Shot Down Over Lake Huron; fourth object neutralized by the US military in a little over a week.

Update (1659ET):

- LATEST OBJECT SHOT DOWN BY U.S. WAS FIRST DETECTED OVER MONTANA ON SATURDAY - OFFICIAL
- U.S. DID NOT ASSESS LATEST OBJECT TO BE MILITARY THREAT TO ANYTHING ON THE GROUND -OFFICIAL
- SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL SAYS OBJECT SHOT DOWN WAS OCTAGONAL STRUCTURE, BUT NO DISCERNIBLE PAYLOAD

The Pentagon is expected to give a press conference at 5pm ET regarding the downed object.

Update (1548ET): The US military has 'decommissioned' another 'object' over Lake Huron, according to Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI), who has been in contact with the Defense Department regarding operations across the Great Lakes region on Sunday.


zerohedge.com/political/faa-briefly-shuts-down-airspace-over-lake-michigan-department-defense-activities
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MISES INSTITUTE
MISH TALK
NEWSQUAWK
OF TWO MINDS
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21 hours ago at 13:18
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* * *

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Rep. Jack Bergman
@RepJackBergman · Follow

I've been in contact with DOD regarding operations across the Great Lakes region today.

The US military has decommissioned another "object" over Lake Huron.

I appreciate the decisive action by our fighter pilots.

The American people deserve far more answers than we have.

4:28 PM · Feb 12, 2023

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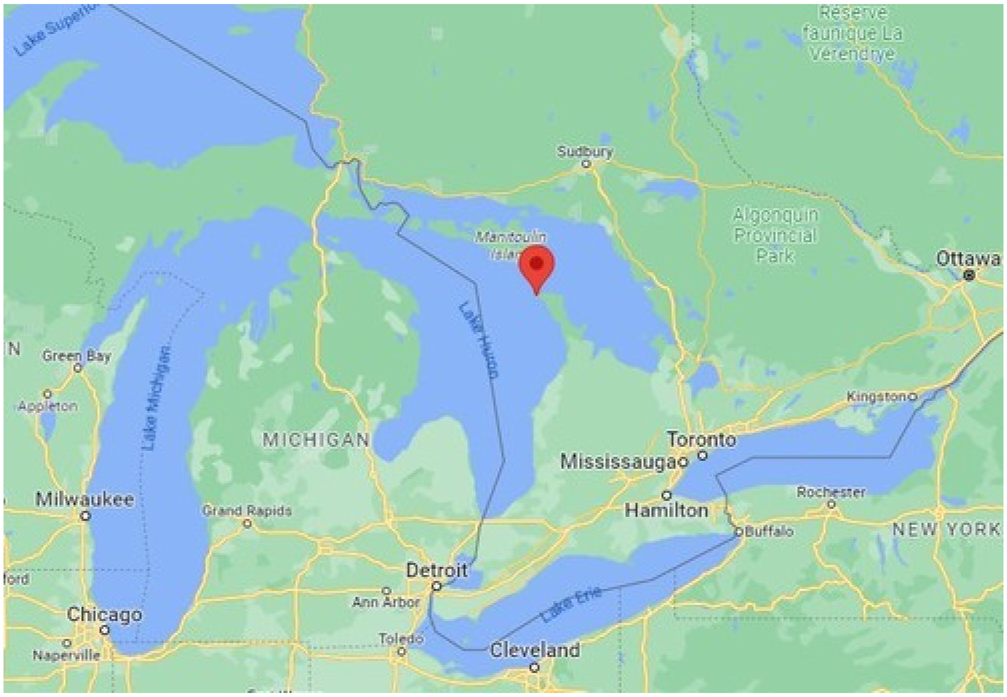
According to Michigan Congresswoman Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D), the object was downed by pilots from the US Air Force and the National Guard. It was flying at 20,000 ft, and was described as "octagon shaped."

This is now the **fourth object neutralized by the US military in a little over a week**.

Sudbury
Ottawa
Green Bay
Appleton
Lake Michigan
Lake Huron
MICHIGAN
Toronto
Mississauga
Kingston
Hamilton
Rochester
Buffalo
NEW YORK
Milwaukee
Grand Rapids
Detroit
Ann Arbor

According to Michigan Congresswoman Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D), the object was downed by pilots from the US Air Force and the National Guard. It was flying at 20,000 ft, and was described as "octagon shaped."

This is now the **fourth object neutralized by the US military in a little over a week**.


Lake Superior
Réserve faunique La Vérendrye
Sudbury
Manitoulin Island
Algonquin Provincial Park
Ottawa
Green Bay
Appleton
Lake Michigan
Lake Huron
MICHIGAN
Kingston
Toronto
Mississauga
Hamilton
Rochester
Milwaukee
Grand Rapids
Buffalo
NEW YORK
Detroit
Ann Arbor
Chicago
Toledo
Lake Erie
Naperville
Cleveland

Authored by Jack Phillips via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) restricted airspace over a portion of Lake Michigan on Sunday to "support Department of Defense activities" that temporarily closed down the area for commercial and civilian air traffic, which was lifted a short while later.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) confirmed later that both it and the FAA "implemented a temporary flight restriction airspace over Lake Michigan at approximately 12 p.m. EST on Feb. 12, 2023." That was done "to ensure the safety of air traffic in the area during NORAD operations," it said, noting that the restriction has since been lifted.

"The FAA briefly closed some airspace over Lake Michigan to support Department of Defense activities," an FAA spokesperson told The Epoch Times on Sunday, without elaborating further. "**The airspace has been reopened**."

The FAA notice, which banned civilian air traffic from the area, was done for national defense reasons, according to a map monitoring FAA notices, the AFP news agency, Reuters, and Fox News. As of Sunday at around 1:15 p.m. ET, the FAA flight restriction appeared to have been lifted, according to the map.

There were no public comments from the Department of Defense as of Sunday afternoon.

The FAA has provided few details about why it set up the flight restriction, which encompassed a square area that encompassed a portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the northwestern part of the Lower Peninsula, and parts of Wisconsin.

"Pilots who do not adhere to the following [procedure] may be intercepted, detained and interviewed by law enforcement or security personnel," the FAA also said Sunday about the Lake Michigan restriction, adding that pilots who enter could face deadly force, according to Fox News.

A number of large U.S. cities are located along Lake Michigan, including Chicago; Milwaukee; Gary, Indiana; and Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Government: feb13

Since the end of 2018, the headcount at the investment bank has jumped 34% to more than 49,000. Now the firing cycle is underway. ; Goldman fired 3,200 employees, or about 6.5% of its headcount last month.

Goldman Sachs CEO Wishes He Fired Workers Earlier

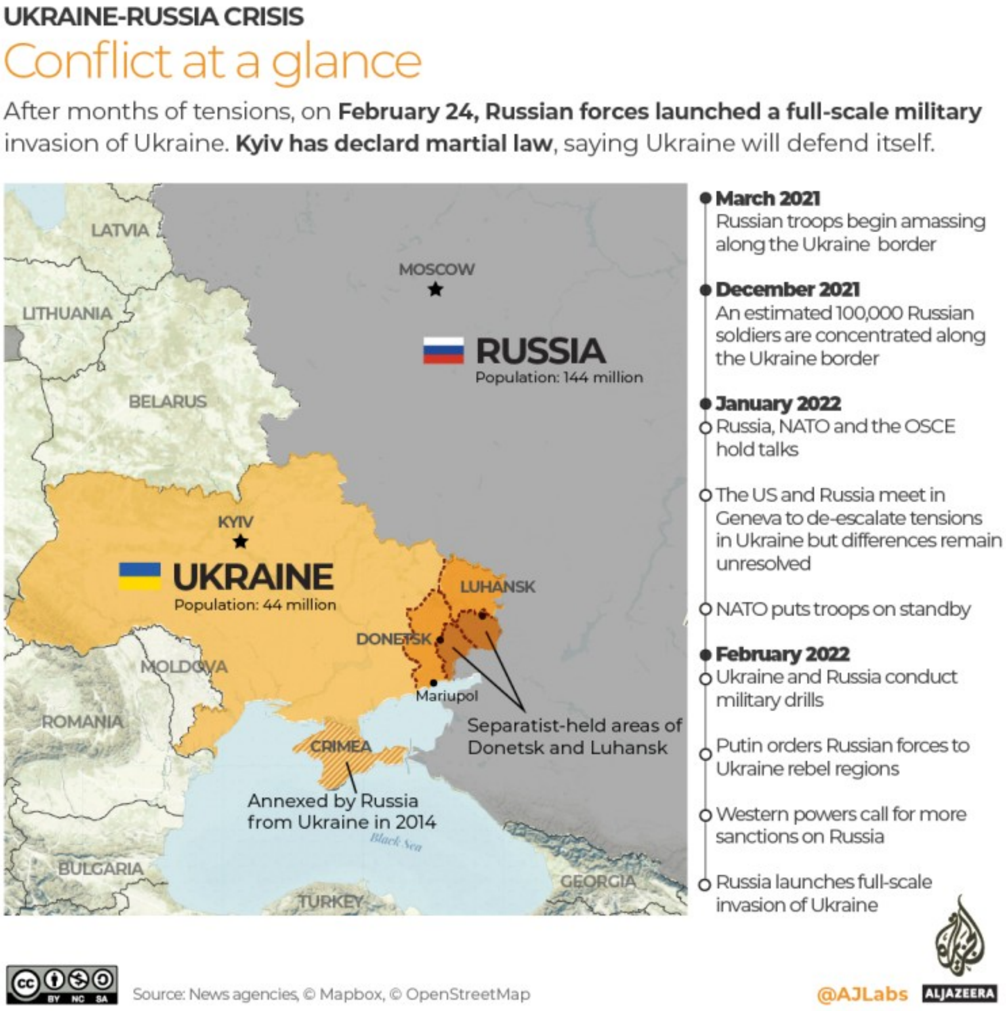
Pioneer DJ
GROOVE CRUISE

"As the environment was growing more complicated in Q2 of last year, every bone in my body believed we should be much more aggressive in slowing hiring and reducing headcount."

Stats, energy readlater: Mapping the world's oil and gas pipelines Every day the world consumes some 100 million barrels of oil and 60 million equivalent barrels of natural gas.

aljazeeradotcom/news/2021/12/16/mapping-world-oil-gas-pipelines-interactive

war, sanctions, russia, government, stats: incredible infographic collective, Russia and Ukraine were part of the 15 Soviet republics that made up the Soviet Union. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine declared independence on August 24. The map below shows when each of these countries declared independence.



UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

Conflict at a glance

After months of tensions, on **February 24, Russian forces launched a full-scale military** invasion of Ukraine. **Kyiv has declard martial law**, saying Ukraine will defend itself.

LATVIA
LITHUANIA
MOSCOW
RUSSIA
Population: 144 million
BELARUS
KYIV
UKRAINE
Population: 44 million
LUHANSK
DONETSK
MOLDOVA
Mariupol
ROMANIA
CRIMEA
Separatist-held areas of Donetsk and Luhansk
Annexed by Russia from Ukraine in 2014
Black Sea
BULGARIA
GEORGIA
TURKEY

● **March 2021**
Russian troops begin amassing along the Ukraine border

● **December 2021**
An estimated 100,000 Russian soldiers are concentrated along the Ukraine border

● **January 2022**
○ Russia, NATO and the OSCE hold talks

○ The US and Russia meet in Geneva to de-escalate tensions in Ukraine but differences remain unresolved

○ NATO puts troops on standby

● **February 2022**
○ Ukraine and Russia conduct military drills

○ Putin orders Russian forces to Ukraine rebel regions

○ Western powers call for more sanctions on Russia

○ Russia launches full-scale invasion of Ukraine

BY NC SA

Source: News agencies, © Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap

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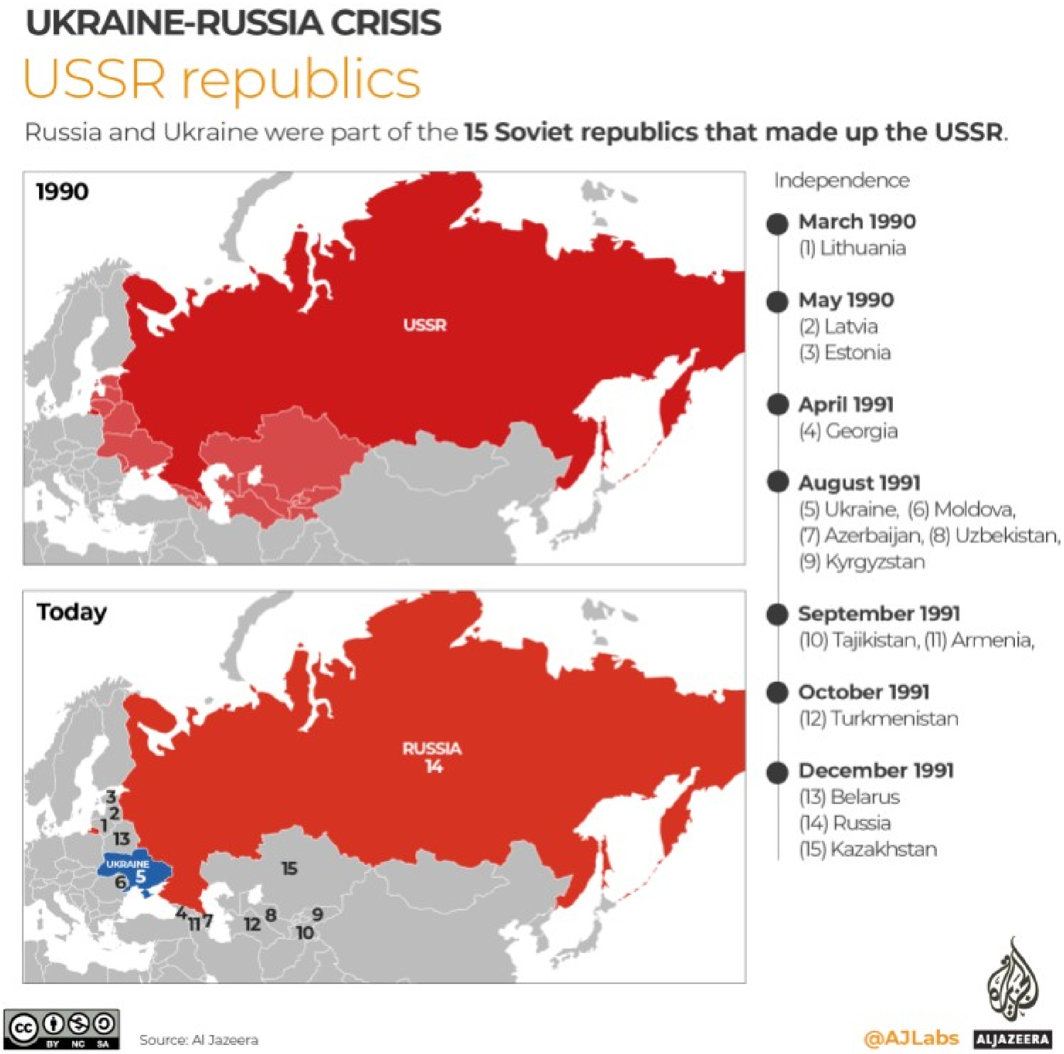
(Al Jazeera)


1990
USSR
Today
RUSSIA
14
UKRAINE
5
1
2
3
4
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
15

UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

USSR republics

Russia and Ukraine were part of the **15 Soviet republics that made up the USSR**.

Independence

March 1990
(1) Lithuania

May 1990
(2) Latvia
(3) Estonia

April 1991
(4) Georgia

August 1991
(5) Ukraine, (6) Moldova,
(7) Azerbaijan, (8) Uzbekistan,
(9) Kyrgyzstan

September 1991
(10) Tajikistan, (11) Armenia,

October 1991
(12) Turkmenistan

December 1991
(13) Belarus
(14) Russia
(15) Kazakhstan

Source: Al Jazeera

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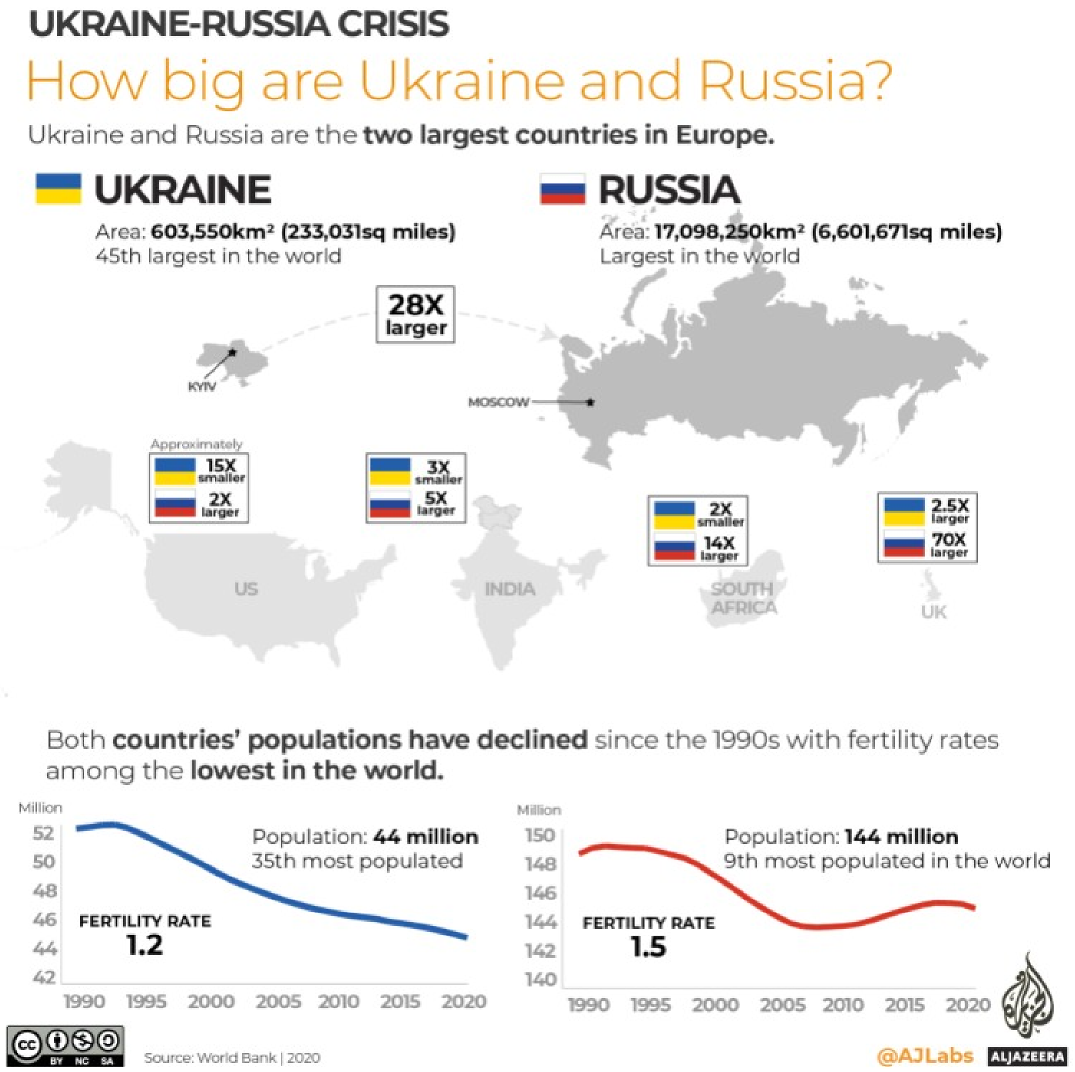
3 Political leadership



UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

How big are Ukraine and Russia?

Ukraine and Russia are the **two largest countries in Europe.**

UKRAINE

Area: **603,550km² (233,031sq miles)**
45th largest in the world

RUSSIA

Area: **17,098,250km² (6,601,671sq miles)**
Largest in the world

Both **countries' populations have declined** since the 1990s with fertility rates among the **lowest in the world.**

Population: **44 million**
35th most populated

FERTILITY RATE
1.2

Population: **144 million**
9th most populated in the world

FERTILITY RATE
1.5

Million
52
50
48
46
44
42
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
Million
150
148
146
144
142
140
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020

BY NC SA

Source: World Bank | 2020

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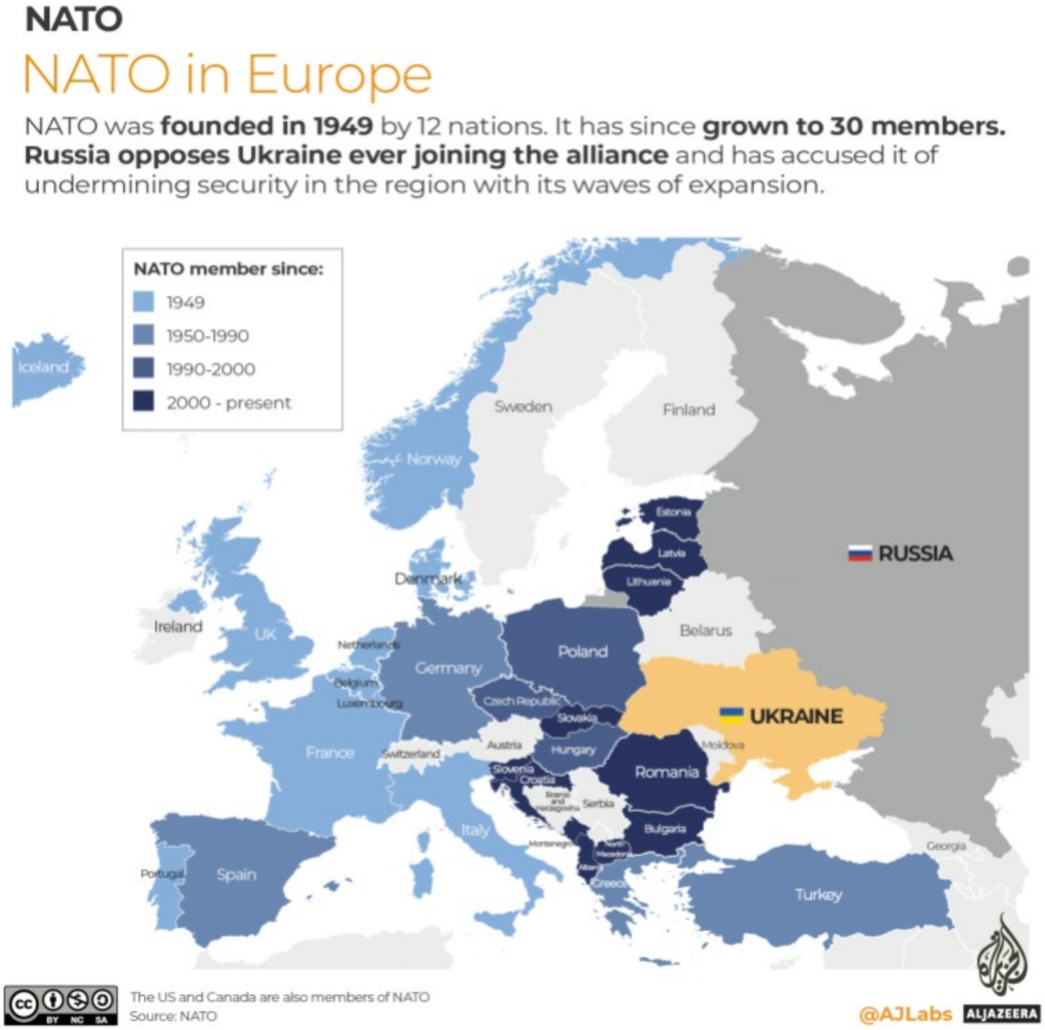
(Al Jazeera)

Read more about NATO history and expansion here.



NATO

NATO in Europe

NATO was **founded in 1949** by 12 nations. It has since **grown to 30 members. Russia opposes Ukraine ever joining the alliance** and has accused it of undermining security in the region with its waves of expansion.

NATO member since:
1949
1950-1990
1990-2000
2000 - present
Iceland
Norway
Sweden
Finland
Estonia
Latvia
Lithuania
RUSSIA
Denmark
Ireland
UK
Netherlands
Belgium
Luxembourg
Germany
Poland
Belarus
Czech Republic
Slovakia
UKRAINE
Moldova
Austria
Hungary
Romania
France
Switzerland
Slovenia
Croatia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Serbia
Italy
Bulgaria
Montenegro
North Macedonia
Albania
Greece
Georgia
Portugal
Spain
Turkey

The US and Canada are also members of NATO
Source: NATO

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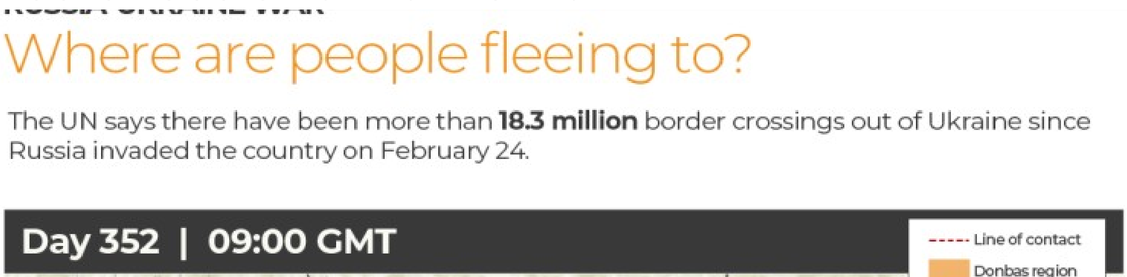
War, Erdogan, middle east: feb12 At least 11 people have died following an attack in central Syria, which has been attributed to the Islamic State group.

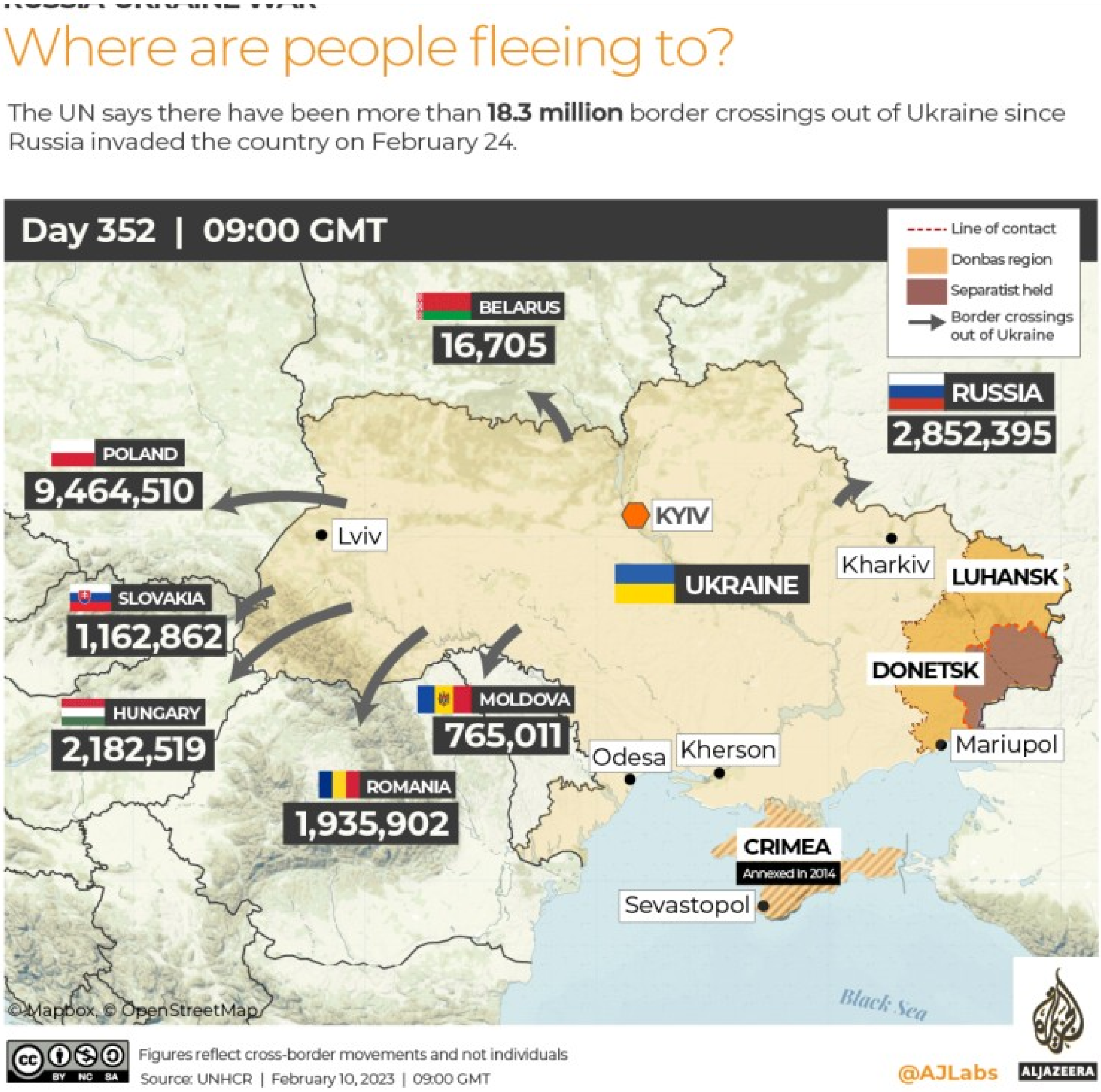
black sea border crossings totaled by country since onset of ukraine war



Where are people fleeing to?

The UN says there have been more than **18.3 million** border crossings out of Ukraine since Russia invaded the country on February 24.

Day 352 | 09:00 GMT
Line of contact
Donbas region



Where are people fleeing to?

The UN says there have been more than **18.3 million** border crossings out of Ukraine since Russia invaded the country on February 24.

Day 352 | 09:00 GMT
Line of contact
Donbas region
Separatist held
Border crossings out of Ukraine
BELARUS
16,705
RUSSIA
2,852,395
POLAND
9,464,510
SLOVAKIA
1,162,862
HUNGARY
2,182,519
MOLDOVA
765,011
ROMANIA
1,935,902
Lviv
KYIV
UKRAINE
Kharkiv
LUHANSK
DONETSK
Mariupol
Odesa
Kherson
CRIMEA
Annexed in 2014
Sevastopol
Black Sea
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ALJAZEERA

Figures reflect cross-border movements and not individuals
Source: UNHCR | February 10, 2023 | 09:00 GMT

, aljazeera

War, Erdogan: feb12 Syrian conflict, which was triggered by the suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations, has claimed around 500,000 lives and displaced around half the country's pre-war population.

War, Erdogan: feb12 33 000 dead, and the insanity created by organized old style, latin religions of the levant, roman, european continent, exemplified even today among high ranking figures in society.

Turkey-Syria earthquake: Controversial Israeli rabbi calls disaster 'divine justice'

Shmuel Eliyahu claimed God was punishing countries affected by disaster because of alleged mistreatment of the Jewish people

Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu speaks in 2019 (Wikicommons)

By

MEE staff

Published date: 12 February 2023 10:35 UTC | **Last update:** 4 hours 57 mins ago

607 Shares

A controversial Israeli rabbi has sparked outrage after claiming the devastating earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria on Monday was "divine justice".

Shmuel Eliyahu, who serves as the chief Rabbi of Safed in northern Israel and is a member of the Chief Rabbinate Council, claimed that God was punishing countries affected by the disaster because of their alleged mistreatment of the Jewish people.

"God is judging all the nations around us who wanted to invade our land and throw us into the sea," Eliyahu wrote in an op-ed published in the Olam Katan newspaper on Friday.

At least 28,000 people were killed in Monday's devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake, with as many as 18m people directly affected in southern Turkey and northern Syria.

Syria earthquake: Survivors in northwest region cling to hope as aid finally arrives
Read More »

In his column, Eliyahu claimed that Syria had "abused its Jewish residents for hundreds of years, invaded Israel three times, shot for years at the farmers who lived at the foot of the Golan Heights, abused captives and hanged [Israeli spy] Eli Cohen."

He also took aim at Lebanon, which was rocked by the quake and is facing a debilitating financial crisis, writing: "There is no doubt that the country, which was once the 'Switzerland of the Middle East' has become hell on earth, and such things do not happen by chance."

As for Turkey, which served as the epicentre of the quake, he wrote: "We don't know what the Heaven's accounts are with Turkey, which slandered us in every possible arena, but if God reveals that he is going to make judgements on our enemies, we know that everything that happens is to clean the world and make it better."

Eliyahu, who is the the father of right-wing parliamentarian and Israel's minister of heritage, Amihai Ben-Eliyahu, has repeatedly courted controversy over his anti-Palestinian and Arab remarks, and has been indicted for inciting racism.

In 2008, he called on the government to carry out "state-sanctioned revenge" against Arabs in order to restore what he described as Israel's deterrence in the wake of an attack at a Jewish school in Jerusalem.

And in 2019, he told teenagers suspected of murdering a Palestinian woman in the West Bank that they shouldn't fear prison as that's where the road to political power begins, prompting several rights groups to call for disciplinary action and criminal charges to be filed against him.

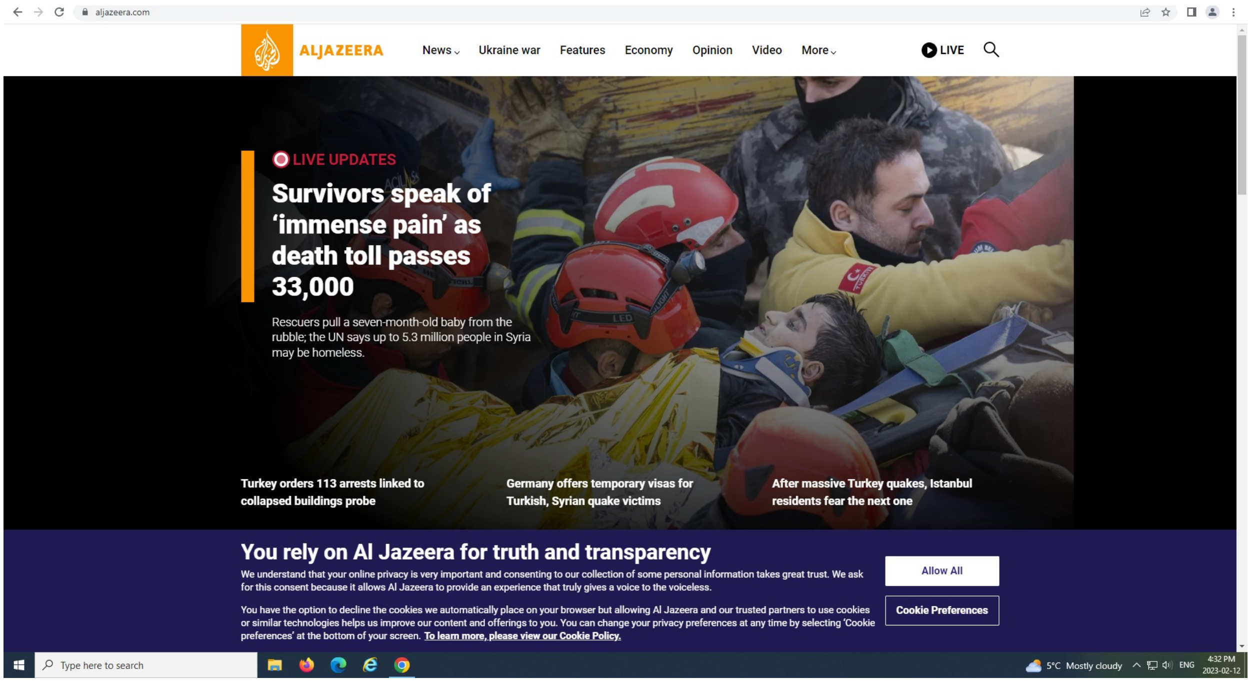
Since the devastating earthquake, dozens of countries from across the world have dispatched aid and rescues team to Turkey, including Israel.

Rocky relationship

Relations between Turkey and Israel worsened in 2011, when Ankara expelled Israel's ambassador following a UN report into Israel's 2010 raid on the Mavi Marmara aid ship to Gaza, during which nine Turkish citizens were killed.

The rift was healed in 2016 when full diplomatic relations were restored and both countries traded ambassadors.

Late last year, Israel's President Isaac Herzog met Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Turkish capital Ankara, marking the first visit by an Israeli head of state to the country since 2008.



LIVE UPDATES

Survivors speak of 'immense pain' as death toll passes 33,000

Rescuers pull a seven-month-old baby from the rubble; the UN says up to 5.3 million people in Syria may be homeless.

Turkey orders 113 arrests linked to collapsed buildings probe

Germany offers temporary visas for Turkish, Syrian quake victims

After massive Turkey quakes, Istanbul residents fear the next one

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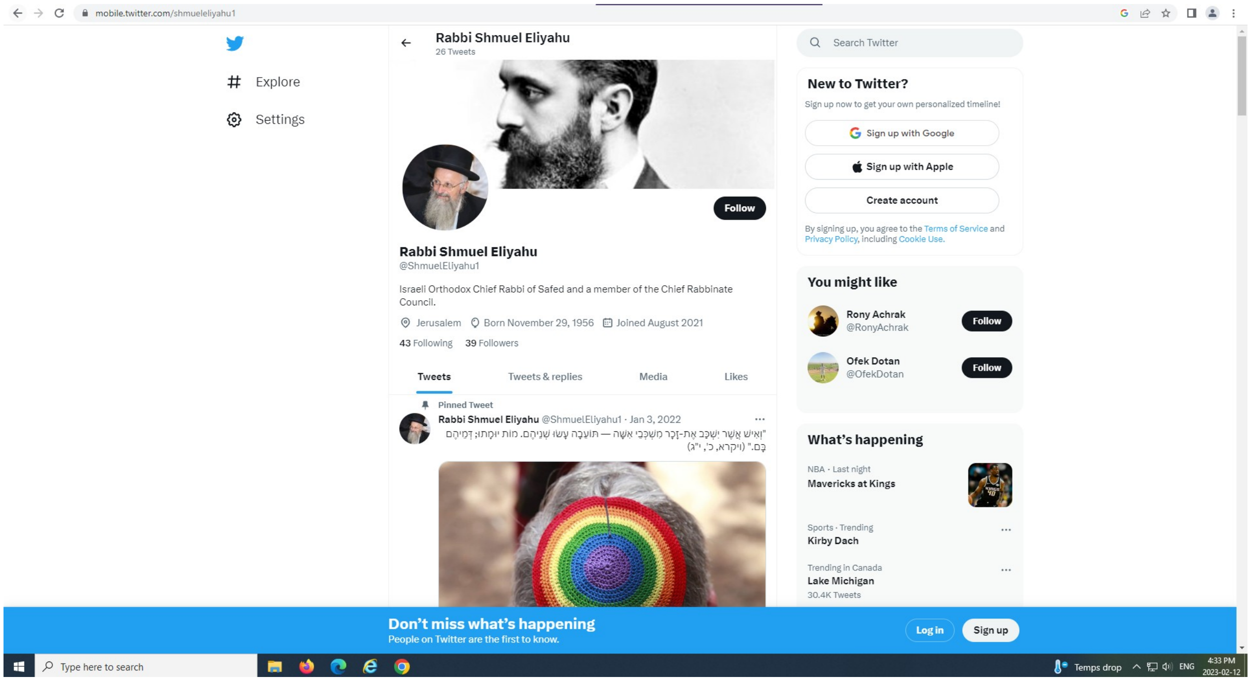
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Sign up
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Temps drop
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4:33 PM
2023-02-12

Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu
26 Tweets

Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu
@ShmuelEliyahu1

Israeli Orthodox Chief Rabbi of Safed and a member of the Chief Rabbinate Council.

Jerusalem Born November 29, 1956 Joined August 2021

43 Following 39 Followers

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

Pinned Tweet
Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu @ShmuelEliyahu1 · Jan 3, 2022

"וְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁכַּב אֶת-זָכָר מִשְׁכְּבֵי אִשָּׁה — תּוֹעֵבָה עָשׂוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם. מוֹת יוּמָתוּ; דְּמֵיהֶם
בָּם." (ויקרא, כ', י"ג)

US nixes visa of Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu, who's been accused of racism – report

Safed chief rabbi, a leading national-religious figure, blames 'anti-Zionists' in the Reform movement for decision to cancel his travel document

By **TOI STAFF**31 May 2022, 9:14 am

Chief Rabbi of Safed Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu speaks at the 'Besheva' group, on February 7, 2022. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)

The US embassy recently told the chief rabbi of Safed, Shmuel Eliyahu, a prominent figure in Israel’s national-religious movement, that his visa to visit the US has been revoked.

The visa was rescinded before its expiration date, according to an Israel Hayom report on Monday.

The embassy declined to comment to the newspaper about the development, while Eliyahu blamed his opponents in the Reform movement.

Eliyahu, the son of the late Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu who served as Sephardic chief rabbi from 1983 to 1993, has generated criticism in the past few years for a variety of statements and rulings on Jewish law, including one that forbade the rental or sale of Jewish-owned property in the northern city of Safed to Arabs.

The rabbi, who has placed a focus on developing ties with US Jews, has also criticized the Reform movement, the LGBT community, and women serving in IDF combat units.

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A statement on behalf of Eliyahu said the rabbi was not given any reason for the cancellation of his visa, which he had held for many years.

“Our inquiries show that this is an action of anti-Zionists, such as the Reform movement, entities that frequently try to infringe on freedom of expression and silence rabbis,” the statement said. “After failing to silence Rabbi Eliyahu using legal action, they are now trying to silence the rabbi using a variety of petty methods.”

“There is no reason for worry — they will not succeed,” the statement added.

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In 2015, after then-education minister Naftali Bennett visited a Jewish school in the US affiliated with the Conservative movement, Eliyahu told Army Radio that Reform and Conservative Jews were causing a “spiritual Holocaust” of Judaism and that to give them any legitimacy is “a disaster.”

He has also in the past urged protests against the Women of the Wall, a group campaigning for egalitarian prayer rights at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

In September 2020, the High Court of Justice ordered disciplinary action against Eliyahu for making a series of offensive comments and for taking “explicit” political stances forbidden to him due to his status as a government employee.
The court ruling came in response to a petition filed by several rights groups in 2016 against Eliyahu, citing over a hundred separate statements.

At the time of the ruling, he was one of several prominent right-wing rabbis to call for the acquittal of a Jewish Israeli convicted of murdering three members of a Palestinian family in a terror attack.

In 2018, Eliyahu set off tensions with the defense establishment when he said IDF chief Gadi Eisenkot should be dismissed because he allowed female soldiers to serve in combat units.

Duma arson attack: refers to the firebombing of a Palestinian family home[1] in late July 2015 in the village of Duma, which resulted in the death of three people; planned in a cave called the "Red House" built from a previously existing Palestinian structure, on a site that was then turned into an Israeli outpost called Yishuv HaDaat. According to Rabbis for Human Rights, the state still plans to legalize this same outpost, though it was stolen through threats and violence from its Palestinian owners

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Stats, markets, government, media: keyword: "alien tentacle" gettyimages.ca

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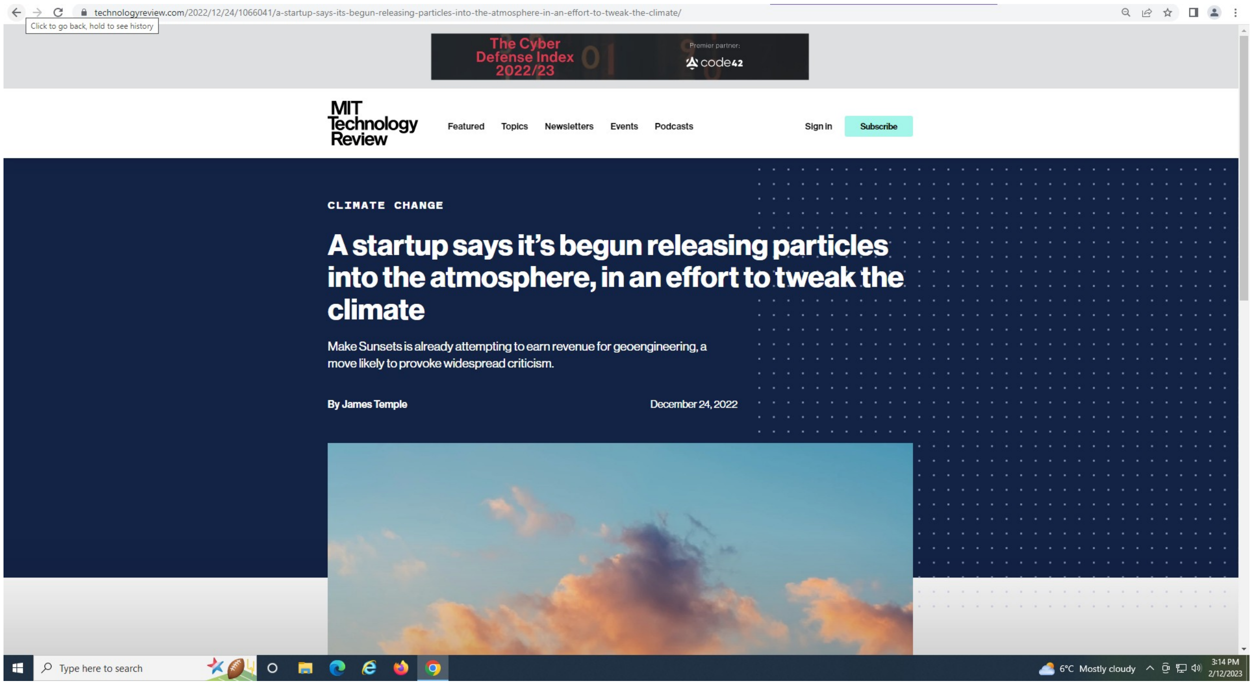
Weird article about geoengineering on mit technology dated dec24. Managed to somehow bypass the paywall with archive.is (fake archive)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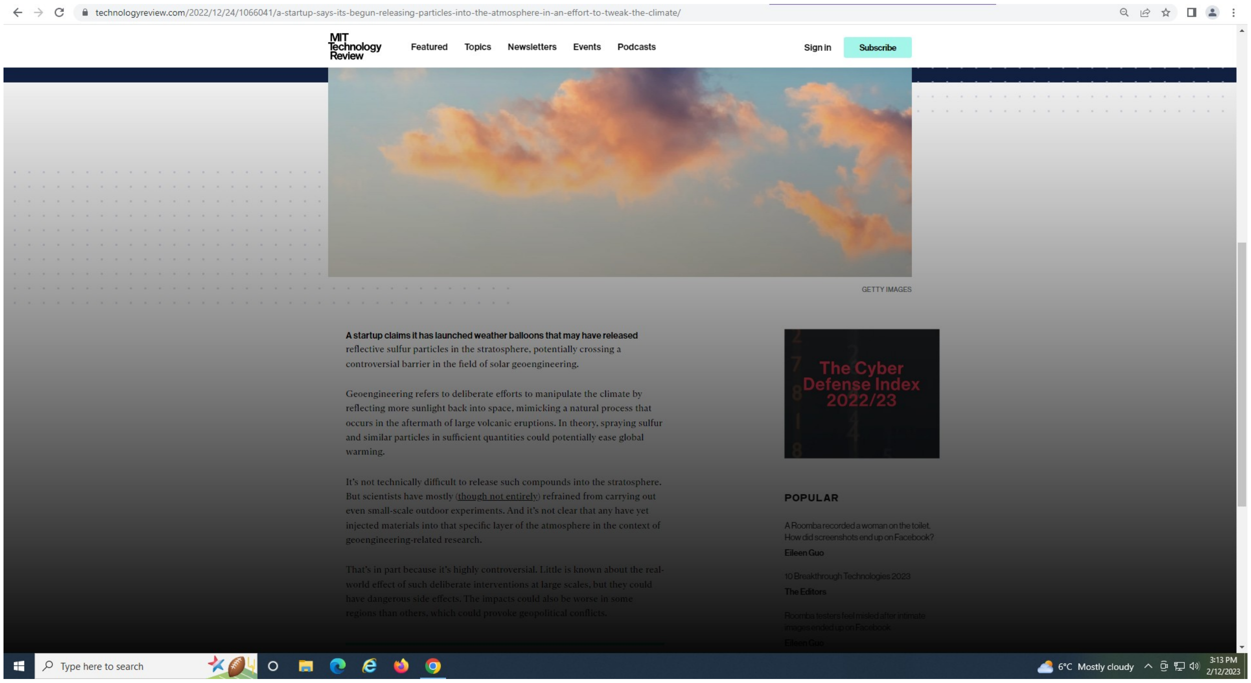
CLIMATE CHANGE

A startup says it's begun releasing particles into the atmosphere, in an effort to tweak the climate

Make Sunsets is already attempting to earn revenue for geoengineering, a move likely to provoke widespread criticism.

By James Temple

December 24, 2022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A startup claims it has launched weather balloons that may have released reflective sulfur particles in the stratosphere, potentially crossing a controversial barrier in the field of solar geoengineering.

Geoengineering refers to deliberate efforts to manipulate the climate by reflecting more sunlight back into space, mimicking a natural process that occurs in the aftermath of large volcanic eruptions. In theory, spraying sulfur and similar particles in sufficient quantities could potentially ease global warming.

It's not technically difficult to release such compounds into the stratosphere. But scientists have mostly (though not entirely) refrained from carrying out even small-scale outdoor experiments. And it's not clear that any have yet injected materials into that specific layer of the atmosphere in the context of geoengineering-related research.

That's in part because it's highly controversial. Little is known about the real-world effect of such deliberate interventions at large scales, but they could have dangerous side effects. The impacts could also be worse in some regions than others, which could provoke geopolitical conflicts.

POPULAR

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Eileen Guo

10 Breakthrough Technologies 2023
The Editors

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Some researchers who have long studied the technology are deeply troubled that the company, Make Sunsets, appears to have moved forward with launches from a site in Mexico without any public engagement or scientific scrutiny. It’s already attempting to sell “cooling credits” for future balloon flights that could carry larger payloads.

Several researchers MIT Technology Review spoke with condemned the effort to commercialize geoengineering at this early stage. Some potential investors and customers who have reviewed the company’s proposals say that it’s not a serious scientific effort or a credible business but more of an attention grab designed to stir up controversy in the field.

Luke Iseman, the cofounder and CEO of Make Sunsets, acknowledges that the effort is part entrepreneurial and part provocation, an act of geoengineering activism.

Related Story

The US government is developing a solar geoengineering research plan

The federal effort could set the stage for more studies into the feasibility, benefits and risks of one of the more controversial means of combating climate change.

He hopes that by moving ahead in the controversial space, the startup will help drive the public debate and push forward a scientific field that has faced great difficulty carrying out small-scale field experiments amid criticism.

“We joke slash not joke that this is partly a company and partly a cult,” he says.

Iseman, previously a director of hardware at Y Combinator, says he expects to be pilloried by both geoengineering critics and researchers in the field for taking such a step, and he recognizes that “making me look like the Bond villain is going to be helpful to certain groups.” But he says climate change is such a grave threat, and the world has moved so slowly to address the underlying problem, that more radical interventions are now required.

“It’s morally wrong, in my opinion, for us not to be doing this,” he says. What’s important is “to do this as quickly and safely as we can.”

Wildly premature

But dedicated experts in the field think such efforts are wildly premature and could have the opposite effect from what Iseman expects.

“The current state of science is not good enough … to either reject, or to accept, let alone implement” solar geoengineering, wrote Janos Pasztor, executive director of the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative, in an email. The initiative is calling for oversight of geoengineering and other climate-altering technologies, whether by governments, international accords or scientific bodies. “To go ahead with implementation at this stage is a very bad idea,” he added, comparing it to Chinese scientist He Jiankui’s decision to use CRISPR to edit the DNA of embryos while the scientific community was still debating the safety and ethics of such a step.

Shuchi Talati, a scholar in residence at American University who is forming a nonprofit focused on governance and justice in solar geoengineering, says Make Sunset’s actions could set back the scientific field, reducing funding, dampening government support for trusted research, and accelerating calls to restrict studies.

The company’s behavior plays into long-held fears that a “rogue” actor with no particular knowledge of atmospheric science or the implications of the technology could unilaterally choose to geoengineer the climate, without any kind of consensus around whether it’s okay to do so—or what the appropriate global average temperature should be. That's because it's relatively cheap and technically simple to do, at least in a crude way.

David Victor, a political scientist at the University of California, San Diego, warned of such a scenario more than a decade ago. A "Greenfinger, self-appointed protector of the planet … could force a lot of geoengineering on his own," he said, invoking the Goldfinger character from a 1964 James Bond movie, best remembered for murdering a woman by painting her gold.

Some observers were quick to draw parallels between Make Sunsets and a decade-old incident in which an American entrepreneur reportedly poured a hundred tons of iron sulfate into the ocean, in an effort to spawn a plankton bloom that could aid salmon populations and suck down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Critics say it violated international restrictions on what's known as iron fertilization, which were in part inspired by a growing number of commercial proposals to sell carbon credits for such work. Some believe it subsequently stunted research efforts in field.

Pasztor and others stressed that Make Sunset's efforts underscore the urgent need to establish broad-based oversight and clear rules for responsible research in geoengineering and help determine whether or under what conditions there should be a social license to move forward with experiments or beyond. As MIT Technology Review first reported, the Biden administration is developing a federal research plan that would guide how scientists proceed with geoengineering studies.

Balloon launches

By Iseman's own description, the first two balloon launches were very rudimentary. He says they occurred in April somewhere in the state of Baja California, months before Make Sunsets was incorporated in October. Iseman says he pumped a few grams of sulfur dioxide into weather balloons and added what he estimated would be the right amount of helium to carry them into the stratosphere.

He expected they would burst under pressure at that altitude and release the particles. But it’s not clear whether that happened, where the balloons ended up, or what impact the particles had, because there was no monitoring equipment on board the balloons. Iseman also acknowledges that they did not seek any approvals from government authorities or scientific agencies, in Mexico or elsewhere, before the first two launches.

“This was firmly in science project territory,” he says, adding: “Basically, it was to confirm that I could do it.”

A 2018 white paper raised the possibility that an environmental, humanitarian, or other type of group could use this simple balloon approach to carry out a distributed, do-it-yourself geoengineering scheme.

In future work, Make Sunsets hopes to increase the sulfur payloads, add telemetry equipment and other sensors, eventually move to reusable balloons, and publish data following the launches.

The company is already attempting to earn revenue from the cooling effects of future flights. It is offering to sell $10 “cooling credits” for releasing one gram of particles in the stratosphere—enough, it asserts, to offset the warming effect of one ton of carbon for one year.

“What I want to do is create as much cooling as quickly as I responsibly can, over the rest of my life, frankly,” Iseman says, adding later that they will deploy as much sulfur in 2023 as “we can get customers to pay us” for.

The company says it has raised $750,000 in funding from Boost VC and Pioneer Fund, among others, and that its early investors have also been purchasing cooling credits. The venture firms didn’t respond to inquiries from MIT Technology Review before press time.

'A terrible idea'

Talati was highly critical of the company’s scientific claims, stressing that no one can credibly sell credits that purport to represent such a specific per gram outcome, given vast uncertainty at this stage of research.

“What they’re claiming to actually accomplish with such a credit is the entirety of what’s uncertain right now about geoengineering,” she says.

Kelly Wanser, executive director of SilverLining, a nonprofit that supports research efforts on climate risks and potential interventions, agreed.

“From a business perspective, reflective cooling effects and risks cannot currently be quantified in any meaningful way, making the offering a speculative form of ‘junk credit’ that is unlikely to have value to climate credit markets,” she wrote in an email.

Talati adds that it’s hypocritical for Make Sunsets to assert they’re acting on humanitarian grounds, while moving ahead without meaningfully engaging with the public, including with those who could be affected by their actions.

“They’re violating the rights of communities to dictate their own future,” she says.

David Keith, one of the world’s leading experts on solar geoengineering, says that the amount of material in question—less than 10 grams of sulfur per flight—doesn’t represent any real environmental danger; a commercial flight can emit about 100 grams per minute, he points out. Keith and his colleagues at Harvard University have worked for years to move forward on a small-scale stratospheric experiment known as SCoPEx, which has been repeatedly delayed.

But he says he’s troubled by any effort to privatize core geoengineering technologies, including patenting them or selling credits for the releases, because “commercial development cannot produce the level of transparency and trust the world needs to make sensible decisions about deployment,” as he wrote in an earlier blog post.

Keith says a private company would have financial motives to oversell the benefits, to downplay the risks, and to continue selling its services even as the planet cools to lower than preindustrial temperatures.

“Doing it as a startup is a terrible idea,” he says.

For its part, the company says it’s operating on the best modeling research available today, and that it will adjust its practices as it learns more and hopes to collaborate with nations and experts to guide these efforts as it scales up.

“We are convinced solar [geoengineeering] is the only feasible path to staying below 2 ˚C [of warming over preindustrial levels], and we will work with the scientific community to deploy this life-saving tool as safely and quickly as possible,” Iseman said in an email.

But critics stress that the time to engage with experts and the public would have been before the company began injecting material into the stratosphere and trying to sell cooling credits—and that it’s likely to face an icy reception from many of those parties now.

Update: This story was updated to add comments from Kelly Wanser, executive director of SilverLining.

War, sanctions, energy, Germany, Russia: feb12 mind-boggling stat

The sabotage presented a major energy crisis for the United States’ European allies. Europe imports nearly 40% of its gas from Russia, and the Nord Stream 1 was responsible for delivering approximately one third of that supply.

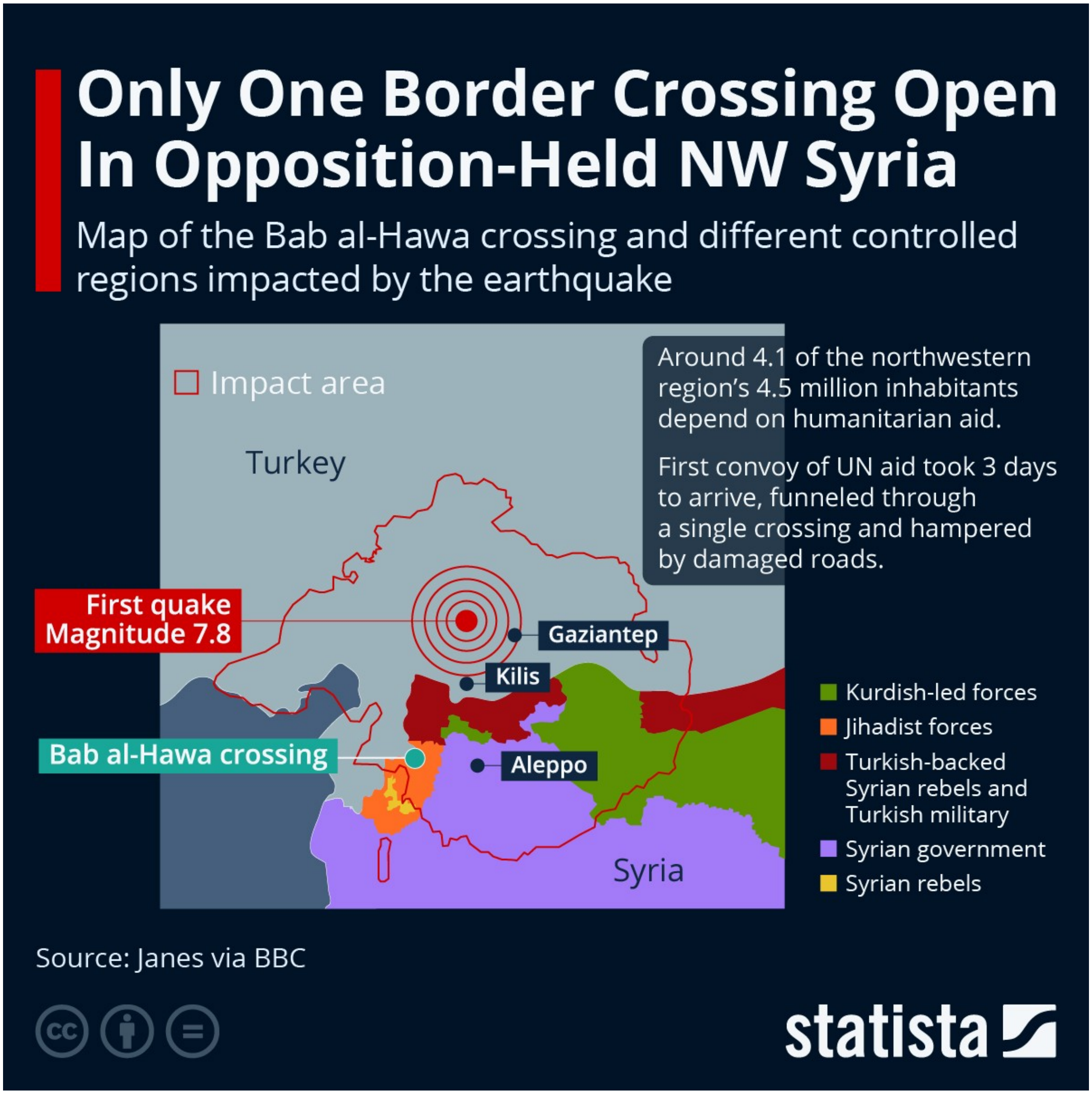
War, Erdogan: feb12 SAT FEB 11, AT 4:10 PMOnly One Border Crossing Open In Opposition-Held Northwestern Syria

Only One Border Crossing Open In Opposition-Held Northwestern Syria

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, FEB 11, 2023 - 04:10 PM

International organizations are calling for more border crossings to be opened for aid to reach Northwestern Syria, where thousands of people have died following Monday’s earthquake in neighboring Turkey. **Even before the quake, the opposition-held region of Syria was deep in humanitarian crisis,** with 4.1 million out of its 4.5 million inhabitants depending on humanitarian aid, following a nearly 12-year-long civil war that is still ongoing.

As Statista's Anna Fleck shows in the chart below, **currently only one UN-sanctioned border crossing is operational between Turkey and Syria.** It saw the first convoy of six trucks carrying aid on Thursday, three days after the quake struck, despite having been planned before the earthquake. According to the UN, the convoy was hampered by heavy damage to roads on the Turkish side. The second convoy is reported to have arrived only today.



Only One Border Crossing Open In Opposition-Held NW Syria

Map of the Bab al-Hawa crossing and different controlled regions impacted by the earthquake

Around 4.1 of the northwestern region's 4.5 million inhabitants depend on humanitarian aid.

First convoy of UN aid took 3 days to arrive, funneled through a single crossing and hampered by damaged roads.

Source: Janes via BBC

☐ Impact area
Turkey
First quake Magnitude 7.8
Gaziantep
Kilis
Bab al-Hawa crossing
Aleppo
Syria
🟩 Kurdish-led forces
🟧 Jihadist forces
🟥 Turkish-backed Syrian rebels and Turkish military
🟪 Syrian government
🟨 Syrian rebels
statista

You will find more infographics at Statista

It has been particularly difficult to get aid to the people in need in northwestern Syria since decisions must be negotiated with the Assad government, often with Turkey and Russia too, via the UN, which can be a slow process.

So far, Syrian government-controlled areas have received some aid, provided from countries such as Russia, Iraq and Iran. This list of donors is more limited to that of Turkey since many countries do not want to have direct dealings with Assad following the civil war. When delivering aid to the Syrian government directly, it has a hold over what aid is delivered where, meaning it likely won't go to the opposition-held regions. **According to the Guardian, in 2021, researchers found that the Central Bank of Syria was taking 51 cents in every dollar of aid.**

Between 2014 and 2021, there were four crossings sanctioned by the UN into Syria. Since then, however, UN Security Council vetoes from China and Russia cut these down to just one, the Bab al-Hawa crossing.

Reuters reports that **Ankara is currently discussing reopening a border crossing into Syrian government territory and also considering opening another into the Idlib region.**

A total of 21,000 people were killed when a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Turkey, ricocheting into neighboring Syria.

War: feb12 Third High-Altitude Airborne Object Shot Down By US Fighter Jet

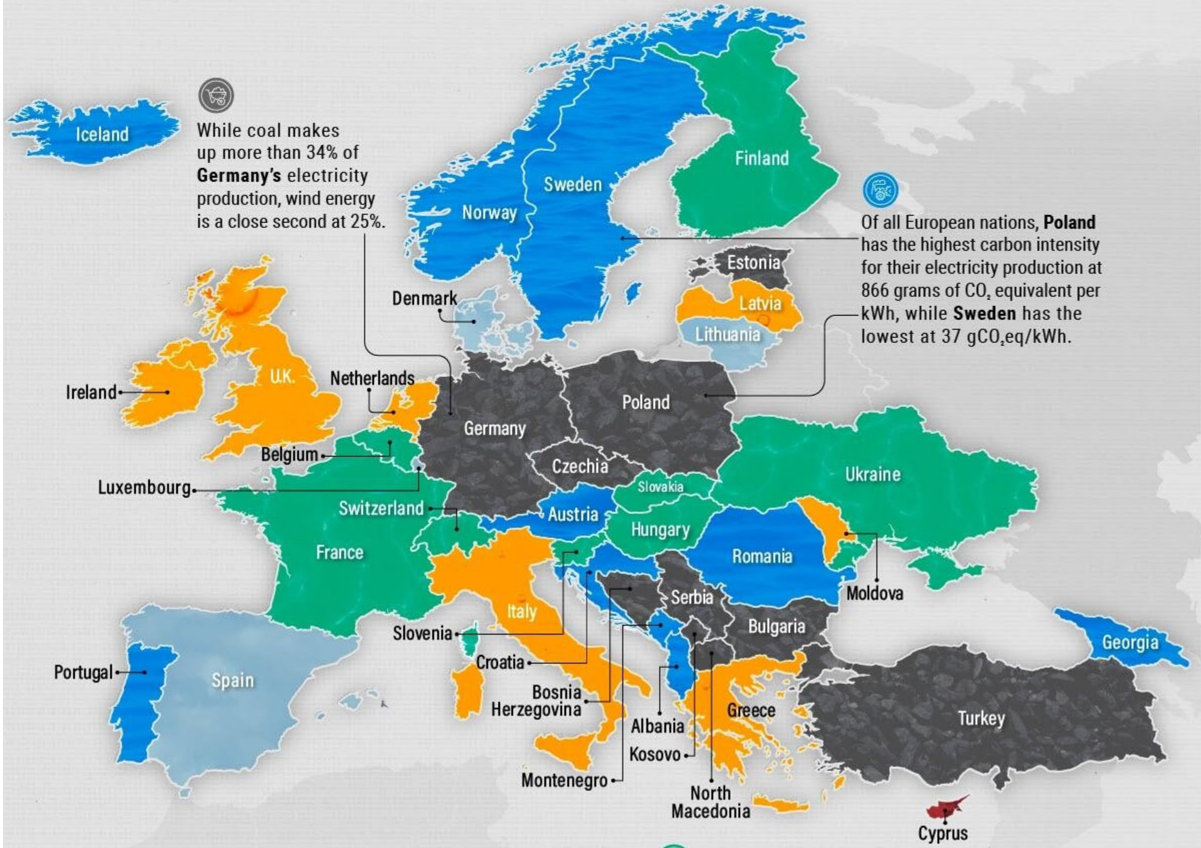
Stats, energy, government feb12 Mapping Europe's Biggest Sources Of Electricity By Country

EUROPE'S

Biggest Sources of Electricity

BY COUNTRY

● COAL ● HYDRO ● GAS ● NUCLEAR ● WIND ● OIL

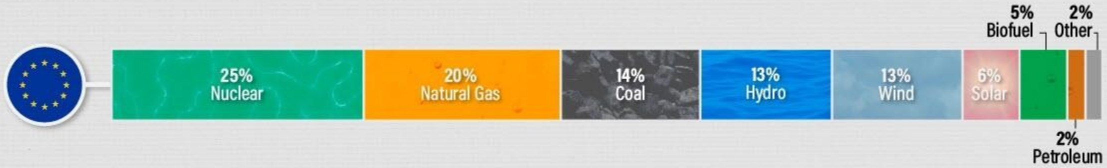

Iceland
Norway
Sweden
Finland
Estonia
Latvia
Lithuania
Denmark
Ireland
U.K.
Netherlands
Belgium
Luxembourg
Germany
Poland
Czechia
Slovakia
Austria
Hungary
Ukraine
Switzerland
France
Romania
Moldova
Slovenia
Croatia
Bosnia Herzegovina
Serbia
Bulgaria
Georgia
Italy
Portugal
Spain
Montenegro
Albania
Kosovo
North Macedonia
Greece
Turkey
Cyprus

While coal makes up more than 34% of **Germany's** electricity production, wind energy is a close second at 25%.

Of all European nations, **Poland** has the highest carbon intensity for their electricity production at 866 grams of CO_2 equivalent per kWh, while **Sweden** has the lowest at 37 gCO_2eq/kWh.

A decade ago, more than a quarter of europe's electricity was produced using **coal**. Since then, **solar and wind** generation have doubled to replace declining coal use.

EU Electricity Generation by Source 2021



Source: Electricity Maps, IEA, BP Statistical Review of World Energy, Eurostat, Government of Iceland

This map shows the top source of electricity production averaged over the twelve months from November 2021 to November 2022 unless otherwise stated. Data for Georgia and Moldova is from a five year period (2017-2021).

Stats, government: feb12 Homicide in England and Wales: year ending March 2022: only 696??!! Thts what it says...Saving the whole page

1.Main Points

- Homicide returned to pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels, with 696 victims in the latest year; this is 130 more (a 23% increase) than the year ending March 2021 when government restrictions meant there was less social contact.
    - There were 696 victims of homicide in the year ending March 2022, 130 more (a 23% increase) than the previous year (566 victims; Appendix table 1). However, the previous year covered extended time periods where coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions were in place to limit social contact. It is thought that these restrictions led to a fall in the level of public space homicides in this year. The number of homicides in the latest year is similar to the four pre-pandemic years, from the year ending March 2017 (688 victims) to the year ending March 2020 (677 victims, including 39 victims from the Grays lorry tragedy in 2019).

wales, short history, nine nations of china similar: semi-autonomous regions overseen by

the head state, which would be in control of law making and defense. There are many of these relationships throughout the world in various forms of government. I suppose what interesting aboutthis post is that the idea of england, wales, scotland and ireland is not unique to area, although the people who fought for these territorial divides may think so. In reality, they are probably just necessary for different ethnci ties and cultures to be able to coextist, hence why they exist. They're a reason for everything, as they say

Despite being part of Great Britain and joined with England by land, **Wales is a country in its own right**.

Why is it called England and Wales?

In 1283, **the English, led by Edward I, with the biggest army brought together in England since the 11th century, conquered the remainder of Wales, then organised as the Principality of Wales**. This was then united with the English crown by the Statute of Rhuddlan of 1284.

Why is Wales a separate country from England?

Wales is a constituent country which forms part of the United Kingdom because **it has its own government and national identity**. However, it is not a sovereign country because the UK government still has authority when it comes to law-making.

The United Kingdom (UK) is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Is Wales its own country?

Wales is a country that forms part of the island of Great Britain. There are three countries that make up this island: Wales, and our neighbours England and Scotland.

What is Wales, exactly?

Wales is a country that forms part of the island of Great Britain. There are three countries that make up this island: Wales, and our neighbours England and Scotland.

Wales also forms part of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (to give it its full name) is a "sovereign state" that is formed of four countries: Wales, England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, which is situated on the island of Ireland.

How is modern Wales governed?

While Wales has its own government and parliament today, from the early 1700s until the late 1990s. Wales was ruled in law by the government of the United Kingdom (UK). Both the UK Government and Parliament are based in Westminster in London, England.

There was a public vote held in Wales in 1997 to determine whether we should have more control over our own laws and government policies.

As a result of that vote, a National Assembly for Wales was created and certain powers started to be moved (“devolved”) from Westminster to Wales.

This process continued throughout the 21st century, with further powers to make laws and collect taxes moving to Wales recently.

Today, Wales has a legislature - Senedd Cymru (the Welsh Parliament in Welsh) that is responsible for making, scrutinising and passing laws, and an executive - the Welsh Government -

responsible for making most of the day-to-day decisions that affect people who live in Wales.

Today, this means that Wales has two governments - the Welsh Government and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, each one with power and responsibility over different things.

During the Roman occupation of Britain, the area of present-day England and Wales was administered as a single unit, except for the land to the north of Hadrian's Wall – though the Roman-occupied area varied in extent, and for a time extended to the Antonine/Severan Wall. At that time, most of the native inhabitants of Roman Britain spoke Brythonic languages, and were all regarded as Britons, divided into numerous tribes. After the conquest, the Romans administered this region as a single unit, the province of Britain.

Long after the departure of the Romans, the Britons in what became Wales developed their own system of law, first codified by Hywel Dda (Hywel the Good; reigned 942–950) when he was king of most of present-day Wales; in England Anglo-Saxon law was initially codified by Alfred the Great in his Legal Code, c. 893. However, after the Norman invasion of Wales in the 11th century, English law came to apply in the parts of Wales conquered by the Normans (the Welsh Marches). In 1283, the English, led by Edward I, with the biggest army brought together in England since the 11th century, conquered the remainder of Wales, then organised as the Principality of Wales. This was then united with the English crown by the Statute of Rhuddlan of 1284. This aimed to replace Welsh criminal law with English law.

Welsh law continued to be used for civil cases until the annexation of Wales to England in the 16th century by the Welsh House of Tudor. The Laws in Wales Acts 1535 and 1542 then consolidated the administration of all the Welsh territories and incorporated them fully into the legal system of the Kingdom of England.[1] This was in part to update outdated Welsh laws, but also to control Wales alongside England; through these acts, Wales could be seen as equals to the English,[2] this was reflected on both Henry VIII and Elizabeth I's coat of arms where the dragon represented Wales and the lion represented England,[3][*full citation needed*] but as soon as the Tudor dynasty ended with the death of Elizabeth I, the red dragon of Wales was dropped and replaced with the unicorn of Scotland with the succession of King James I who demoted Wales' status on the coat of arms and on the first adaptation of the Flag of Great Britain.[4]

Prior to 1746, it was not clear whether a reference to "England" in legislation included Wales, and so in 1746, Parliament passed the Wales and Berwick Act. This specified that in all prior and future laws, references to "England" would by default include Wales (and Berwick-upon-Tweed). The Wales and Berwick Act was repealed by the Welsh Language Act 1967, although the statutory definition of "England" created by that Act still applies for laws passed before 1967. In new legislation since then, what was referred to as "England" is now "England and Wales", while subsequent references to "England" and "Wales" refer to those political divisions.

Company registration[edit]

Main article: Companies House

For a company to be incorporated in the United Kingdom, its application for registration with Companies House must state "whether the company's registered office is to be situated in England and Wales (or in Wales), in Scotland or in Northern Ireland",[5] which will determine the law applicable to that business entity. A registered office must be specified as "in Wales" if the company wishes to use a name ending *cyfyngedig* or *cyf*, rather than *Limited* or *Ltd.* or to avail itself of certain other privileges relating to the official use of the Welsh language.

he truth is far more interesting. China is a mosaic of several distinct regions, each with its own resources, dynamics, and historical character.

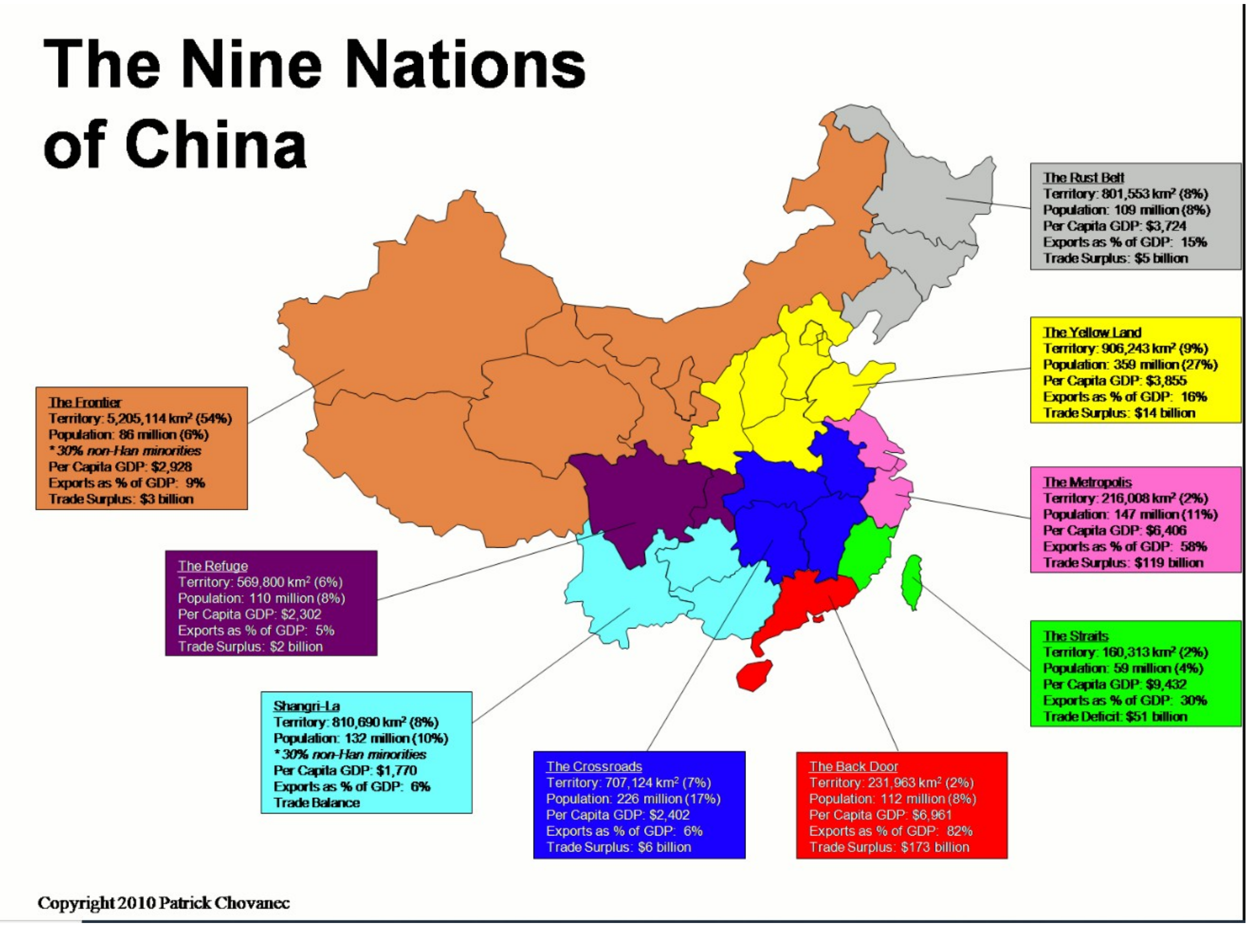
As a traveler, teacher, and professional investor who has been exploring China since 1986, I've come to think of these regions as the Nine Nations of China (inspired, in part, by Joel Garreau's *Nine Nations of North America*). Taken individually, these "nations" would account for eight of the 20 most populous countries in the world.

About the Author

Patrick Chovanec (□□□) is an Associate Professor of Practice at Tsinghua University's School of Economics and Management in Beijing, China, where he teaches in the school's International MBA Program. His insights into Chinese business, economics, politics, and culture have been featured by both Chinese and international media including CNN, BBC, CNBC, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times, Bloomberg, New York Times, Washington Post, Forbes, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The Atlantic,* PBS, NPR*, and Al Jazeera*. He serves as Chairman of the Public Policy Development Committee for the American Chamber of Commerce in China.
Professor Chovanec has worked for several private equity funds focused on China, and continues to advise numerous fund managers, corporations, and governments. Previously, he served as director of *Institutional Investor*'s Asia Pacific Institute, based in Hong Kong, and its Global Fixed Income Institute, based in London. Prior to that, Chovanec worked in Washington, DC, as an aide to political strategist William Kristol and to Speaker of the House John Boehner. He also served for nine years as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Professor Chovanec first visited China in 1986, and has traveled to every one of its 31 provinces, as well as Taiwan. His travels have taken him to over 45 countries, including India, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, Cuba, Vietnam, and Cambodia. He is one of only a very limited number of U.S. citizens to have visited North Korea.

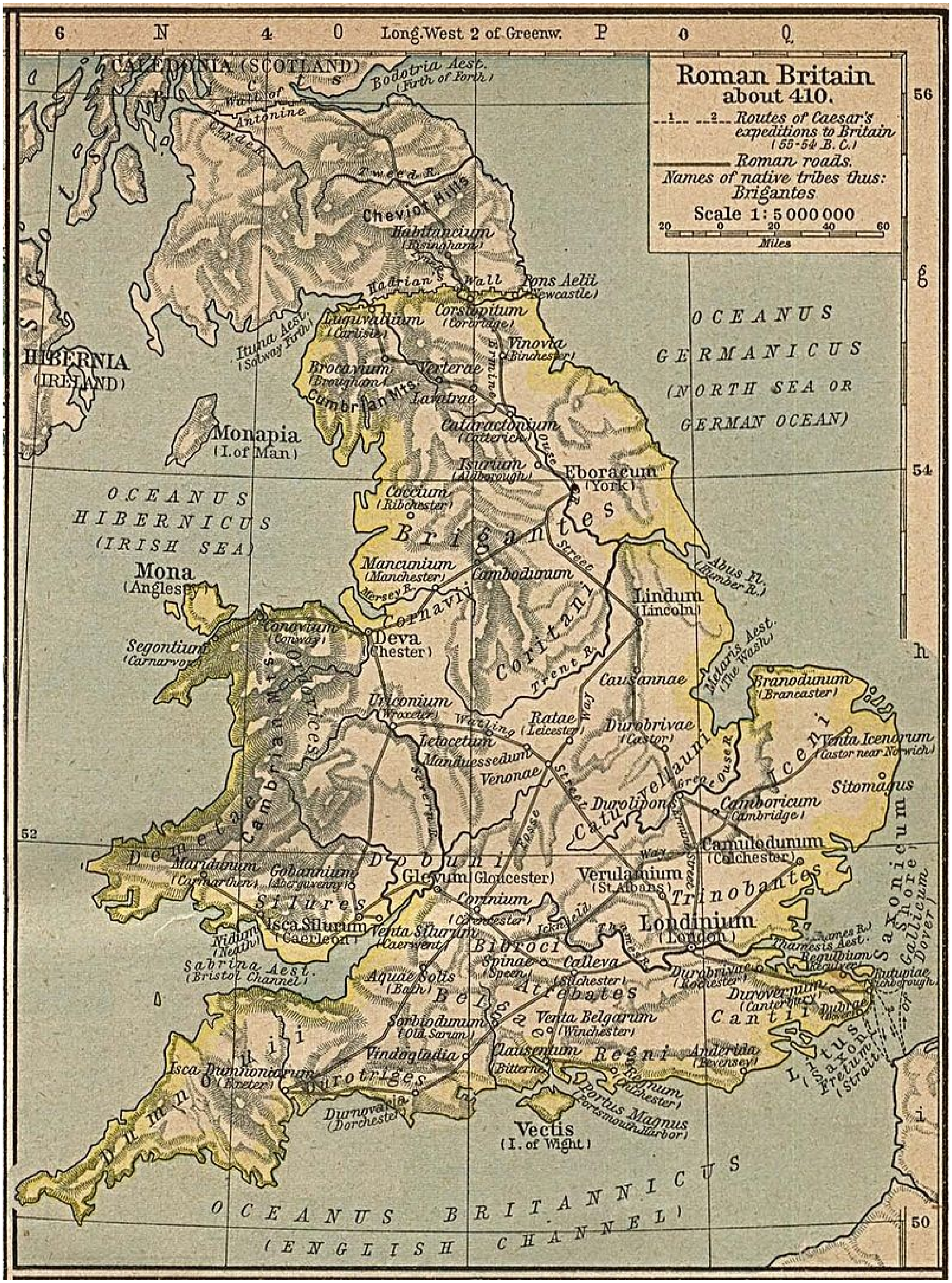
He holds an BA in Economics from Princeton University and an MBA in Finance and Accounting from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, where he graduated as a Palmer Scholar. He is a U.S. Certified Public Accountant (CPA).


The Nine Nations of China
The Rust Belt
Territory: 801,553 km² (8%)
Population: 109 million (8%)
Per Capita GDP: $3,724
Exports as % of GDP: 15%
Trade Surplus: $5 billion
The Yellow Land
Territory: 906,243 km² (9%)
Population: 359 million (27%)
Per Capita GDP: $3,855
Exports as % of GDP: 16%
Trade Surplus: $14 billion
The Frontier
Territory: 5,205,114 km² (54%)
Population: 86 million (6%)
* 30% non-Han minorities
Per Capita GDP: $2,928
Exports as % of GDP: 9%
Trade Surplus: $3 billion
The Metropolis
Territory: 216,008 km² (2%)
Population: 147 million (11%)
Per Capita GDP: $6,406
Exports as % of GDP: 58%
Trade Surplus: $119 billion
The Refuge
Territory: 569,800 km² (6%)
Population: 110 million (8%)
Per Capita GDP: $2,302
Exports as % of GDP: 5%
Trade Surplus: $2 billion
The Straits
Territory: 160,313 km² (2%)
Population: 59 million (4%)
Per Capita GDP: $9,432
Exports as % of GDP: 30%
Trade Deficit: $51 billion
Shangri-La
Territory: 810,690 km² (8%)
Population: 132 million (10%)
* 30% non-Han minorities
Per Capita GDP: $1,770
Exports as % of GDP: 6%
Trade Balance
The Crossroads
Territory: 707,124 km² (7%)
Population: 226 million (17%)
Per Capita GDP: $2,402
Exports as % of GDP: 6%
Trade Surplus: $6 billion
The Back Door
Territory: 231,963 km² (2%)
Population: 112 million (8%)
Per Capita GDP: $6,961
Exports as % of GDP: 82%
Trade Surplus: $173 billion
Copyright 2010 Patrick Chovanec

The **autonomous regions** (Chinese: □□□; pinyin: *Zìzhìqū*) are the highest-level administrative divisions of China. Like Chinese provinces, an autonomous region has its own local government, but under Chinese law, an autonomous region has more legislative rights, such as the right to "formulate self-government regulations and other separate regulations."[1] An autonomous region is the highest level of minority autonomous entity in China, which has a comparably higher population of a particular minority ethnic group.

The autonomous regions are the creations of the People's Republic of China (PRC), as they are not recognized by the Republic of China (ROC) based in Taiwan, which previously ruled Mainland China before the PRC's establishment in 1949.

History: Roman province of Britannia in 410


Roman Britain
about 410.
1 2 Routes of Caesar's expeditions to Britain (55-54 B.C.)
Roman roads.
Names of native tribes thus: Brigantes
Scale 1: 5 000 000
20 0 20 40 60
Miles
6 N 4 0 Long. West 2 of Greenw. P 0 Q
56
54
52
50
g
h
i
CALEDONIA (SCOTLAND)
Picts
Scoti
Bodotria Aest. (Firth of Forth)
Wall of Antonine
Clyde R.
Tweed R.
Cheviot Hills
Habitancium (Risingham)
Hadrian's Wall
Pons Aelii (Newcastle)
Corstopitum (Corbridge)
Luguvalium (Carlisle)
Ituna Aest. (Solway Firth)
Vinovia (Binchester)
Brocavium (Brougham)
Verterae
Cumbrian Mts.
Lavatrae
Cataractonium (Catterick)
Ouse R.
Isurium (Aldborough)
Eboracum (York)
HIBERNIA (IRELAND)
Monapia (I. of Man)
OCEANUS GERMANICUS (NORTH SEA OR GERMAN OCEAN)
OCEANUS HIBERNICUS (IRISH SEA)
Coccium (Ribchester)
Brigantes
Ermine Street
Abus Fl. (Humber R.)
Mona (Anglesey)
Mancunium (Manchester)
Mersey R.
Cambodunum
Lindum (Lincoln)
Cornavii
Conovium (Conway)
Deva (Chester)
Segontium (Carnarvon)
Ordovices
Coritani
Trent R.
Metaris Aest. (The Wash)
Causennae
Branodunum (Brancaster)
Uriconium (Wroxeter)
Watling
Ratae (Leicester)
Durobrivae (Castor)
Letocetum
Manduessedum
Venonae
Fosse Way
Severn R.
Catuvellauni
Iceni
Venta Icenorum (Castor near Norwich)
Ouse R.
Durolipons
Great Ouse R.
Camboricum (Cambridge)
Sitomagus
Cambrian Mts.
Demetae
Street
Camulodunum (Colchester)
Maridunum (Carmarthen)
Gobannium (Abergavenny)
Dobuni
Glevum (Gloucester)
Verulamium (St. Albans)
Trinobantes
Silures
Corinium (Cirencester)
Icknield Way
Londinium (London)
Isca Silurum (Caerleon)
Venta Silurum (Caerwent)
Nidum (Neath)
Bibroci
Thames R.
Thamesis Aest.
Regulbium (Reculver)
Rutupiae (Richborough)
Saxonicum Litus
Gallicum Fretum (Strait of Dover)
Sabrina Aest. (Bristol Channel)
Spinae (Speen)
Calleva (Silchester)
Durobrivae (Rochester)
Durovernum (Canterbury)
Dubrae
Aquae Solis (Bath)
Atrebates
Belgae
Cantii
Sorbiodunum (Old Sarum)
Venta Belgarum (Winchester)
Dumnonii
Vindogladia
Clausentum (Bitterne)
Regni
Anderida (Pevensey)
Litus Saxonicum
Isca Dumnoniorum (Exeter)
Durotriges
Regnum (Chichester)
Durnovaria (Dorchester)
Portus Magnus (Portsmouth Harbor)
Vectis (I. of Wight)
OCEANUS BRITANNICUS (ENGLISH CHANNEL)

government: feb12 Fiery UK Anti-Refugee Protest Erupts After Minor Girl Records Adult Migrant's Proposition, thousands seen on twitter in massive crowds, 15 arrested, police cars damaged, fires..

Fiery UK Anti-Refugee Protest Erupts After Minor Girl Records Adult Migrant's Proposition

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, FEB 12, 2023 - 09:45 AM

A peaceful protest outside a UK hotel housing asylum-seekers turned violent on Friday evening **as protestors -- enraged over a recording of an alleged proposition of a minor English girl by a migrant -- reportedly threw bricks and set a police van on fire.**

Three people were arrested in the uproar that took place next to the Suites Hotel in the borough of Knowsley, Merseyside, near Liverpool. No serious injuries were reported.

For officers and police vehicles to be damaged in the course of their duty protecting the public is disgraceful**,"** said Assistant Chief Constable Paul White.

The protest was sparked by a video posted this week by a 15-year-old British girl. **She says it captures a self-proclaimed 25-year-old migrant propositioning her -- and persisting even after she tells him she's ten years younger.**

When the girl says, "I'm only 15," the migrant replies, "Okay, good."

"That's not good," says the girl. "You don't do this in this country...you go to jail if you do this."

War, china: feb12 Now China Claims It's Tracking Unidentified Object Over Port City

Now China Claims It's Tracking Unidentified Object Over Port City

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, FEB 12, 2023 - 10:55 AM

Now China is jumping in on the trend, apparently, as authorities in China say they have spotted and are tracking an unidentified object over waters near the port city of Qingdao.

Scant details have been given, but the claim was briefly detailed in *Bloomberg* on Sunday, with the publication saying authorities are **preparing to down the object**.

Area fisherman and boats in the port waters have been alerted and told to follow safety precautions due to the object, which is hovering at an unknown altitude.

According to the report:

> *An employee at the marine development authority of Qingdao's Jimo district said "relevant authorities" are preparing to bring down the object, the report said. The employee was not informed what the object was.*

By the vague description, it could be a balloon of some type, or **alternately perhaps the Chinese are attempting to hype their own "foreign threat" news story as a counter** following the Pentagon shooting down the Chinese 'spy' balloon, which Beijing has maintained all along was just a weather research platform.

As for the now recovered balloon which was shot down over a week ago Saturday off the US east coast, it is undergoing FBI analysis. However, the undercarriage, which US officials say contained surveillance gear, has yet to be lifted from the ocean, and is said to be large - at least 30 feet across.

And then there's the bizarre couple of incidents over far northern parts of the American continent...

War, Erdogan: feb12 Turkey Arrests 130 Building Contractors As Earthquake Deaths Surpass 28,000

Turkey Arrests 130 Building Contractors As Earthquake Deaths Surpass 28,000

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, FEB 12, 2023 - 12:00 PM

The death toll from the Turkey-Syria earthquake **soared past 28,000 killed this weekend**, and many more thousands may still be buried under the rubble, as in many areas of the sprawling disaster zone, at hundreds of miles wide, rescue operations have only barely begun.

Turkish officials estimate that around 25,000 buildings either totally collapsed or were severely damaged in the earthquake, and that more already shaken buildings could potentially collapse as a result of aftershocks and tremors.

But in a new development, "Approximately **130 people were arrested** or are the target of arrest warrants issued by Turkish officials for their involvement in **alleged faulty and illegal construction methods** as rescue teams work to locate survivors in the wreckage of thousands of buildings downed by an earthquake nearly a week ago," *The Hill* reports based on regional sources.

The arrest round-up is said to be the first major action of of the newly established "Earthquake Crimes Investigation Offices" which will investigate malfeasance which contributed to the high numbers of buildings that collapsed.

"We will follow this up meticulously until the necessary judicial process is concluded, especially for buildings that suffered heavy damage and buildings that caused deaths and injuries," a Turkish official said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has vowed a tough response amid public finger-pointing and outrage among victims' families, also given the sheer scale of the massive catastrophe, which left entire cities demolished - for example the major city of Antakya in Hatay province.

The earthquake response is sure to be a front and center issue as the Erdogan government heads into tough parliamentary and presidential elections set for May.

History, government: the Louisiana purchase: acquisition of the territory of Louisiana by the United States from the French First Republic in 1803; Kingdom of France had controlled the Louisiana territory from 1699 until it was ceded to Spain in 1762. In 1800, Napoleon, the First Consul of the French Republic, regained ownership of Louisiana as part of a broader effort to re-establish a French colonial empire in North America.

The **Louisiana Purchase** (French: *Vente de la Louisiane*, lit. 'Sale of Louisiana') was the acquisition of the territory of Louisiana by the United States from the French First Republic in 1803. In return for fifteen million dollars, or approximately eighteen dollars per square mile, the United States nominally acquired a total of 828,000 sq mi (2,140,000 km^2; 530,000,000 acres) in Middle America. However, France only controlled a small fraction of this area, most of which was inhabited by Native Americans; effectively, for the majority of the area, the United States bought the "preemptive" right to obtain "Indian" lands by treaty or by conquest, to the exclusion of other colonial powers.[1][2]

The Kingdom of France had controlled the Louisiana territory from 1699 until it was ceded to Spain in 1762. In 1800, Napoleon, the First Consul of the French Republic, regained ownership of Louisiana as part of a broader effort to re-establish a French colonial empire in North America. However, France's failure to suppress a revolt in Saint-Domingue, coupled with the prospect of renewed warfare with the United Kingdom, prompted Napoleon to consider selling Louisiana to the United States. Acquisition of Louisiana was a long-term goal of President Thomas Jefferson, who was especially eager to gain control of the crucial Mississippi River port of New Orleans. Jefferson tasked James Monroe and Robert R. Livingston with purchasing New Orleans. Negotiating with French Treasury Minister François Barbé-Marbois, the American representatives quickly agreed to purchase the entire territory of Louisiana after it was offered. Overcoming the opposition of the Federalist Party, Jefferson and Secretary of State James Madison persuaded Congress to ratify and fund the Louisiana Purchase.

The Louisiana Purchase extended United States sovereignty across the Mississippi River, nearly doubling the nominal size of the country. The purchase included land from fifteen present U.S. states and two Canadian provinces, including the entirety of Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska; large portions of North Dakota and South Dakota; the area of Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado east of the Continental Divide; the portion of Minnesota west of the Mississippi River; the northeastern section of New Mexico; northern portions of Texas; New Orleans and the portions of the present state of Louisiana west of the Mississippi River; and small portions of land within Alberta and Saskatchewan. At the time of the purchase, the territory of Louisiana's non-native population was around 60,000 inhabitants, of whom half were enslaved Africans.[3] The western borders of the purchase were later settled by the 1819 Adams–Onís Treaty with Spain, while the northern borders of the purchase were adjusted by the Treaty of 1818 with Britain.

History: key slavic history: Great Moravia: first major state that was predominantly West Slavic to emerge in the area of Central Europe,[4] possibly including territories which are today part of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Poland, Romania, Croatia, Serbia and Ukraine. The only formation preceding it in these territories was Samo's tribal union known from between 631 and 658 AD.

Its core territory is the region now called Moravia in the eastern part of the Czech Republic alongside the Morava River, which gave its name to the kingdom. The kingdom saw the rise of the first ever Slavic literary culture in the Old Church Slavonic language as well as the expansion of Christianity, first via missionaries from East Francia, and later after the arrival of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 863 and the creation of the Glagolitic alphabet, the first alphabet dedicated to a Slavic language. Glagolitic was subsequently replaced by a simpler Cyrillic.

Although the borders of his empire cannot be exactly determined, Moravia reached its largest territorial extent under prince Svatopluk I (Slovak: *Svätopluk*), who ruled from 870 to 894. Separatism and internal conflicts emerging after Svatopluk's death contributed to the fall of Great Moravia, which was overrun by the Hungarians, who then included the territory of present-day Slovakia in their domains. The exact date of Moravia's collapse is unknown, but it occurred between 902 and 907.

After the fall of Great Moravia, its central territory was gradually divided between the newly ascending Kingdom of Bohemia and Hungarian Kingdom. The frontier was originally settled on the Morava river. However, from the 12th century, the Czech kings managed to gain more and more of the region on the eastern bank, eventually gaining the whole stretch of the eastern territory from Uherské Hradiště down to Strážnice along the White Carpathians. The original core territory of Great Moravia, nowadays forming the eastern part of Moravia and situated between the White Carpathians and the Chřiby mountains, has retained its non-Czech identity in its designation "Slovácko" which shows common origins with the name of the neighbouring Slovakia—a token of a past shared identity in Great Moravian times.

Nevertheless, the extent, and even the very location of Great Moravia (historiographical terms, as its original formal name is unknown) are a subject of debate.[11] Rival theories place its centre south of the Danube (the Morava in Serbia) or on the Great Hungarian Plain.[23] The exact date when the Moravian state was founded is also disputed, but it probably occurred in the early 830s under Prince Mojmír I (r. 820s/830s–846), the first known ruler of the united Moravia. Mojmír and his successor, Rastislav ("Rostislav" in Czech), who ruled from 846 to 870, initially acknowledged the suzerainty of the Carolingian monarchs, but the Moravian fight for independence caused a series of armed conflicts with East Francia from the 840s.

Traditional view[edit]

According to most historians, the core territories of Moravia were located in the valley of the river Morava, today in present-day Czech Republic and Slovakia

The earliest possible reference to Slavic tribes living in the valley of the northern Morava river was made by the Byzantine historian Procopius.[49] He wrote of a group of Germanic Heruli who "passed through the territory of all of the Sclavenes" while moving towards Denmark in 512.[50] Archaeological sites have yielded hand-made ceramics,[51] and closely analogous objects in southern Poland and western Ukraine appeared at the confluence of the northern Morava River and the Middle Danube, dated to around 550.[52]

Large territories in the Pannonian Basin were conquered after 568 by the nomadic Avars who had arrived from the Eurasian Steppes.[49][53] The Slavs were forced to pay tribute to the Avars and to participate in their raids against the Byzantine Empire, the Franks and the Lombards.[49]

Written sources from the 9th century contain almost no information on the internal affairs of Moravia.[14] Only two legal texts—the *Nomocanon* and the *Court Law for the People*—have been preserved.[14][142] The former is a translation of a collection of Byzantine ecclesiastical law; the latter is based on the 8th-century Byzantine law code known as *Ecloga*.[142][143] Both were completed by Methodius shortly before his death in 885.[142]

check republic: why its name always changes, I guess. good stuff though

Bohemia was a duchy of Great Moravia, later an independent principality, a kingdom in the Holy Roman Empire, and subsequently a part of the Habsburg monarchy and the Austrian Empire.[5] After World War I and the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state, the whole of Bohemia became a part of Czechoslovakia, defying claims of the German-speaking inhabitants that regions with German-speaking majority should be included in the Republic of German-Austria. Between 1938 and 1945, these border regions were joined to Nazi Germany as the Sudetenland.[6]

The remainder of Czech territory became the Second Czechoslovak Republic, and was subsequently occupied as the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia until the end of World War II, after which Bohemia became part of the restored Czechoslovakia. In 1969, the Czech lands (including Bohemia) were given autonomy within Czechoslovakia as the Czech Socialist Republic. In 1990, the name was changed to the Czech Republic, which became a separate state in 1993 with the breakup of Czechoslovakia.[6]

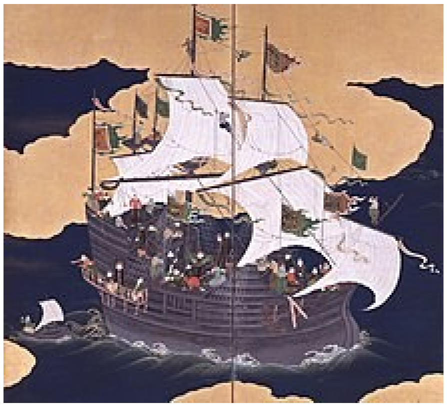
Until 1948, Bohemia was an administrative unit of Czechoslovakia as one of its "lands" (*země*).[7] Since then, administrative reforms have replaced self-governing lands with a modified system of "regions" (*kraje*), which do not follow the borders of the historical Czech lands (or the regions from the 1960 and 2000 reforms).[7] However, the three lands are mentioned in the preamble of the Constitution of the Czech Republic: "We, citizens of the Czech Republic in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia..."[8]

The **Lands of the Bohemian Crown** were a number of incorporated states in Central Europe during the medieval and early modern periods connected by feudal relations under the Bohemian kings. The crown lands primarily consisted of the Kingdom of Bohemia, an electorate of the Holy Roman Empire according to the Golden Bull of 1356, the Margraviate of Moravia, the Duchies of Silesia, and the two Lusatias, known as the Margraviate of Upper Lusatia and the Margraviate of Lower Lusatia, as well as other territories throughout its history. This agglomeration of states nominally under the rule of the Bohemian kings was historically referred to simply as **Bohemia**.[1] They are now sometimes referred to in scholarship as the **Czech lands**, a direct translation of the Czech abbreviated name.

The joint rule of *Corona regni Bohemiae* was legally established by decree of King Charles IV issued on 7 April 1348, on the foundation of the original Czech lands ruled by the Přemyslid dynasty until 1306. By linking the territories, the interconnection of crown lands thus no more belonged to a king or a dynasty but to the Bohemian monarchy itself, symbolically personalized by the Crown of Saint Wenceslas. During the reign of King Ferdinand I from 1526, the lands of the Bohemian Crown became a constituent part of the Habsburg monarchy.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lands_of_the_Bohemian_Crown

early modern period was from muslim conquest of constantinople and ending with napoleans rise to power


A Japanese depiction of a Portuguese trading carrack. Advances in shipbuilding technology during the Late Middle Ages would pave the way for the global European presence characteristic of the early modern period.

interesting view of a map of europe from the year 1700

early modern period key events

800 (most often 1815). Particular facets of early modernity include:

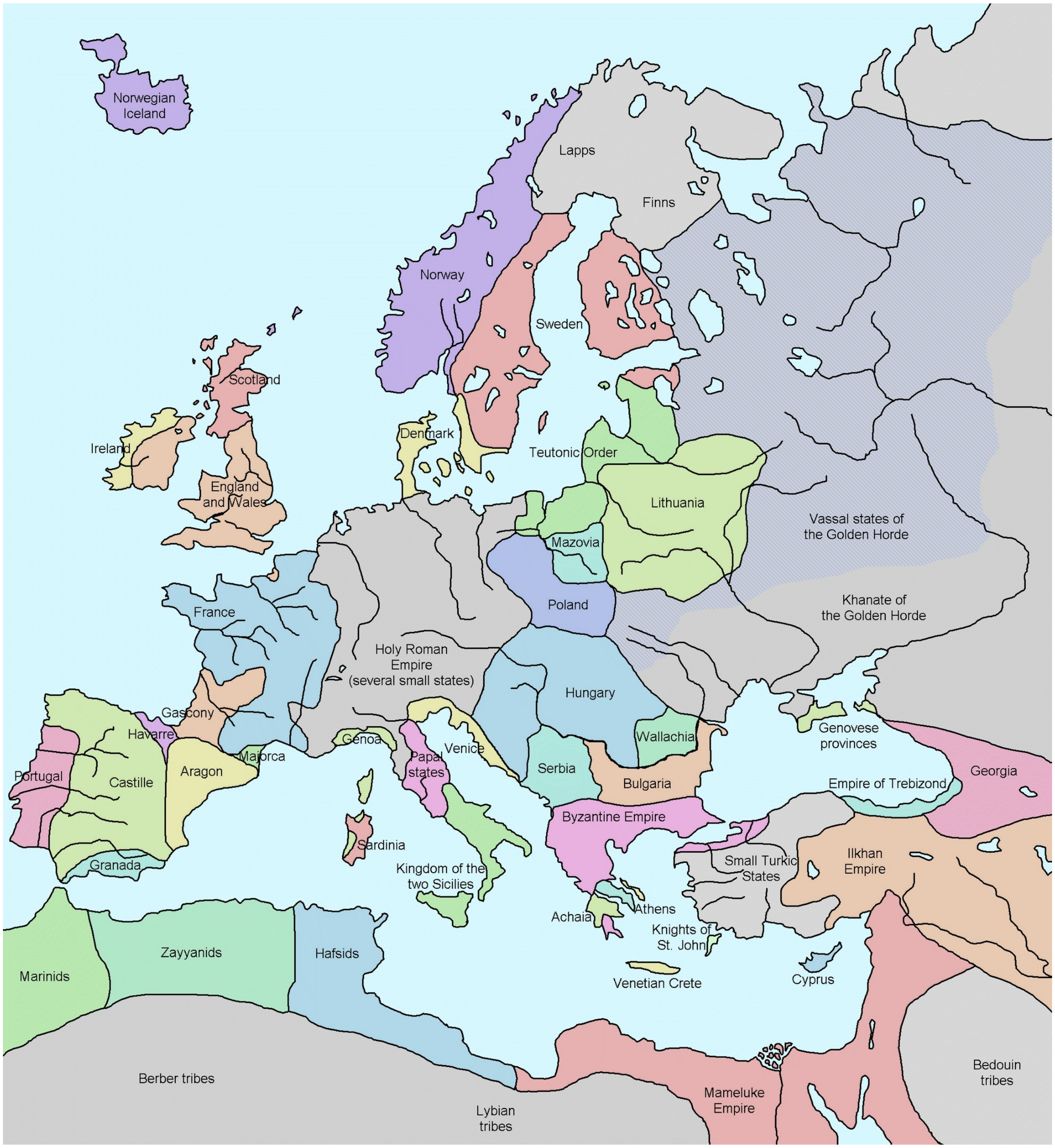
- The rise of the Ottoman Empire
- The Reformation and Counter-Reformation
- The Sengoku and Sakoku period
- The Spanish Reconquista
- The Age of Discovery
- Influence of Mughal politics and culture over India
- The spread of Islam in Indonesia
- The Columbian exchange and European colonization of the Americas
- The Atlantic slave trade

- The rise of mercantilism and capitalism
- The Golden Age of Piracy
- Stagnation of the Ottoman Empire
- High Qing period

Important events in the early modern period include:

- The spread of the printing press (c. 1460)
- Independence and influence of the Deccan Sultanates (1490–1687)[note 1]
- Ottoman–Persian Wars (1519–1823)
- The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) and the Peace of Westphalia (1648) in Europe
- Transition from Ming to Qing (1618–1683)
- The English Civil War (1642–1651), the Glorious Revolution (1688–1689), and the union of Great Britain (1707)
- Mughal–Maratha Wars (1680–1707)
- The Seven Years' War (1756–1763) in Europe and North America
- Development of the Watt steam engine (1763–1775)
- The American War of Independence from the British Empire (1775–1783)
- The French Revolution (1789–1799) and the Napoleonic Wars in Europe (1803–1815)
- The Congress of Vienna at the end of the Napoleonic Wars
- Latin American wars of independence (c. early 19th century)

history, holy roman empire, journal: nice map from 1328 shows territorial lines of the Holy Roman Empire

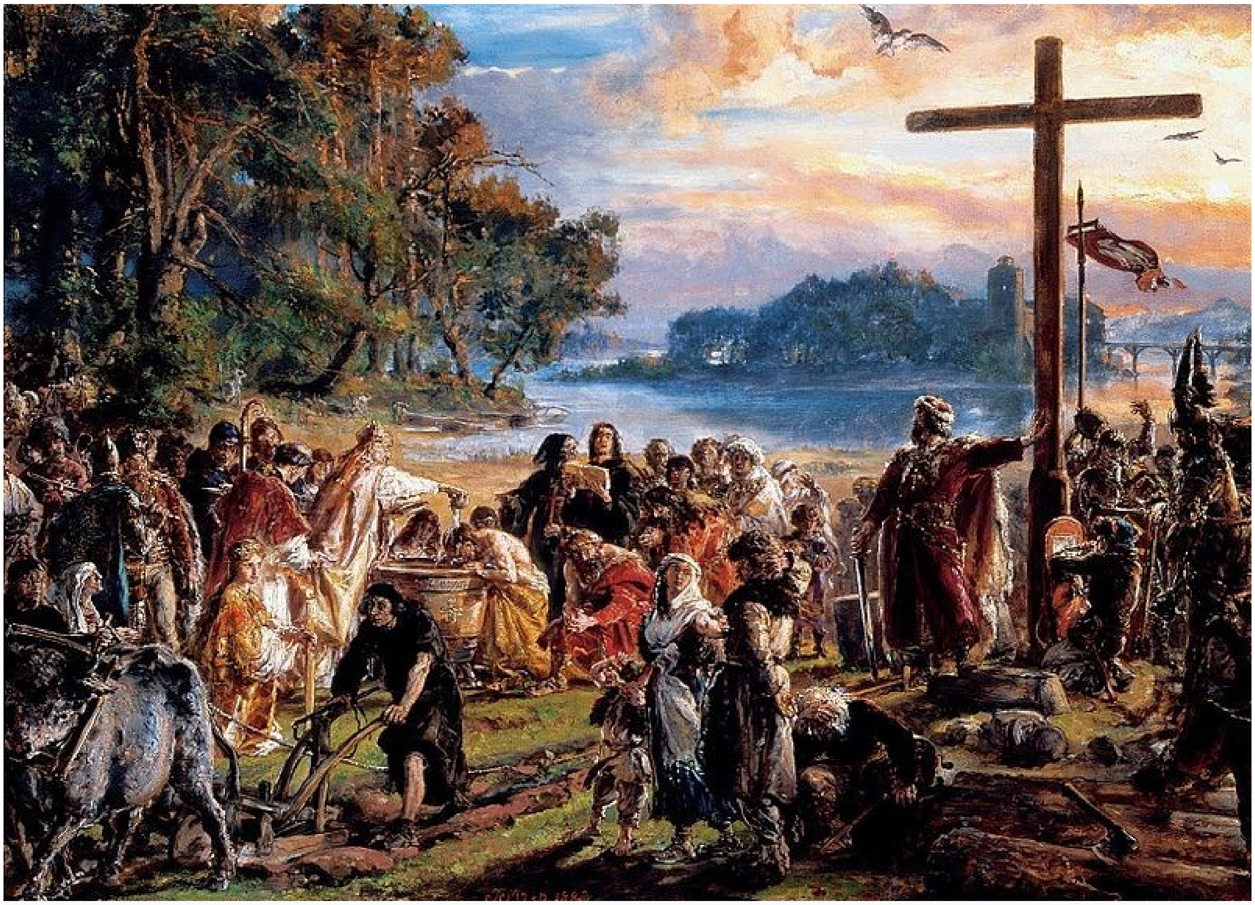

Norwegian Iceland
Lapps
Finns
Norway
Sweden
Scotland
Ireland
Denmark
Teutonic Order
England and Wales
Lithuania
Vassal states of the Golden Horde
Mazovia
France
Poland
Khanate of the Golden Horde
Holy Roman Empire (several small states)
Hungary
Gascony
Havarre
Genoa
Venice
Wallachia
Genovese provinces
Majorca
Aragon
Papal states
Serbia
Georgia
Portugal
Castille
Bulgaria
Empire of Trebizond
Byzantine Empire
Sardinia
Granada
Small Turkic States
Ilkhan Empire
Kingdom of the two Sicilies
Athens
Achaia
Knights of St. John
Zayyanids
Hafsids
Marinids
Venetian Crete
Cyprus
Berber tribes
Bedouin tribes
Mameluke Empire
Lybian tribes

Journal, history, church, holy roman empire, fall of rome: Baptism of Poland in 966, Mieszko converts to Christianity..soviets block pope from visiting poland when they attempt to celebrate 1000 years of Christianity

this shows how the church spread its influence: by providing support to smaller nations, similar to the clients states backed by the United States or

Russia today. These smaller nations, at least the time, lacked the same expertise, knowledge, and resources as the Holy Roman Empire, and thus, people could be used by the church within the nation to subvert the local customs, which would hopefully lead to eventual assimilation.

Baptism[edit]



Mieszko I, the first Christian ruler of Poland. Depicted by Jan Matejko as holding a crucifix in an allusion to the Baptism of Poland.

"The Baptism of Poland" refers to the ceremony when the first ruler of the Polish state, Mieszko I, and much of his court converted to the Christian religion.[5][8] Mieszko's wife Dobrawa of Bohemia, a zealous Christian, played a significant role in promoting Christianity in Poland, and might have had a significant influence on converting Mieszko himself.[1][7]

The exact place of Mieszko's baptism is disputed; Most historians argue that Gniezno or Poznań are the most likely sites.[7][10] However, other historians have suggested alternative locations, such as Ostrów Lednicki, or even in German Regensburg.[10] The date of Mieszko's baptism was 14 April 966, Holy Saturday.[7]

The ceremony was preceded by a week of oral catechism and several days of fasting. The actual ceremony involved pouring water over the segregated groups of men and women, although it is possible that their heads were immersed instead, and anointed with the chrism.[7]

Christianization of Poland[edit]

The baptismal mission which began in the two major cities of Gniezno and Poznań with the baptism of Mieszko and his court spread throughout the country.[7] During the 10th and 11th centuries various ecclesiastical organs were established in Poland.[3][5] This included the building of churches and the appointment of clergy.[3][7] The first Bishop of Poland, Jordan, was appointed by Pope John XIII in 968.[7] Mieszko's son Bolesław I Chrobry supported Christianization missions to neighboring lands, notably the mission of future Saint Adalbert of Prague to Old Prussians, and established the Archbishopric of Gniezno in the year 1000.[8]

Although at first the Christian religion was "unpopular and alien", Mieszko's baptism was highly influential[3] but needed to be enforced by the state, and ran into some popular opposition, including an uprising in the 1030s (particularly intense in the years of 1035–1037).[5][9] Nonetheless, by that time Poland had won recognition as a proper European state, from both the papacy and the Holy Roman Empire.[11]

Out of various provinces of today's Poland, Christianity's spread was slowest in Pomerania, where it gained a significant following only around the 12th century.[5] Initially, the clergy came from the Western Christian European countries; native Polish clergy took three or four generations to emerge, and were supported by the monasteries and friars that grew increasingly common in the 12th century.[3] By the 13th century Roman Catholicism had become the dominant religion throughout Poland.[3]

In adopting Christianity as the state religion, Mieszko sought to achieve several personal goals.[5] He saw Poland's baptism as a way of strengthening his hold on power, as well as using it as a unifying force for the Polish people.[5][8] It replaced several smaller cults with a single, central one, clearly associated with the royal court.[7] It would also improve the position and respectability of the Polish state on the international, European scene.[7][8] The Church also helped to strengthen the monarch's authority and brought to Poland much experience with regard to state administration. Thus, the Church organisation supported the state, and in return, bishops received important government titles (in the later era, they were members of the Senate of Poland).[5]

In 1966, the People's Republic of Poland witnessed large festivities on the 1,000th anniversary of those events, with the Church celebrating the 1,000 years of Christianity in Poland, while the Communist government celebrated the secular 1,000 years of the Polish State, culminated in twice denying Pope Paul VI permission to visit Poland that year. The desire of the Communist party to separate religion from the state made the festivities a culture clash between the state and the Church. While the Church was focusing on the religious, ecclesiastical aspects of the baptism, with slogans (in Latin) like *Sacrum Poloniae Millenium* (Poland's Sacred Millennium), the Communist Party was framing the celebrations as a secular, political anniversary of the creation of the Polish state, with slogans (in Polish) like *Tysiąclecie Państwa Polskiego* (A Thousand Years of the Polish State). As Norman Davies noted, both the Church and the Party had "rival, and mutually exclusive, interpretations of [Poland's baptism] significance".[12]

On 30 July 1966, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing issued 128,475,000 commemorative stamps honoring the millennium anniversary of the adoption of Christianity in Poland.[13]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianization_of_Poland#Baptism

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piast_dynasty

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Poland_during_the_Piast_dynasty

History of Civilization in Poland

2 languages

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from Christianization of Poland A.D. 966.)

Introduction of Christianity to Poland, A.D. 966, the first painting in the series

History of Civilization in Poland (Polish: ***Dzieje Cywilizacji w Polsce***) is a cycle of twelve oil sketches on canvas and wood, created by the Polish nominal painter Jan Matejko in 1889 with accompanying commentaries. The originals are kept at the Museum of the Royal Castle, Warsaw.[1]

History[edit]

Matejko created his series along with an accompanying commentary in part to fulfill a set of research requirements for his new academic title, the degree of Doctor of Philosophy honoris causa, which he received from the Jagiellonian University.[2][3] Much of the imagery of the cycle has been inspired by the lectures of historian Józef Szujski which Matejko might have attended around 1877–1878, or read in print afterward.[4]

The works in the series[edit]

The cycle consists of the following paintings:

#	Title
1.	*Zaprowadzenie chrześcijaństwa* (Adoption of Christianity) 1889, oil on wood panel, 79cm x 120cm
2.	*Koronacja pierwszego króla* (Coronation of the First King) 1889, oil on wood panel, 71cm x 105cm
3.	*Przyjęcie Żydów* (Reception of the Jews) 1889, oil on canvas, 76cm x 112cm
4.	*W Łęczycy pierwszy sejm - Spisanie praw - Ukrócenie rozbojów* (The First Parliament in Łęczyca) 1888, oil on wood panel, 74cm x 110cm
5.	*Klęska Legnicka - Odrodzenie* (Defeat at Legnica) 1888, oil on wood panel, 74.5cm x 109.5cm
6.	*Powtórne zajęcie Rusi - Bogactwo i oświata* (Retaking of Rus) 1888, oil on wood panel, 79.5cm x 110cm
7.	*Założenie Szkoły Głównej przeniesieniem do Krakowa ugruntowane* (Founding of the Academy) 1889, oil on wood panel, 79.5cm x 62cm
8.	*Chrzest Litwy* (The Baptism of Lithuania) 1889, oil on canvas, 60cm x 115.5cm
9.	*Wpływ Uniwersytetu na kraj w wieku XV - Nowe prądy - Husytyzm i Humanizm* (New Trends in the 15 Century Poland) 1889, oil on wood panel, 69cm x 116cm
10.	*Złoty wiek literatury w XVI wieku - Reformacja - Przewaga katolicyzmu* (The Golden Age in Literature) 1889, oil on wood panel, 69cm x 107cm
11.	*Potęga Rzeczypospolitej u zenitu - Złota wolność - Elekcja* (Power of Commonwealth at its Zenith) 1889, oil on canvas, 72.5cm x 113cm
12.	*Konstytucja 3 maja - Sejm Czteroletni - Komisja Edukacyjna* (Constitution of the 3 May) 1889, oil on wood panel, 79cm x 120cm - Another painting, not based on this sketch, *Constitution of May 3, 1791*, was completed in 1891.

Piast dynasty

52 languages

- Article
- Talk
  - Read
  - Edit
  - View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about a Polish dynasty. For other uses, see Piast (disambiguation).

Piast

Country	• Kingdom of Poland • Kingdom of Galicia–Volhynia • Duchy of Mazovia • Duchy of Silesia • Duchies of Silesia • Duchy of Bohemia
Founded	c. 960
Founder	Mieszko I of Poland
Final ruler	Casimir the Great, in the Kingdom of Poland, and George IV William of Legnica, in the Silesian duchies
Titles	• King of Poland • King of Ruthenia • Duke of the Polans • Duke of Poland • Duke of Krakow • Duke of Kuyavia • Duke of Mazovia • Duke of Sandomierz • Duke of Greater Poland • Duke of Silesia • Duke of Sieradz-Łęczyca • Duke of Bohemia
Dissoluti	1370, in the Kingdom of Poland, and 1675, in

on	the Duchies of Silesia
Branches	- Silesian Piasts, the agnatically senior and later last surviving branch of the dynasty - Masovian Piasts - House of Griffins[1][2] (uncertain)

The **House of Piast** was the first historical ruling dynasty of Poland.[3] The first documented Polish monarch was Duke Mieszko I (c. 930–992).[4] The Piasts' royal rule in Poland ended in 1370 with the death of king Casimir III the Great.

Branches of the Piast dynasty continued to rule in the Duchy of Masovia and in the Duchies of Silesia until the last male Silesian Piast died in 1675. The Piasts intermarried with several noble lines of Europe, and possessed numerous titles, some within the Holy Roman Empire. The Jagiellonian kings after John I Albert were also descended in the female line from Casimir III's daughter.

Inquisition, famous trial was galileo in 1633..

During the Late Middle Ages and the early Renaissance, the scope of the Inquisition grew significantly in response to the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter-Reformation. During this period, the Inquisition conducted by the Holy See was known as the Roman Inquisition. The Inquisition also expanded to other European countries,[5] resulting in the Spanish Inquisition and the Portuguese Inquisition. The Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions focused particularly on the anusim (people who were forced to abandon Judaism against their will) and on Muslim converts to Catholicism. The scale of the persecution of converted Muslims and converted Jews in Spain and Portugal was the result of suspicions that they had secretly reverted to their previous religions, although both religious minority groups were also more numerous on the Iberian Peninsula than in other parts of Europe.

During this time, Spain and Portugal operated inquisitorial courts not only in Europe, but also throughout their empires in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. This resulted in the Goa Inquisition, the Peruvian Inquisition, and the Mexican Inquisition, among others.[6]

With the exception of the Papal States, the institution of the Inquisition was abolished in the early 19th century, after the Napoleonic Wars in Europe and the Spanish American wars of independence in the Americas. The institution survived as part of the Roman Curia, but in 1908 it was renamed the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office. In 1965, it became the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.[7]

With the Protestant Reformation, Catholic authorities became much more ready to suspect heresy in any new ideas,[50] including those of Renaissance humanism,[51] previously strongly supported by many at the top of the Church hierarchy. The extirpation of heretics became a much broader and more complex enterprise, complicated by the politics of territorial Protestant powers, especially in northern

Europe. The Catholic Church could no longer exercise direct influence in the politics and justice-systems of lands that officially adopted Protestantism. Thus war (the French Wars of Religion, the Thirty Years' War), massacre (the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre) and the missional[52] and propaganda work (by the *Sacra congregatio de propaganda fide*)[53] of the Counter-Reformation came to play larger roles in these circumstances, and the Roman law type of a "judicial" approach to heresy represented by the Inquisition became less important overall. In 1542 Pope Paul III established the Congregation of the Holy Office of the Inquisition as a permanent congregation staffed with cardinals and other officials. It had the tasks of maintaining and defending the integrity of the faith and of examining and proscribing errors and false doctrines; it thus became the supervisory body of local Inquisitions.[54] A famous case tried by the Roman Inquisition was that of Galileo Galilei in 1633.

holy roman empire, history, journal, stats: catholic counter-reformation: "Counter-Reformation, or Catholic Reformation, In Roman Catholicism, efforts in the 16th and early 17th centuries to oppose the Protestant Reformation and reform the Catholic church. Early efforts grew out of criticism of the worldliness and corruption of the papacy and clergy during the Renaissance."

Paul III (r. 1534–49) was the first pope to respond, convening the important Council of Trent (1545–63), which reacted to Protestant teachings on faith, grace, and the sacraments and attempted to reform training for the priesthood. The Roman Inquisition was established in 1542 to control heresy within Catholic territories, and the Jesuits under St. Ignatius of Loyola undertook educational and missionary work aimed at conversion or reconversion. Emperors Charles V and Philip II took military action against Protestant growth. Later popes of the Counter-Reformation included Pius V, Gregory XIII, and Sixtus V. Saints Charles Borromeo, Philip Neri, John of the Cross, Teresa of Ávila, Francis de Sales, and Vincent de Paul were among the most influential reforming figures.

The Roman Inquisition began in 1542 as part of the Catholic Church's Counter-Reformation against the spread of Protestantism, but it represented a less harsh affair than the previously established Spanish Inquisition.[3] In 1588,[4] Pope Sixtus V established, with *Immensa Aeterni Dei*, 15 congregations of the Roman Curia of which the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition was one. In

1908, the congregation was renamed the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office and in 1965 it was renamed again and is now known as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

While the Roman Inquisition was originally designed to combat the spread of Protestantism in Italy, the institution outlived that original purpose and the system of tribunals lasted until the mid 18th century, when pre-unification Italian states began to suppress the local inquisitions, effectively eliminating the power of the church to prosecute heretical crimes.

Roman Inquisition

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Part of a series on the

Roman Curia

show

Secretariat of State

show

Dicasteries

show

Institutions of justice

show

Institutions of finance

show

Offices

show

Institutes

show

Interdicasterial commissions

show

The **Roman Inquisition**, formally the **Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition**, was a system of partisan tribunals developed by the Holy See of the Roman Catholic Church, during the second half of the 16th century, responsible for prosecuting individuals accused of a wide array of crimes according to Roman Catholic law and doctrine, relating to catholic religious life or alternative religious or secular beliefs. It was established in 1542 by the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Paul III. In the period after the Medieval Inquisition, it was one of three different manifestations of the wider Catholic Inquisition along with the Spanish Inquisition and Portuguese Inquisition.

Function and functioning[edit]

Main function of the institution was to maintain and implement papal bulls and other church rulings, in addition to their function of administering legalistic ramifications upon deviants of Catholic orthodoxy within states that cooperated with the pope and ostensibly exhibiting proper procedure to Catholic states in the process of formulating the Counter-Reformation.[1] The papal bull *Ad abolendam*, by Lucius III, prescribed penalties for heretical clerics and laymen and established a procedure of systematic inquisition by bishops; the third canon of the fourth Lateran Concile (1215) specified procedures against heretics and their accomplices. Clerics were to be degraded from their orders, lay persons were to be branded as infamous and not be admitted to public offices or councils or to run a business, will not have the freedom to make a will nor shall succeed to an inheritance, goods were to be confiscated. A secular leader who "neglects to cleanse his territory of this heretical filth" would be excommunicated and the supreme pontiff could declare his vassals absolved from their fealty to him and make the land available for occupation by Catholics who would possess it unopposed and preserve it in the purity of the faith.[2]

The organisational system of the Roman Inquisition did differ essentially from that of the Medieval Inquisition. Typically, the pope appointed one cardinal to preside over meetings of the Congregation. Though often referred to in historical literature as *Grand Inquisitors*, the role was substantially different from the formally appointed Grand Inquisitor of the Spanish Inquisition. There were usually ten other cardinals who were members of the Congregation, as well as a prelate and two assistants all chosen from the Dominican Order. The Holy Office also had an international group of consultants; experienced scholars of theology and canon law who advised on specific questions. The congregation, in turn, presided over the activity of local tribunals.

History[edit]

The Roman Inquisition began in 1542 as part of the Catholic Church's Counter-Reformation against the spread of Protestantism, but it represented a less harsh affair than the previously established Spanish Inquisition.[3] In 1588,[4] Pope Sixtus V established, with *Immensa Aeterni Dei*, 15 congregations of the Roman Curia of which the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition was one. In 1908, the congregation was renamed the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office and in 1965 it was renamed again and is now known as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

While the Roman Inquisition was originally designed to combat the spread of Protestantism in Italy, the institution outlived that original purpose and the system of tribunals lasted until the mid 18th century, when pre-unification Italian states began to suppress the local inquisitions, effectively eliminating the power of the church to prosecute heretical crimes.

Holy roman empire, history: plague timeline: The second plague pandemic was a major series of epidemics of plague that started with the Black Death, which reached Europe in 1348 and killed up to half of the population of Eurasia in the next four years. Although the plague died out in most places, it became endemic and recurred regularly. A series of major epidemics occurred in the late 17th-century,

There have been three major outbreaks of plague. The Plague of Justinian in the 6th and 7th centuries is the first known attack on record, and marks the first firmly recorded pattern of plague. From historical descriptions, as much as 40% of the population of Constantinople died from the plague. Modern estimates suggest that half of Europe's population died as a result of this first plague pandemic before it disappeared in the 700s.[5] After 750, plague did not appear again in Europe until the Black Death of the 14th-century.[6]

The second pandemic's origins are disputed; originating either in Central Asia or Crimea,[7][8][9][10][11][12][13] and appearing in Crimea by 1347. It may have reduced world population from an estimated 450 million to 350–375 million by the year 1400.[14] A study published in the journal *Nature* in June 2022 found evidence for *Yersinia pestis* in the teeth of early plague victims in the Tian Shan mountains, now north Kyrgyzstan, indicating a likely origin of that iteration of the plague.[15]

The plague returned at intervals with varying virulence and mortality until the early 19th-century. In England, for example, the plague returned between 1360 and 1363, killing 20% of Londoners, and then again in 1369, killing 10–15%.[16]

In the 16th-century, the plague hit San Cristóbal de La Laguna in the Canary Islands between 1582 and 1583.[17]

In the 17th-century, there were a series of "great plague" outbreaks: the Great Plague of Seville between 1647 and 1652, the Great Plague of London between 1665 and 1666,[18] and the Great Plague of Vienna in 1679.

In the 18th-century, there was the Great Plague of Marseille, which took place between 1720 and 1722;[19] the Great Plague of 1738, which occurred in Eastern Europe between 1738 and 1740; and the Russian plague of 1770–1772, which took place in Central Russia, and particularly affected Moscow. However, the plague in its virulent form seemed to gradually disappear from Europe, though lingering in Egypt and the Middle East.

By the early 19th-century, the threat of plague had diminished, though it was quickly replaced by the spread of another deadly, infectious disease in the first cholera pandemic, beginning in 1817; the first of several cholera pandemics to sweep through Asia and Europe during the 19th and 20th centuries.[20]

The third plague pandemic hit China in the 1890s and devastated India. While it was largely contained in the East, it became endemic in the western United States, where sporadic outbreaks of plague continue to occur.[11]

Black Death[edit]

The **Black Death** (also known as the **Pestilence**, the **Great Mortality** or the **Plague**)[a] was a bubonic plague pandemic occurring in Western Eurasia and North Africa from 1346 to 1353. It is the most fatal pandemic recorded in human history, causing the deaths of 75–200 million people,[1] peaking in Europe from 1347 to 1351.[2][3]

The Black Death was the second great natural disaster to strike Europe during the Late Middle Ages (the first one being the Great Famine of 1315–1317) and is estimated to have killed 30 percent to 60 percent of the European population, as well as about one-third of the population of the Middle East; European population did not regain its level in 1300 until 1500

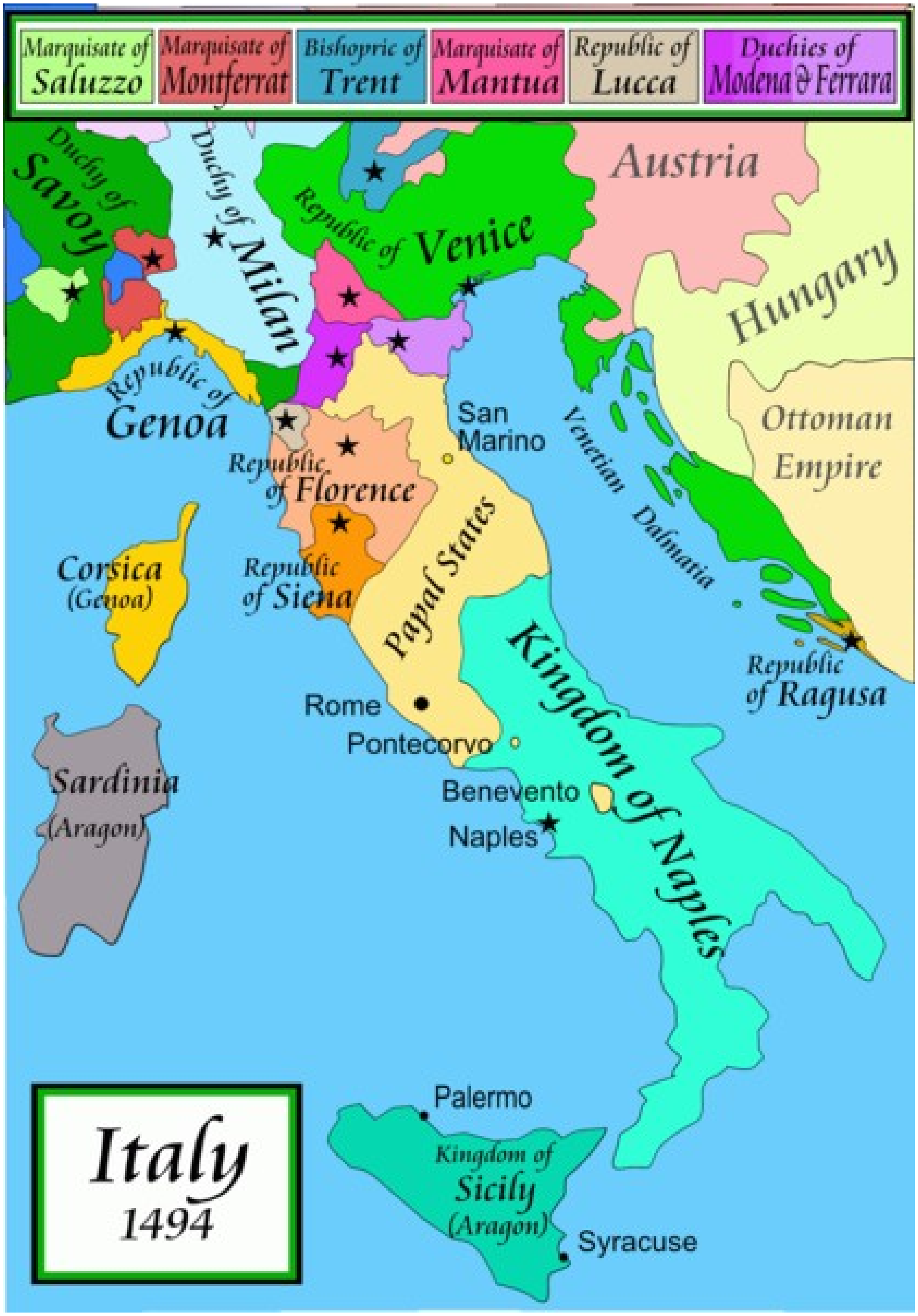
mini outbreaks recurred throughout history. rough timeline was provided on wikipedia

The plague repeatedly returned to haunt Europe and the Mediterranean throughout the 14th to 17th centuries.[159] According to Jean-Noël Biraben, the plague was present somewhere in Europe in every year between 1346 and 1671.[160] (Note that some researchers have cautions about the uncritical use of Biraben's data.[161]) The second pandemic was particularly widespread in the following years: 1360–63; 1374; 1400; 1438–39; 1456–57; 1464–66; 1481–85; 1500–03; 1518–31; 1544–48; 1563–66; 1573–88; 1596–99; 1602–11; 1623–40; 1644–54; and 1664–67. Subsequent outbreaks, though severe, marked the retreat from most of Europe (18th century) and northern Africa (19th century).[162] The historian George Sussman argued that the plague had not occurred in East Africa until the 1900s.[83] However, other sources suggest that the Second pandemic did indeed reach Sub-Saharan Africa.[108]

According to historian Geoffrey Parker, "France alone lost almost a million people to the plague in the epidemic of 1628–31."[163] In the first half of the 17th century, a plague killed some 1.7 million people in Italy.[164] More than 1.25 million deaths resulted from the extreme incidence of plague in 17th-century Spain.[165]

The Black Death ravaged much of the Islamic world.[166] Plague was present in at least one location in the Islamic world virtually every year between 1500 and 1850.[167] Plague repeatedly struck the cities of North Africa. Algiers lost 30,000–50,000 inhabitants to it in 1620–21, and again in 1654–57, 1665, 1691, and 1740–42.[168] Cairo suffered more than fifty plague epidemics within 150 years from the plague's first appearance, with the final outbreak of the second pandemic there in the 1840s.[110] Plague remained a major event in Ottoman society until the second quarter of the 19th century. Between 1701 and 1750, thirty-seven larger and smaller epidemics were recorded in Constantinople, and an additional thirty-one between 1751 and 1800.[169] Baghdad has suffered severely from visitations of the plague, and sometimes two-thirds of its population had died.[170]

holy roman empire, history, stats: Political map of Italy in early 1494, before the invasion of Italy by Charles VIII of France, created by MapMaster


Marquisate of Saluzzo
Marquisate of Montferrat
Bishopric of Trent
Marquisate of Mantua
Republic of Lucca
Duchies of Modena & Ferrara
Duchy of Savoy
Duchy of Milan
Republic of Venice
Austria
Hungary
Republic of Genoa
San Marino
Venetian Dalmatia
Ottoman Empire
Republic of Florence
Corsica (Genoa)
Republic of Siena
Papal States
Kingdom of Naples
Republic of Ragusa
Rome
Pontecorvo
Sardinia (Aragon)
Benevento
Naples
Palermo
Kingdom of Sicily (Aragon)
Syracuse
Italy
1494

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ File:Italy_1494_AD.png

history, holy roman empire, journal, stats: islam has its own version of the inquisition of the holy se, or institution involved in the matter of upholding civil religious orders.

Islamic religious police

18 languages

- Article
- Talk
  - Read
  - Edit
  - View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Part of a series on

Islamization

show

Islamizations

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Islamic religious police (also sometimes known as **morality police** or **sharia police**) are official Islamic vice squad police agencies, often in Islamic countries, which enforce religious observance and public morality on behalf of national or regional authorities based on its interpretation of sharia.[1][2] Modern Islamic religious police forces were first established in the late-1970s amidst the Iranian Revolution and the Islamic revival the revolution brought; prior, the administration of public morality in most Islamic countries was considered a socioreligious matter, and was enforced through application of civil laws or through more informal means.

Church, holy roman empire, history: **Tomás de Torquemada[a] OP (14 October 1420 – 16 September 1498), also anglicized as Thomas of Torquemada, was a Castilian Dominican friar and first Grand Inquisitor of the Tribunal of the Holy Office (otherwise known as the Spanish Inquisition). , first introduced in 1478: charged with the somewhat ill-defined task of "upholding Catholic religious orthodoxy" within the lands of the newly formed union of the crowns of Castile and Aragon. The lands of this newly formed royal union are now known as the Kingdom of Spain.The number of burnings at the stake during Torquemada's tenure has been estimated at about 2,000.[7]**

first Grand Inquisitor of the Tribunal of the Holy Office (otherwise known as the Spanish Inquisition). The Spanish Inquisition was a group of ecclesiastical prelates that was created in 1478, and which was charged with the somewhat ill-defined task of "upholding Catholic religious orthodoxy" within the lands of the newly formed union of the crowns of Castile and Aragon. The lands of this newly formed royal union are now known as the Kingdom of Spain.

Mainly because of persecution, Muslims and Jews in Castile and Aragon at that time found it socially, politically, and economically expedient to convert to Catholicism (see *Converso*, Morisco, and Marrano).[1] The existence of superficial converts from Judaism (i.e., Crypto-Jews)[2] was perceived by the Catholic Monarchs as a threat to the religious and social life in their realms.[3] This led Torquemada, who himself was believed to have had converso ancestors,[4] to be one of the chief supporters of the Alhambra Decree that expelled the Jews from the Crowns of Castile and Aragon in 1492.

Owing to the perception of widespread use of torture to extract confessions, and advocacy of burning at the stake those deemed guilty, Torquemada's name has become synonymous with cruelty, religious intolerance, and fanaticism.[5] Although torture was included in inquisition manuals from 1252 onward, it is largely absent from trial records, suggesting that while torture was allowed, it was rarely used.[6]

Establishment of the Holy Office of the Inquisition[edit]

Torquemada deeply feared the Marrano and Morisco as a menace to Spain's welfare by both their increasing religious influence and their economic domination of Spain.[14] The Crown of Aragon had Dominican inquisitors almost continuously throughout much of the 14th and the 15th centuries. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella petitioned Pope Sixtus

IV to grant their request for a Holy Office to administer an inquisition in Spain. The Pope granted their request and established the Holy Office for the Propagation of the Faith in late 1478.

The papal bull gave the sovereigns full powers to name inquisitors. Rome retained the right to formally appoint the royal nominees. Henry Charles Lea observed that the Spanish Inquisition in both Castile and Aragon remained firmly under Ferdinand's direction throughout the joint reign.[15]

Grand Inquisitor[edit]

The Pope went on to appoint a number of inquisitors for the Spanish Kingdoms in early 1482, including Torquemada. A year later he was named Grand Inquisitor of Spain, which he remained until his death in 1498. In 1484, Torquemada relinquished his role as royal confessor to Diego Deza, a Dominican who would eventually succeed him as Grand Inquisitor. The following year, at a general assembly in Seville, Torquemada promulgated the twenty-eight articles of faith that would be used to guide the inquisitors' investigations.[16]

In the fifteen years under his direction, the Spanish Inquisition grew from a single tribunal at Seville to a network of two dozen Holy Offices.[17] As Grand Inquisitor, Torquemada reorganized the Spanish Inquisition (originally based in Castile in 1478), establishing tribunals in Sevilla, Jaén, Córdoba, Ciudad Real and (later) Saragossa. His quest was to rid Spain of all heresy. The Spanish chronicler Sebastián de Olmedo called him "the hammer of heretics, the light of Spain, the savior of his country, the honor of his order."

The Treaty of Granada (1491), as negotiated at the final surrender of the Muslim state of Al-Andalus, clearly mandated protection of religious rights,[18] but this was reversed just over 3 months later by the Alhambra Decree of March 31, 1492. Under the new decree, approximately 40,000 Jews were expelled from Spain with only their personal possessions. Approximately 50,000 other Jews received Christian baptism to remain in Spain. Many of them, derogatorily dubbed "Marranos" by the Old Christian majority, secretly kept some of their Jewish traditions.[19] They were among the chief targets of the Inquisition, but it also pursued anyone who criticized it.

So many clemency petitions were sent to Rome that the Pope became aware of Torquemada's severity, and three times he had called the Inquisition's representatives to Rome. In addition, Isabella and Ferdinand were concerned that so much money was being diverted to the Holy Office that they too protested to the Pope. But Torquemada's power kept him in his position until at least 1494.[16]

There are various estimates of the number of victims of the Spanish Inquisition during Torquemada's reign as Grand Inquisitor. Hernando del Pulgar, Queen Isabella's secretary, wrote that 2,000 executions took place throughout the entirety of her reign, which extended well beyond Torquemada's death.[20]

holy roman empire, history: irish destruction in the 1500's during the catholic counter-reformation

Generally, Irish nationalism is regarded as having emerged following the Renaissance revival of the concept of the *patria* and the religious struggle between the ideology of the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter-Reformation. At this early stage in the 16th century, Irish nationalism represented an ideal of the native Gaelic Irish and the Old English banding together in common cause, under the banner of Catholicism and Irish civic identity ("faith and fatherland/motherland"),[10] hoping to protect their land and interests from the New English Protestant forces sponsored by England. This vision sought to overcome the old ethnic divide between *Gaeil* (the native Irish) and *Gaill* (the Normans) which had been a feature of Irish life since the 12th century, following the Norman invasion of Ireland.

Protestantism in England introduced a religious element to the 16th-century Tudor conquest of Ireland, as many of the native Gaels and Hiberno-Normans remained Catholic. The Plantations of Ireland dispossessed many native Catholic landowners in favour of Protestant settlers from England and Scotland.[11] In addition, the Plantation of Ulster, which began in 1609, "planted" a sizeable population of English and Scottish Protestant settlers into the north of Ireland.

Irish aristocrats waged many campaigns against the English presence. A prime example is the rebellion of Hugh O'Neill which became known as the Nine Years' War of 1594–1603, which aimed to expel the English and make Ireland a Spanish protectorate.[11]

The green harp flag was first used by Irish Confederate troops in the Eleven Years War, and became the main symbol of Irish nationalism from the 17th to the early 20th century.

A more significant movement came in the 1640s, after the Irish Rebellion of 1641, when a coalition of Gaelic Irish and Old English Catholics set up a *de facto* independent Irish state to fight in the Wars of the Three Kingdoms (*see Confederate Ireland*). The Confederate Catholics of Ireland, also known as the Confederation of Kilkenny, emphasised the idea of Ireland as a Kingdom independent from England, albeit under the same monarch. They demanded autonomy for the Irish Parliament, full rights for Catholics and an end to the confiscation of Catholic-owned land. However, the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland (1649–53) destroyed the Confederate cause and resulted in the permanent dispossession of the old Catholic landowning class.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_nationalism

Stats, government, censorship: feb11 they're goin after your tips now folks..

So Much For Billionaires: Joe Biden's IRS Is Now Coming For Waiters And Waitresses' Tips

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, FEB 10, 2023 - 07:40 PM

The Biden administration's lip service about new IRS enforcement only being targeted toward the country's wealthiest appears to be just that: ***lip service.***

Instead, while we have been distracted with rhetoric about billionaires paying their fair share, the Biden Administration's IRS is ***actually*** looking to stock its coffers with the tips of waiters and waitresses across the country. This newly planned targeting of middle-class Americans was proposed this week.

Earlier this week the IRS proposed a new procedure to "improve tip reporting compliance", as they so brilliantly put it. Fox News reported:

As part of the program, which wouldn't go into effect until after a multi-month public comment period, the IRS could withdraw liability protection related to "rules that define tips as part of an employee's pay" from employers that don't cooperate.

The program can't go into effect until it makes it through a multi-month comment period, Fox News reported.

Rep. Mike Kelly, R-Pa., the chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Tax, told Fox this week: ***"Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. Now, the IRS is going after middle-income families and working moms and dads who are just trying to make ends meet and put food on the table."***

"My colleagues and I have warned for months that the IRS would start targeting hardworking Americans in the Biden administration’s quest for more taxpayer dollars. Now, we’re starting to see some of these concerns come to fruition," he continued.

Rep. Adrian Smith, R-Neb., another senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, agreed.

Smith said: "Bank surveillance efforts, 1099-Ks, 87,000 new IRS agents to target taxpayers, and now a new program to go after service industry workers' tips are all a direct result of the Biden administration's desire to tax working families and small businesses as much as possible."

Smith continued: ***"Make no mistake: the administration's many attempts at raising revenue are because they are unwilling to come to the table to address the debt crisis, which would require curbing their spending addiction."***

"The days of one-party rule are over, and House Republicans will use our majority to ensure hardworking families are not subject to higher taxes and more government mandates, especially not as they struggle under soaring inflation. **Accountability is here – the Biden administration has some explaining to do."**

Rep. Michelle Steel, R-Calif, commented: "When the IRS comes after you, it's not voluntary. Families across the country are struggling with record inflation and fighting to make ends meet. **The last thing waitresses and waiters need is to be targeted by their own government."**

Steel continued: "The House's first order of business this year was to pass my bill to defund President Biden's army of 87,000 IRS agents that were ready to increase audits on middle- and lower-income American families. This new rule doesn't add up with President Biden's claim that he will never come after anyone earning less than $400,000 a year. I strongly oppose this proposed rule and I urge President Biden to reverse course immediately."

Mike Palicz, federal affairs manager at Americans for Tax Reform said the IRS' goal is "to go and grab as much revenue as possible and from whoever they can."

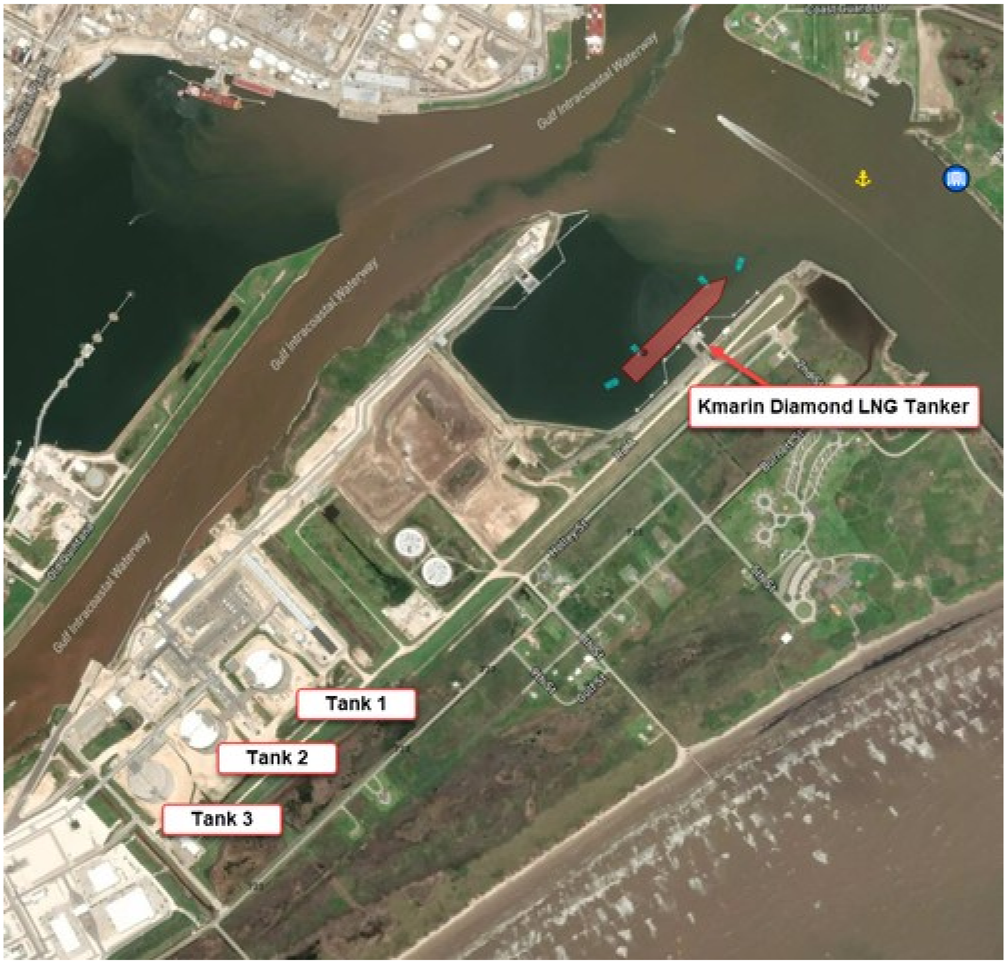
Sanctions, energy, war: First LNG Tanker Arrives At Freeport's Texas Terminal Since 2022 Explosion

About one day after federal energy regulators approved Freeport LNG's request to return vessels to its loading docks, the second-largest US LNG export plant on the Gulf Coast received its first LNG tanker.

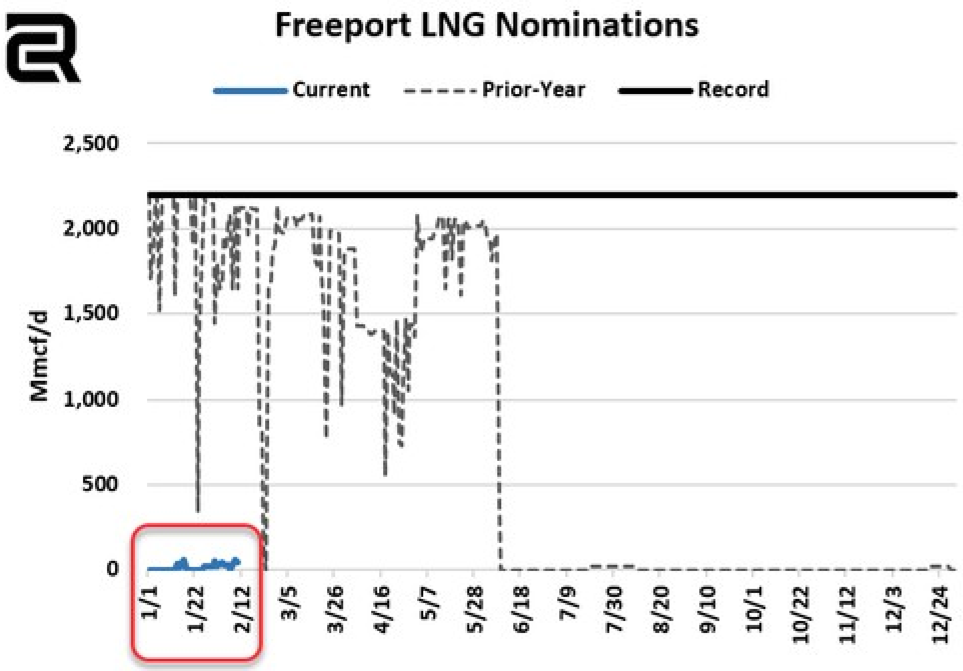
For more on today's developments. Here's what Houston-based energy firm Criterion Research emailed clients:

Freeport LNG made a significant step forward this afternoon with the arrival of its first LNG tanker since June 2022. The Kmarin Diamond is now onsite and at Dock 1, just a day after the FERC gave Freeport permission to return Loop 1 back online, and use Dock 1 for ship loading.

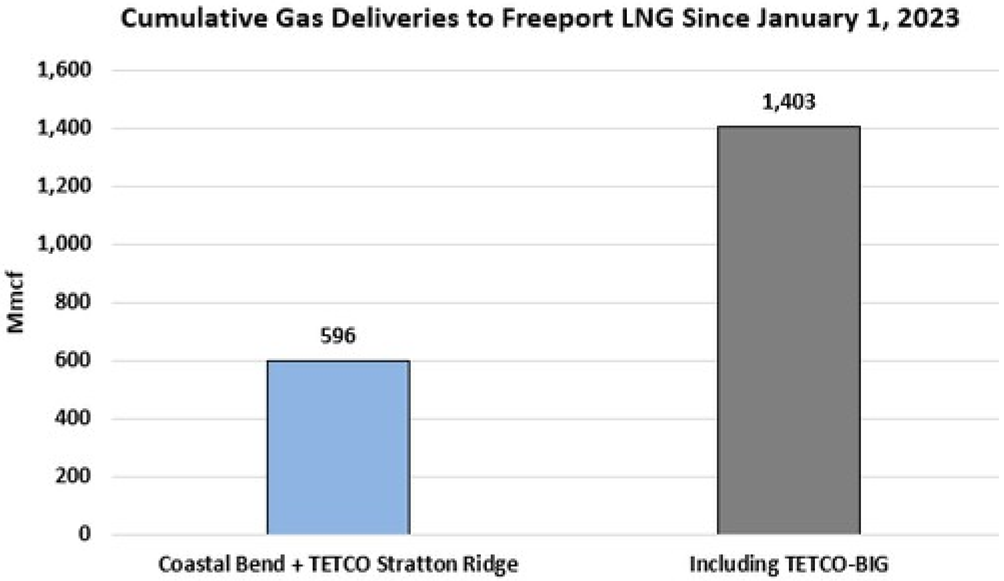
The ship may or may not load down a full cargo, and we believe that the tanker will allow Freeport to offload LNG that has been stored in Tanks #1 and #2 since the terminal shut down.


Kmarin Diamond LNG Tanker
Tank 1
Tank 2
Tank 3
Gulf Intracoastal Waterway
Gulf Intracoastal Waterway
Gulf Intracoastal Waterway

Last week, they were granted approval to "commence commissioning, including cooldown, of the LNG rundown piping system and LNG train 3 (Unit 13)." Freeport is reportedly working through cooldown on Train 3 and rundown work on the line to Tank 2. There is a chance that they start flowing liquefied gas over the weekend as part of that process.



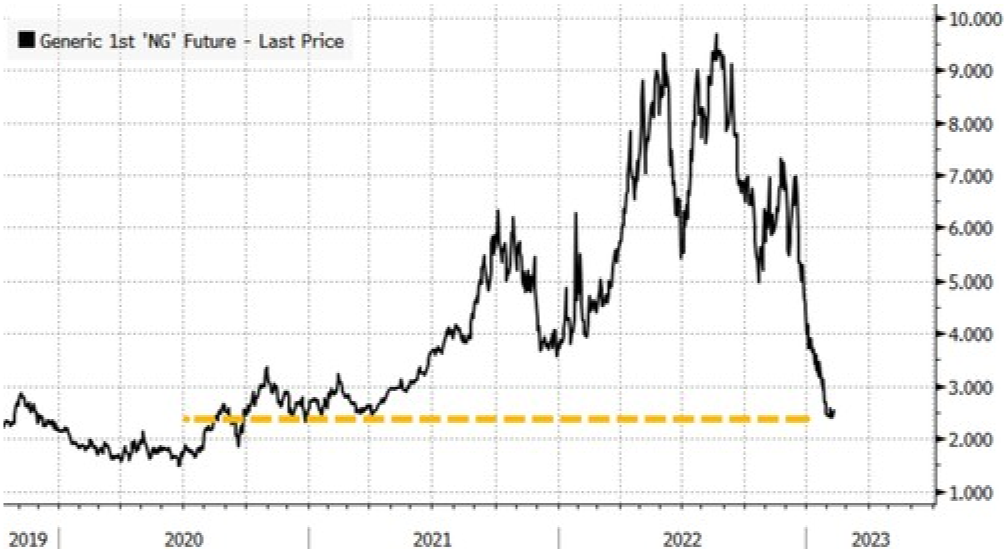
Clearly, they have been flowing at very low rates, with cumulative flows into the terminal since January 1, 2023, totaling 596 Mmcf if you count Coastal Bend and TETCO's Stratton Ridge station, which both feed directly into the terminal. If you also include the indirect TETCO-BIG station, that total increases to 1,403 Bcf.



The terminal still has not requested approval from the FERC to reinstate service of the liquefaction trains, including rundown piping to tanks, so they are not yet bringing in feed gas for liquefaction. They will need to make that request and receive approval before the resumption of commercial service can start.

Some analysts do not expect a partial restart of the LNG export facility until the end of this month.

Traders want to know how US natural gas prices reacted to this news. Well, NatGas futures are up about 5% late in the cash session. Though we should note a combination of a warm winter, soaring production, and adequate supply has led to a 74% plunge in prices since August.



And for a full restart, Freeport still has to ask federal energy regulators for approval.

14 hours ago

remove
link

Oh, joy! Now we can fillerup with United States natural gas and ship it to Europe at exorbitant prices because Biden blew up the Nord Stream pipeline. Ain't subterfuge and intrigue grand?!

play_arrow15play_arrow1

LaugherNYC1
PREMIUM
13 hours ago

Nordstream was being shut down by sanctions anyway, and could be repaired in 3 weeks.

Try again.

play_arrow1play_arrow10

G-ray
13 hours ago

OK buddy

play_arrow2play_arrow

eyewillcomply
10 hours ago

I pity you, G-Ray.

I'll assume you're naive and not privy to actual historical events. If I am correct, please do some homework and realize that the destruction of the Nordstream Pipeline was done by the United States of America. I know it is hard to grasp this if you are like the millions of others who are enthralled by the lying mainstream media which induces you to believe that Russia is evil and NATO is great.
PLEASE... think. Think. Think.
Learn history. Learn motives. Learn who censors. Question. Ascertain.

You will come to an understanding. We will welcome you into the community of thinkers and problem-solvers.

play_arrow4play_arrow1

G-ray
6 hours ago

I completely agree with you. My comment was directed towards LaugherNYC.

play_arrow1play_arrow

GeorgeOrwell1984
11 hours ago

So much for saving the planet when they pollute like that. I am not a green fanatic but common sense is what I strive for and blowing up the pipeline was criminal.

play_arrow3play_arrow

MadBrewer
10 hours ago

BOIL

ProShares Ultra DJ-UBS Natural Gas (2x)

6.69

+0.72 (+12.06%)

Cheers

play_arrow1play_arrow

ZH Influencer
14 hours ago

Biden and his (((frogmen))) will blow it up again if Nat Gas prices get too high domestically.

play_arrow8play_arrow

System Down
14 hours ago

I was thinking Russia might get revenge by going d'anconia copper on the port. But your idea is just as likely. And just as likely to be carried out by our new US Navy terrorists.

play_arrow7play_arrow

truth or go home
13 hours ago

They aren't owned by the United States. Japan built several of them.

play_arrowplay_arrow

inflation millionaire
14 hours ago

This is our resources going out of our country, right?

play_arrow7play_arrow

tyberious
14 hours ago

Gotta feed the Euro Vassals!

play_arrow1play_arrow

SkinnyDoogan
PREMIUM
13 hours ago

No.

They are not our resources. This is not a socialist economy yet.

The gas belongs to the owners of the gas which I would guess is not you.

The owners of these resrources the have a moral duty to sell it to the highest bidder.

play_arrow4play_arrow2

inflation millionaire
13 hours ago

These companies get no assistance from the US tax payer?

Giveme a****ing break.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

cocoa2000
11 hours ago

What taxpayers? They PRINT the money

play_arrowplay_arrow

GeorgeOrwell1984
11 hours ago

What about the tax breaks and political benefits.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Blankone
12 hours ago

Does that apply to computer chips also? Sell to the highest bidder? How about super computers?

play_arrow1play_arrow

GeorgeOrwell1984
11 hours ago

The Oligarchy care about their bank accounts more than they do about their country. There is no "moral duty" involved in those actions.

play_arrowplay_arrow

LaugherNYC1
PREMIUM
13 hours ago

We have enough NatGas for 200 years.

Selling it to Europe is just fine as long as our companies and shareholders make the profits.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

Blankone
12 hours ago

Many are already finding their utilities companies have doubled the per unit of natural gas since just last year. The NG needs to say IN the USA.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

cocoa2000
11 hours ago

Define our? Do you own of AR or eqt?

play_arrowplay_arrow

bshirley1968
PREMIUM
11 hours ago
(Edited)

What we are witnessing is an all out attempt to neutralize Russia's nut hold on the energy destiny of this world.

Russia can destroy the West without firing a shot by starving the West's economy and debt tumor of the energy it needs. Without that energy, Western society will collapse and eat itself from within.

That is the threat to Western hegemony. That is the reason there is an all out press on energy reduction and conservation.   They are trying to insulate themselves from Russian energy influence and cut Russia off from its income resources and leverage.

play_arrow4play_arrow

A fool and his money
14 hours ago

Got in UNG last week

It will fly again since we can export and screw us in the name of Ukraine

play_arrow4play_arrow

cocoa2000
11 hours ago

Bot boil thursday 5.93

play_arrowplay_arrow

dog
14 hours ago

Damn I have been waiting for BOIL to turn around and it is starting to look like it’s time to jump in that frying pan.

play_arrow4play_arrow

cocoa2000
11 hours ago

Yep,,freakin white knuckle trading I haven't slept all week.

play_arrow1play_arrow

paid_attention
12 hours ago

Biden's not going to send black ops to blow it up again??

play_arrow3play_arrow

truth or go home
13 hours ago

Those LNG plants are just giant air conditioners that cool the gas down to a liquid temperature, then hold it under pressure. They cost $6-8 billion to build.

I could hardly believe it, but I heard one shipment of LNG is worth something like $3.5 Billion

play_arrow2play_arrow

BingoBoggins
12 hours ago

wtf? those numbers are staggering.

play_arrow2play_arrow

End Times Prophecies
13 hours ago

Yeh well that don't mean sheit. The Market Price for a dozen eggs is just over $2,00 since DECEMBER and it's still $5.00 in the PoS criminal price gouging stores. WTF is taking so long for the corresponding drop on the retail end?

My analysis is accurate. 85% of so called inflation is market manipulated stealing and rest is inflation. One criminal corporation after another with one planned event after another has been used to steal Trillions over the last two years. Simple and easy to trace and hold accountable every since cent and equivalent it the RICO Traitor hierarchy didn't interfere. So it'll have to be destroyed for the good of the Planet and everywhere else.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

cocoa2000
11 hours ago

What country and yr are you living in. Turn the page it ain't 1955. Rico 😂😆😂,,,Iama still waiting for Epstein files😂😆😂

play_arrowplay_arrow

Freespeaker
10 hours ago

How can the CIA help?   We do like to blow stuff up.

play_arrow1play_arrow

BingoBoggins
12 hours ago

Drill, Baby, Drill !!

play_arrow1play_arrow

KatLivesKatter
14 hours ago

Uh oh... Bidens about to send in the divers.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Cobra Commander
10 hours ago
(Edited)

Gas pumps in Las Vegas are crazy right now -- relative tells me lines at every pump.

Cobra!

play_arrowplay_arrow

DEMIZEN
11 hours ago
(Edited)

if this goes to 11 again ill be lmao. the volatility of NG is really something, but i doubt it - not without another few kabooms

then, never say never, i wouldnt be suprised if 4.5 - 5 range returns. oil too, could pop here

play_arrowplay_arrow

LaugherNYC1
PREMIUM
13 hours ago

Down 74% since August??

Ouch!! Poutine is gonna write his Senator

play_arrow

Censorship, government: feb11 **GoFundMe Takes Down Campaigns For Arizona Rancher Accused Of Shooting Illegal Alien**

"Any fundraising campaigns for the legal defense of someone charged with murder are removed from our platform..."

War, sanctions, russia: feb11 **Secretive Russian Satellite Breaks Apart In Orbit, Creating Debris Cloud**

A secretive Russian satellite launched nearly a decade ago has experienced a "breakup" in outer space, according to a tweet published by the US Space Force's 18th Space Defense Squadron.

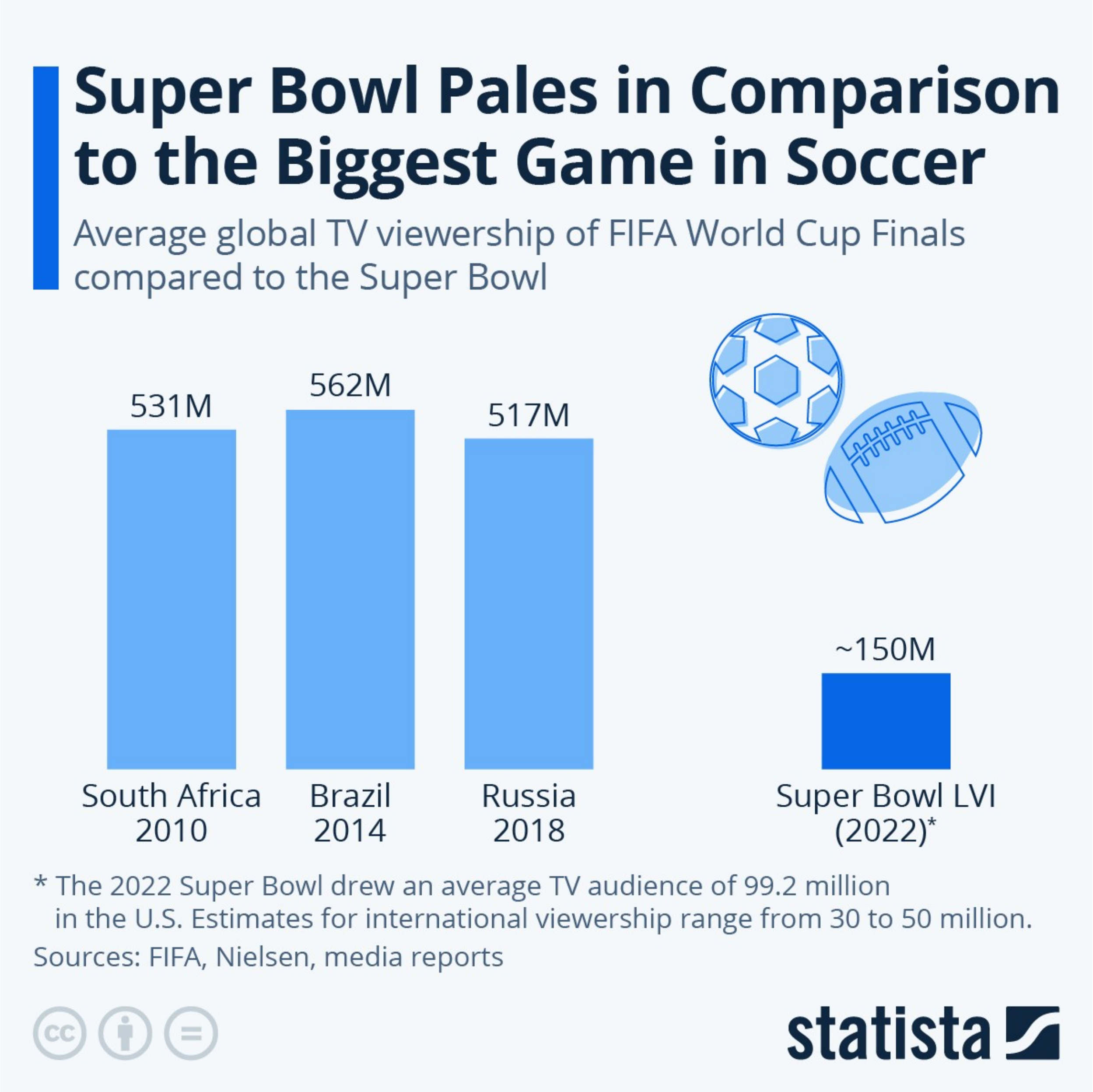
The Space Force said the Kosmos 2499 spacecraft disintegrated on Jan. 4 and unleashed a hazardous cloud of debris orbiting the planet.

Business Insider and Space.com cited RussianSpaceWeb.com's Anatoly Zak, who said Russia launched a rocket in late 2013, supposedly carrying three military communications satellites into orbit. But it wasn't until space trackers found a fourth and very mysterious spacecraft (Kosmos 2499) that was also released into orbit.

Zak said the head of Roscosmos in 2014 assured world leaders that Kosmos 2499 wasn't a "killer satellite." Roscosmos never revealed the satellite's mission.

As for space debris, Brian Weeden, an expert in space junk at the Secure World Foundation, told Ars Technica this is likely not a catastrophic event.

Stats: feb11



Super Bowl Pales in Comparison to the Biggest Game in Soccer

Average global TV viewership of FIFA World Cup Finals compared to the Super Bowl

* The 2022 Super Bowl drew an average TV audience of 99.2 million in the U.S. Estimates for international viewership range from 30 to 50 million.

Sources: FIFA, Nielsen, media reports

superbowl compared to soccer: it pales in comparison…

War, middle east, energy: feb11 **key, gives us forces iraq rough timeline: One year ago this month, the US security relationship with Iraq fully transitioning to a role of advising, assisting, and enabling Iraqi Security Forces**

Military Operations Conducted Pursuant to the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force and in Support of Related United States Counterterrorism Objectives

Since October 7, 2001, United States Armed Forces, including Special Operations Forces, have conducted counterterrorism combat operations, including against al-Qa’ida and associated forces. Since August 2014, these operations have included targeting the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which was formerly known as al-Qa’ida in Iraq. In support of these and other overseas operations, the United States has deployed combat-equipped forces to several locations in the United States Central, European, Africa, Southern, and Indo-Pacific Commands’ areas of responsibility. Such operations and deployments have been reported previously, consistent with Public Law 107-40, Public Law 107-243, the War Powers Resolution, and other statutes. These ongoing operations, which the United States has carried out with the assistance of numerous international partners, have been successful in seriously degrading ISIS capabilities in Syria and Iraq. If necessary, in response to terrorist threats, I will direct additional measures to protect the people and interests of the United States. It is not possible to know at this time the precise scope or the duration of the deployments of United States Armed Forces that are or will be necessary to counter terrorist threats to the United States.

Afghanistan. On April 14, 2021, I directed the withdrawal of United States forces from Afghanistan. That withdrawal was completed by August 31,

2021. The United States has relocated counterterrorism capabilities outside Afghanistan and remains postured to address threats to the United States homeland and United States interests that may arise from inside Afghanistan.

Iraq and Syria. As part of a comprehensive strategy to defeat ISIS, United States Armed Forces are working by, with, and through local partners in conducting airstrikes and other necessary operations against ISIS forces in Iraq and Syria and against al-Qa'ida in Syria. A small presence of United States Armed Forces remains in strategically significant locations in Syria to conduct operations, in partnership with indigenous ground forces, to address continuing terrorist threats emanating from Syria. United States Armed Forces in Iraq continue to advise, assist, and enable select elements of the Iraqi security forces, including Iraqi Kurdish security forces. United States Armed Forces also provide limited support to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission in Iraq. Actions in Iraq are being undertaken in coordination with the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government, and in conjunction with Coalition partners. As noted in the July 26, 2021, Joint Statement on the United States-Iraq Strategic Dialogue, the United States security relationship with Iraq will fully transition to a training, advising, assisting, and intelligence-sharing role, and there will be no United States forces with a combat role in Iraq after December 31, 2021.

As reported in June 2021, I directed targeted strikes against facilities at two locations in Syria and one location in Iraq near the Iraq-Syria border. These facilities were used by Iran-backed militia groups that were involved in a series of attacks against United States personnel and facilities in Iraq. These attacks had escalated in the months leading up to the strikes and injured and threatened the lives of United States and Coalition personnel. I directed this action consistent with my responsibility to protect United States citizens both at home and abroad and in furtherance of United States national security interests, pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct United States foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

hitehousedotgov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/07/letter-to-the-speaker-of-the-house-and-president-pro-tempore-of-the-senate-regarding-the-war-powers-report-2/

News|Joe Biden

US-led combat mission in Iraq ends, shifting to advisory role

The United States will continue to provide assistance, advice and training to Iraqi forces, Iraqi and US officials say.

9 Dec 2021
|
Updated:
9 Dec 2021
05:04 PM (GMT)

United States-led forces have ended their combat mission in Iraq, senior US and Iraqi officials said, as the coalition transitions to an advisory role assisting Iraqi forces.

Qassim al-Araji, Iraq’s national security adviser, said on Thursday that a final round of technical talks to formally end the US-led combat mission, which was tasked with rooting out ISIL (ISIS) in the country, had concluded.

KEEP READING

list of 3 itemslist 1 of 3
Probe in drone attack on Iraq PM yet to identify attackers
list 2 of 3

Several civilians and Peshmerga killed by ISIL in Iraq’s Makhmour
list 3 of 3
US carries out air raids on Iran-backed militias in Syria, Iraq
end of list

“We are officially announcing the end of the coalition forces’ combat mission,” al-Araji wrote on Twitter, adding that the coalition would continue providing assistance, advice and training to Iraqi forces.

Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga Brigadier General Hazhar Ismail, who attended the meeting in Baghdad, also told reporters the US-led coalition said it was ready to end the mission sooner than the previous deadline. “They said we are ready starting from today,” he said.

“Many brave men and women gave their lives to ensure Daesh never returns, and as we complete our combat role, we will remain here to advise, assist and enable [Iraqi security forces], at the invitation of Republic of Iraq,” said coalition commander Major General John Brennan, referring to ISIL (ISIS) by its Arabic acronym.

But the war against the group is not over, Brennan added. “Daesh is down, but not out.”

The formal end of the combat mission is unlikely to change the facts on the ground; the coalition stopped engaging in combat missions early in 2020, and since then, the main US focus has been assisting Iraqi forces.

Iraqi Staff Lieutenant General Abdul Amir al-Shammari, deputy commander of the Joint Operations Command for Iraq, said Iraqi forces were ready to take up the fight against ISIL. “Our soldiers have demonstrated their ability to maintain the defeat of Daesh, and we look toward the future with hope, providing stability, security, and prosperity for the men and women of Iraq,” he said.

History of intervention

The US invaded Iraq in 2003 amid its global “war on terror”, reaching a peak of about 170,000 soldiers in the country in 2007 before withdrawing forces in 2011.

US forces were redeployed to Iraq in 2014 in response to the rise of ISIL, as the armed group overran a large swath of territory across Iraq and Syria.

However, US troops have largely been acting as advisers and trainers since mid-2020, when they stopped directly engaging in combat operations. Another 900 US troops remain in Syria, although their withdrawal is not expected any time soon.

ISIL lost its last piece of territory in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria in 2019, although there has been an uptick in attacks, including in Iraq’s northern semi-autonomous Kurdish region, in recent months.

History, church: feb11 **so 41% of irelands population was killed during the english civil war, or war of three kindoms in the mid 1600's. Had to verify that figure, but its as true as anything elese I could read that I would consider credible online.**

For example, **Norway, Sweden, North Korea, Israel, and Eritrea** conscript both men and women. However, only Norway and Sweden have a gender-neutral conscription system, where men and women are conscripted and serve on equal formal terms.

mwhahahahahahhaha..

turn on the intro beat. Here comes reality.   This is like your santa clause isnt real moment, but for adults! You'll grow as a person from it--trust me.

Compulsory military service for both genders[edit]

- Cape Verde[14] (2 years selective)
- Chad[14] (3 years for men. 1 year for women. Civilian service for the age of 21)
- Eritrea[14] (Indefinite period, usually up to 10 years for women and 15 for men)
- Israel[14] (32 months for men[15] and 2 years for women)
- Morocco[16] (1 year)
- Norway[14] (19 months, selective)
- North Korea[14] (10 years for men, upon high school completion to 23 years of age for women)
- Sweden[4][14] (11 months, selective)

Military service limited to 1 year or less[edit]

This list is incomplete; you can help by adding missing items. *(April 2012)*

The following twenty countries have been identified as having compulsory military service limited to 1 year or less:

- Algeria (1 year)
- Bolivia (1 year)
- Brazil (9–12 months, can be extended to a max of 7 years; the conscript may be discharged by excess of contingent)
- Colombia (1–2 years depending on MOS and branch)
- Estonia (8–11 months)
- France (1 month, age 16–18)
- Greece (1 year)
- Guatemala (1–2 years)
- Kazakhstan (1 year)
- Kyrgyzstan (1 year)
- Lithuania (9 months[17])
- Moldova (1 year)
- Mongolia (1 year)
- Morocco (1 year)
- Paraguay (1 year for Army, 2 years for Navy)
- Qatar (4–12 months)
- Russia (1 year)
- Sweden (9–11 months)
- Taiwan (4 months)
- Tunisia (1 year)
- Turkey (6–12 months)
- Uzbekistan (1 year)

Military service limited to 18 months[edit]

This list is incomplete; you can help by adding missing items. *(August 2018)*

The following 11 countries have been identified to having compulsory military service limited to 18 months or less:

- Azerbaijan (between 1 and 2 years)
- Belarus (6–12 months for undergraduate school alumni)
- Benin
- Cambodia
- Cyprus (18 months civilian, 14 armed)

- Egypt (14 months service minimum obligation)
- Georgia
- Kuwait
- Laos
- UAE (16 months for high school diploma holders)
- Ukraine (12 months for holding master’s degree, 18 months for others)[18]

Military service longer than 18 months[edit]

This list is incomplete; you can help by adding missing items. *(April 2012)*

The following 27 countries have been identified as having compulsory military service terms longer than 18 months:

- Armenia (2 years)
- Angola (2 years plus a training period, civilian or non-combatant option available)
- Chad (3 years men, 1 year women. Civil service available only for women)
- Cuba (2 years)
- Eritrea (18 months officially, in practice indefinite; see National Service in Eritrea)
- Equatorial Guinea (2 years, selective)
- Guinea-Bissau (2 years, selective)
- Iran (2 years)
- Israel (3 years for men, 2 years for women)[19]
- North Korea (11 years for men, 7 years for women)[20][21][22][23]
- Libya (2 years)
- Mali (2 years, selective)
- Mozambique (2 years, selective)
- Niger (2 years, selective)
- São Tomé and Príncipe (2 years)
- Senegal (2 years, selective)
- Singapore (22 months to 2 years, without regard to Full-Time National Service in the Singapore Civil Defence Force or Singapore Police Force, under the Ministry of Home Affairs)[24]
- South Korea (18 months for Army and Marines, 20 months for Navy, 21 months for Air Force and Social Service, 3 years for special Social Service)
- Sudan (1–2 years, both sexes)

- Syria (2 years Army & Air force, 18 months in the Navy)
- Tajikistan (2 years)
- Thailand (2 years for involuntarily drafted men,1 years for volunteers, 6 months for diploma[clarification needed])
- Turkmenistan (2 years)
- UAE (3 years, for high school dropouts)
- Vietnam (2 years, selective)
- Venezuela (2 years)

No defense force[edit]

Main article: List of countries without armed forces

The following nineteen countries have been identified as having no defense forces or as having no standing army but having very limited military forces:

- Andorra
- Costa Rica
- Dominica
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Grenada
- Iceland*
- Kiribati
- Liechtenstein
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritius*
- Monaco*
- Nauru
- Palau
- Panama*
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu*
- Vatican City*

* Countries having no standing army, but having very limited military forces.

Counting in accidents and the two Bishops' wars, an estimate of 190,000 dead is achieved,[150] out of a total population of about five million.[151] It is estimated that from 1638 to 1651, 15%–20% of all adult males in England and Wales served in the military. Around 4% of the total population died from war-related causes, compared to 2.23% in the First World War.

Unknown; 15,000–20,000 battlefield casualties ~50,000 deported as indentured labourers[1][2]	8,000 New Model Army soldiers killed, ~7,000 locally raised soldiers killed
200,000–600,000 civilian casualties (from war-related violence, famine or disease)[3]	

Total excess deaths for the entire period of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms in Ireland was estimated by Sir William Petty, the 17th century economist, to be 600,000 out of a total Irish population of 1,400,000 in 1641.[41][42][43] One modern estimate estimated that at least 200,000 were killed out of a population of allegedly 2 million.[44]

In addition, the whole post-war Cromwellian settlement of Ireland has been characterised by historians such as Mark Levene and Alan Axelrod as ethnic cleansing, in that it sought to remove Irish Catholics from the eastern part of the country, others such as the historical writer Tim Pat Coogan have described the actions of Cromwell and his subordinates as genocide.[45] The aftermath of the Cromwellian campaign and settlement saw extensive dispossession of landowners who were Catholic, and a huge drop in population. In the event, the much larger number of surviving poorer Catholics were not moved westwards; most of them had to fend for themselves by working for the new landowners.

Long-term results[edit]

The Cromwellian conquest completed the British colonisation of Ireland, which was merged into the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland in 1653–59. It destroyed the native Irish Catholic land-owning classes and replaced them with colonists with a British identity. The bitterness caused by the Cromwellian settlement was a powerful source of Irish nationalism from the 17th century onwards.

After the Stuart Restoration in 1660, Charles II of England restored about a third of the confiscated land to the former landlords in the Act of Settlement 1662, but not all, as he needed political support from former parliamentarians in England. A generation later, during the Glorious Revolution, many of the Irish Catholic landed class tried to reverse the remaining Cromwellian settlement in the Williamite War in Ireland (1689–91), where they fought en masse for the Jacobites. They were defeated once again, and many lost land that had been regranted after 1662. As a result, Irish and English Catholics did not become full political citizens of the British state again until 1829 and were legally barred from buying valuable interests in land until the Papists Act 1778.

The Cromwellian government also contributed to the decline and eventual extinction of wolves in Ireland, through such methods as deforestation and anti-wolf legislation, the latter including bounties paid out for killing wolves.[46][47]

This below page confirmed these outrageous figures for me. From historyireland.com, and very short. So they seem to be the accepted figures by historians..

n his reassessment of the reputation of Oliver Cromwell, Micheál Ó Siochrú outlines the known historical facts relating to his campaign in Ireland (August 1649–May 1650), detailing his programme of ethnic cleansing, the massacre of military and civilian personnel at Drogheda and Wexford, the forced removal to Connacht and the transportation of slave labour to Barbados. I was disappointed, however, that no statistics were provided to give some indication of the number of victims involved. Cromwell’s campaign in Ireland was of short duration compared to the total period of the English civil wars, 1642–1651 (or 1642–1658 if you include the period to Cromwell’s death), but I think it reasonable to consider that the greater number of deaths occurred during his campaign. The conflict between Charles I and his supporters on the one hand and the parliamentarians on the other was initially confined to England, but quickly spread to engulf Scotland, Wales and Ireland. It is more often referred to today as the ‘wars of the three kingdoms’. A comparison of the total number of deaths from warfare and disease in respect of the countries involved in the period 1642–1658 helps to put Ireland’s agony in perspective. Figures available at the very excellent permanent English Civil War exhibition at Warwick Castle, England, provide the following statistics for casualties:

	Fighting	Disease	Total	% pop.
England/Wales	83,830	100,000	183,830	3.7
Scotland	27,875	60,000	87,875	6.0

The figures are even more horrific for Ireland, however: a total of 618,000 deaths from fighting and disease out of a total pre-war population of c. 1.5 million, or 41 per cent of the population. No figures are given for transportation to Barbados. Further confirmation of the above figures can be obtained from The Civil War 1642–1651 by Michael St John Parker (ISBN 0853726477).

A 41 per cent loss of population must surely represent one of the greatest tragedies of any people for any period of European history, not excluding the worst excesses of the twentieth century. We can take as an example the death rate from enemy action and war-related disease for Britain during the Second World War, which represents 0.6 per cent of the population.

So, why were the casualties in Ireland so high? Cromwell and his supporters considered Irish Roman Catholics as little better than savages, barbarian in their lifestyle and habits and capable of appalling atrocities against Protestant settlers. They were sub-human and dangerous, and were to be treated accordingly. Whilst acknowledging Cromwell's excesses in Ireland, Micheál Ó Siochrú seems to imply that 'local folklore' might be wrong to accuse him of war crimes, religious persecution and ethnic cleansing. A loss of more than 40 per cent of the population might, however, suggest a conscious plan of elimination based on racial and religious hatred, which in other circumstances and times would rightly be called genocide. Cromwell's murderous campaign in Ireland was fuelled by a pathological hatred of Irish Catholics, which he himself clearly expressed.

One wonders how many of the c. 600,000 victims died during Cromwell's campaign. Perhaps this subject could be more fully explored in a further article in History Ireland?

Journal: feb11 the system puts us to war and work..

look to the past and youll know your present; look to the present, and youll know your future..

While neighboring Lithuania decided to reinstate conscription in 2015, and Estonia never abolished it, Latvia chose no change. Classes on national defense were introduced in schools, along with summer camps for practical skills.

War, Germany: feb11 German Politicians and Military Chiefs Suggest Return of Conscription

Political and military figures in Germany have suggested a return of compulsory military service after the new defence minister described the 2011 phase-out of general conscription as a "mistake" that had contributed to alienating the general public from civic institutions.

The German parliamentary commissioner for the armed forces, Eva Högl of the centre-left SPD, on Wednesday urged the government to ask itself whether some form of obligatory civic service was required to address staff shortages in the German army's ranks.

"We definitely need more personnel in the Bundeswehr," Högl told the Augsburger Allgemeine newspaper.

With the staffing requirements of a downsized army shrinking after the fall of the Berlin Wall, both services were suspended under Angela Merkel's rule in 2011, though a clause allowing the state to draft men into the armed forces remains part of the German Basic Law.

Recently army officials have complained of their struggles to fill the ranks of a Bundeswehr no more than 183,000 strong, while social institutions bemoan the lack of young care workers for whom a *Zivildienst* spell used to work as a door-opener into the sector.
When Pistorius described the phase-out as a mistake, he was explicitly referring not to the threat faced by an aggressive Russian state, but the social acceptance of armed forces in German society. "Back in the day there was a conscript at every second kitchen table", he said. "Which meant there was always a connection to civic society at large."

War: feb10 **Ukraine Almost Solely Reliant On Intelligence From US For HIMARS Rocket Strikes**

Russia, war: feb10 Moldova's Govt Collapses After Russian Missile Salvo From Black Sea Breaches Its Airspace

"Several Russian missiles passed through the airspace of Moldova and Romania. **These missiles are a challenge to NATO and collective security. This is terror that can and must be stopped**," he added. Zelensky has long tried to push NATO more directly into the conflict to drive the Russians out of Ukraine.

Russia
Kiev
Ukraine
Moldova
Chişinău
Odessa
Romania
Bucharest

News of the missile flyover was accompanied by further instability in Moldova, as CNBC reports, the Moldovan government has effectively collapsed amid the ongoing pressure due to the war just across the border. "Moldova’s Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilita said Friday that **her government was resigning following a volatile 18 months in power and an ongoing war at its border**."

"Gavrilita did not say whether the decision was in direct response to the war between neighboring Ukraine and Russia," CNBC continues. Western allies have long charged Russia with seeking to destabilize Moldova, and there have long been fears that Russian forces could cross into the country.

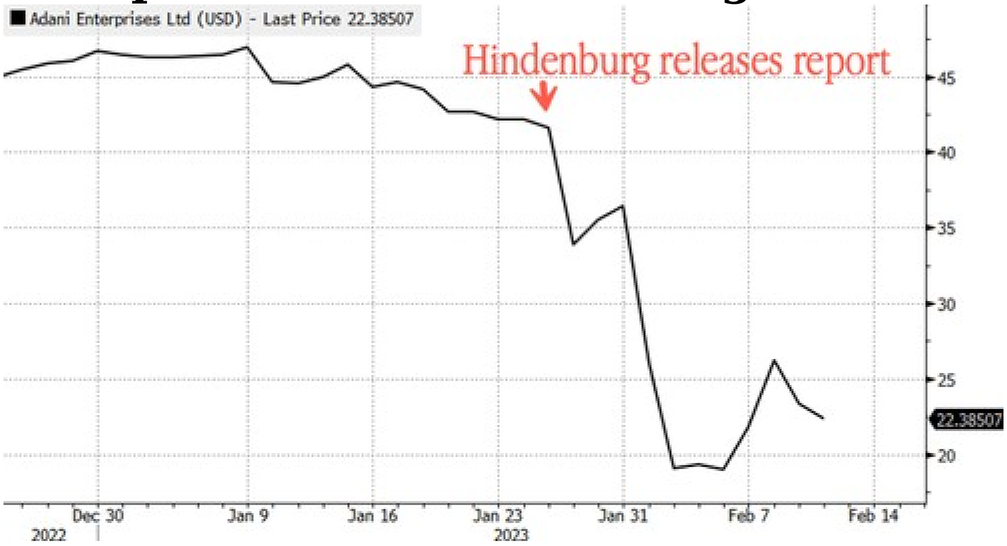
The follows on the heels of in the past months Western countries donating hundreds of millions of dollars to shore up tiny Moldova's resources amid renewed fears of future Russian aggression and energy supply cuts against it.

A new prime minister has been named, the pro-EU Dorin Recean, described as someone who will **keep Moldova on a pro-European Union trajectory**. Recean is currently the national security adviser, and will replace Natalia Gavrilița as the new head of government," *Politico* reports.

"The Moldovan parliament, where Sandu’s party holds a comfortable majority with 63 out of 101 seats, will vote to confirm the nomination next week," details *Politico*.

War, india, sanctions: feb10 **Adani Hires Top US Law Firm To Combat Short-Seller Hindenburg; $100 billion has been wiped out from the Indian**

conglomerate following US short-seller Hindenburg Research's scathing report last month that accused it of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud."



China, government, readlater: feb10 **Great china rticle, includes chart of capital flight..**

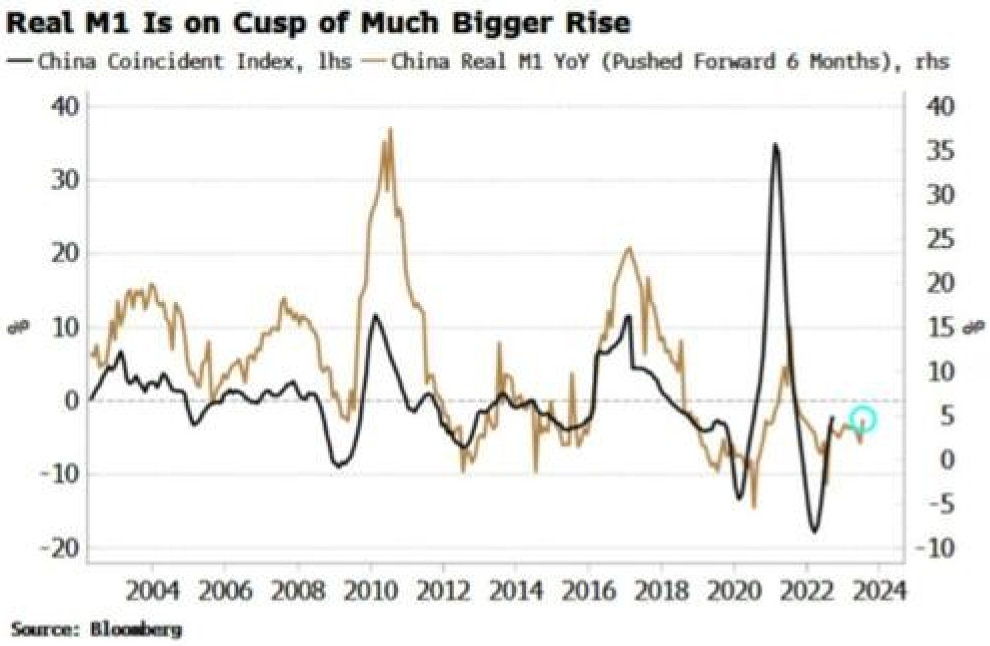
There is unavoidable uncertainty here, but there is less doubt in China, where the data shows the country is now unequivocally turning a corner from Covid after several false starts.

China abruptly dropped Zero-Covid restrictions in December, and previous to this announced a raft of measures aimed at stabilizing its depressed property market.

Also, China directed lenders to front-load credit extension to businesses and consumers to expedite the economy’s recovery from the economic scarring from Covid lockdowns. Some banks are even throwing in Dyson hairdryers to encourage consumer borrowing.

But due to the credit system in China, liquidity does not always flow to where it is most needed. The banking system reflexively tends to favor the SOE sector, often leaving the weaker parts of the economy like the household and non-state corporate sector starved of much-needed fiscal assistance.

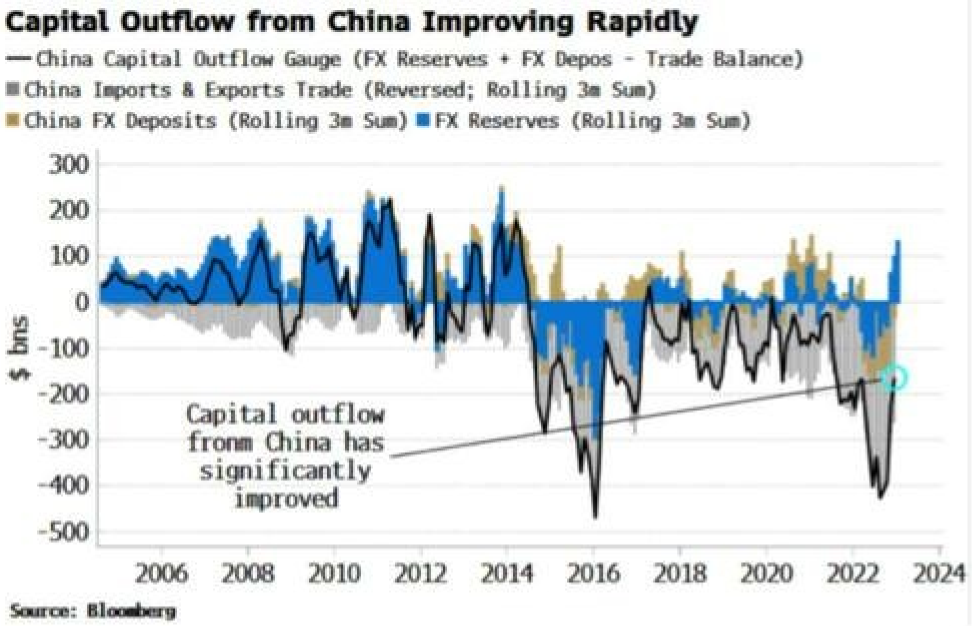
But when broad money growth begins to rise in real terms, this is normally a good sign credit is beginning to flow more freely to all corners of the economy. This is what we are now seeing, with year-on-year M1 growth rising to 6.7% from 3.7% last month, and real M1 now at 4.6%, its highest since late 2021.


Real M1 Is on Cusp of Much Bigger Rise

Source: Bloomberg

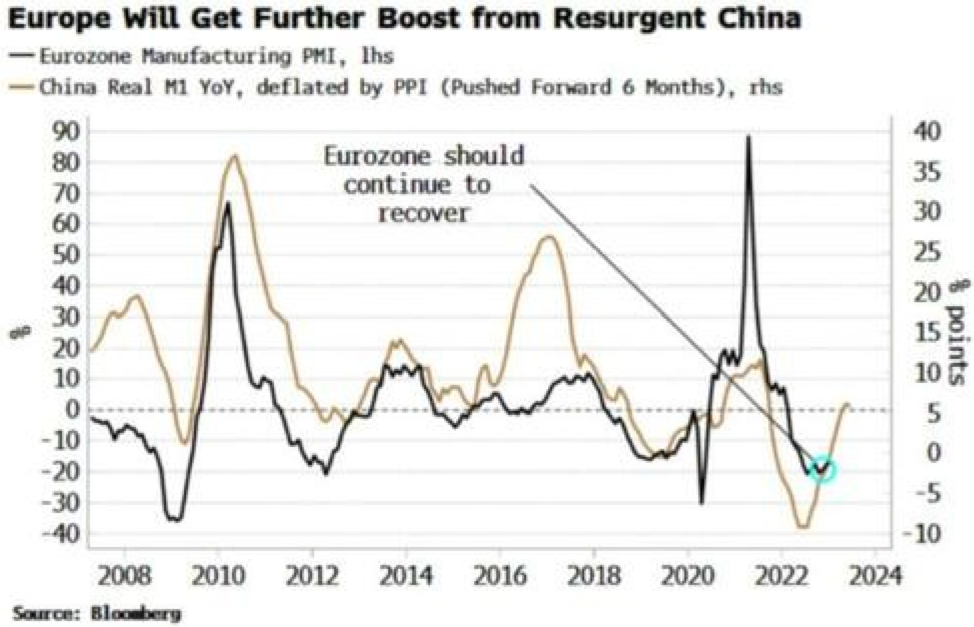
January can often see a seasonal bump in money growth, but the rise in M1 was larger than expected, and comes at a time when we know there is a powerful combination of easing – fiscal, monetary and social – waiting in the wings with huge growth potential.

Moreover, **capital outflow has decreased markedly from China,** which will also significantly improve domestic liquidity conditions.


Capital Outflow from China Improving Rapidly

Source: Bloomberg

It has been easy to jump the gun with China, but it looks like it’s back as a global economic driver.


Europe Will Get Further Boost from Resurgent China

Source: Bloomberg

This has implications for global demand and supply, but one of the most direct G7 beneficiaries is likely to be Europe.

Government, tech: feb10 **Total Information Awareness, CBDC's....you wqon't be able to escape. At first it will work, then they'll start throwin us around like a bag of potatoes**

#3) Total Information Awareness

Once it’s digitized in a centralized database (central banks) as opposed to being cryptographically secured on a decentralized blockchain (Bitcoin) – everything becomes known to central authorities instantly. Taxation can be applied per-transaction, but more interestingly – prices can also be modified on the fly.

If you’re behind on your property or income taxes – or have an unpaid fine (maybe because you’re fighting it), for example, they could simply enable a rolling garnishee on your wallet until it’s paid off.

While all transaction signatures are public on Bitcoin – they are pseudonymous and more importantly, unalterable. It’s true it may be known or discoverable that A sent sats to B, but there’s nothing any third-party can do about it. With Lightning on the ascent, combined with various privacy enhancements there – Bitcoin development is moving in the direction of *more* freedom and *more* privacy – which is the opposite direction of most CBDC initiatives.

Finally, whether CBDCs are launched with the noblest of intentions, there will at some point arise “an emergency” which will make it necessary for The People in Charge to “flip the switch” and turn them into:

#4) Social Credit Systems

Imagine if “**LoonCoin**” was a thing last year when the #FreedomConvoy hit Ottawa (and signalled the beginning of a worldwide revolt against Covid tyranny). Instead of emailing a list of bank accounts to be frozen that were cribbed from a (hacked) spreadsheet, they could simply direct the Bank of Canada to turn off everybody’s digital wallets who were in the vicinity of the protest, or who contributed to their crowdfund, or who retweeted the #HonkHonk hashtag.

Do you think they wouldn’t have done it?

Covid vaxports have already been weaponized in China, Brazil is doing it with their UBI program and when this is all formaized into a CBDC, they will probably not launch it without the framework for widespread social credit and control systems being part of the plumbing.

We all know from our experience with the pandemic, emergencies tend to drag on in perpetuity. The “War on Terror” is still in effect, and there are still legions of collectivist automatons tweeting #CovidIsntOver.

So when “The Long Emergency” (to use James Kunstler’s term) becomes a never ending, rolling *climate crisis,* the social credit systems built into CBDCs *will be used to enforce*:

#5) Carbon footprint tracking

Back in Carbon Rationing, CBDCs and Sound Money I wrote how this trajectory is more or less baked-in now, and that the state-run financial system is undergoing a shift from a debt-backed monetary system to one based on carbon quotas.

History, Germany, government, readlater: feb1

german imperial empire was first to introduce organized age old security

Germany became the first nation in the world to adopt an old-age social insurance program in 1889, designed by Germany's Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck. The idea was first put forward, at Bismarck's behest, in 1881 by Germany's Emperor, William the First, in a ground-breaking letter to the German Parliament.

The first welfare state was Imperial Germany (1871–1918), where the Bismarck government introduced social security in 1889.[13] In the early 20th century, the United Kingdom introduced social security around 1913, and adopted the welfare state with the National Insurance Act 1946, during the Attlee government (1945–51).[11] In the countries of western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, social welfare is mainly provided by the government out of the national tax revenues, and to a lesser extent by non-government organizations (NGOs), and charities (social and religious).[11] A right to social security and an adequate standard of living is asserted in Articles 22 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[6][b]

In the United States, depending on the context, the term "welfare" can be used to refer to means-tested cash benefits, especially the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program and its successor, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grants, or it can be used to refer to all means-tested programs that help individuals or families meet basic needs, including, for example, health care through Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and food and nutrition programs (SNAP). It can also include social insurance programs such as unemployment insurance, Social Security, and Medicare.

Germany became the first nation in the world to adopt an old-age social insurance program in 1889, designed by Germany's Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck. The idea was first put forward, at Bismarck's behest, in 1881 by Germany's Emperor, William the First, in a ground-breaking letter to the German Parliament. William wrote: *". . .those who are disabled from work by age and invalidity have a well-grounded claim to care from the state."*

Bismarck was motivated to introduce social insurance in Germany both in order to promote the well-being of workers in order to keep the German economy operating at maximum efficiency, and to stave-off calls for more radical socialist alternatives. Despite his impeccable right-wing credentials, Bismarck would be called a socialist for introducing these programs, as would President Roosevelt 70 years later. In his own speech to the Reichstag during the 1881 debates, Bismarck would reply: *"Call it socialism or whatever you like. It is the same to me."*

The German system provided contributory retirement benefits and disability benefits as well. Participation was mandatory and contributions were taken from the employee, the employer and the government. Coupled with the workers' compensation program established in 1884 and the "sickness" insurance enacted the year before, this gave the Germans a comprehensive system of income security based on social insurance principles. (They would add unemployment insurance in 1927, making their system complete.)

One persistent myth about the German program is that it adopted age 65 as the standard retirement age because that was Bismarck's age. This myth is important because Germany was one of the models America looked to in designing its own Social Security plan; and the myth is that America adopted age 65 as the age for retirement benefits because this was the age adopted by Germany when they created their program. In fact, Germany initially set age 70 as the retirement age (and Bismarck himself was 74 at the time) and it was not until 27 years later (in 1916) that the age was lowered to 65. By that time, Bismarck had been dead for 18 years.

President Roosevelt’s New Deal

By Catherine A. Paul

“I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt

William Gropper’s “Construction of a Dam” (1939)
Photo: United State Department of the Interior

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Photo: FDR Library

The New Deal was enacted from 1933 to 1939 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide immediate economic relief from the Great Depression and to address necessary reforms in industry, agriculture, finance, water power, labor, and housing. The New Deal was grounded in the belief that the power of the federal government was needed to lift America from the Great Depression (Library of Congress, n.d.). These programs signaled both an expansion of federal power and a transformation in the relationship between the federal government and the American people (Hopkins, 2011).

Public Works Administration Project: Bonneville Power and Navigation Dam, Oregon
Photo: National Archives and Records Administration
ID: 195806

Many of the New Deal policies were enacted in the first three months of President Roosevelt’s time in office, which became known as the “Hundred Days.” Roosevelt’s first objective was to address widespread unemployment by establishing agencies such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Such agencies dispensed emergency and short-term government aid and provided temporary jobs, such as work on construction projects and national forests (New Deal, n.d.).

Before 1935, the New Deal’s primary focus was on revitalizing business and agricultural communities. The National Recovery Administration (NRA) shaped industrial regulations governing trade practices, wages, hours, child labor, and collective bargaining. Moreover, the New Deal sought to regulate the country’s financial hierarchy to prevent another incident like the stock market crash of 1929 and the bank failures that followed. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) granted federal insurance for bank deposits in Federal Reserve System member banks, and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) protected individuals from fraudulent stock market practices. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) controlled the production of staple crops through cash subsidies to farmers in order to raise prices, and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) covered seven states to supply cheap electricity, prevent floods, improve navigation, and produce nitrates (New Deal, n.d.).

1935 New Deal parody cartoon by Vaughn Shoemaker
Photo: Public Domain

In 1935, the New Deal shifted its attention to labor and urban groups. The Wagner Act increased the authority of the federal government in industrial relations and gave further organizing power to labor unions under the execution of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). In addition, one of the most notable New Deal programs, the Social Security Board (SSB), was enacted in 1935 and 1939, providing benefits to the elderly and to widows, unemployment compensation, and disability insurance. Moreover, maximum working hours and a minimum wage were set in some industries in 1938 (New Deal, n.d.).

Journal, vaccine, government: feb10 welfare “The children have to be vaccinated. Suppose they don’t have a vaccination certificate. In that case, the mother will lose the benefit”, said Lula during the inauguration of the ophthalmology and diagnostic units of the Super Carioca Health Center in Benfica, Rio de Janeiro.

Lula says that parents will be forced to vaccinate their children to keep government aid flowing

ByLatin America News

February 7, 2023

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT, progressive-globalist) said that the Bolsa Familia program would again require parents to prove the vaccination of their children to continue receiving the benefit.

Bolsa Familia is a social welfare program for the poorest families in Brazil.

It’s a kind of universal basic income guaranteed to tens of millions, but only, it now turns out, if they dance to Lula’s tune.

“The Bolsa Família is coming back, and it is coming back with something important; it is coming back with conditions. The children have to be in school. If they are not in school, the mother loses the benefit.”

“The children have to be vaccinated. Suppose they don’t have a vaccination certificate. In that case, the mother will lose the benefit”, said Lula during the inauguration of the ophthalmology and diagnostic units of the Super Carioca Health Center in Benfica, Rio de Janeiro.

During the campaign, Lula had already said that vaccination would be required.

Bolsa familia Is a kind of universal basic income guaranteed to tens of millions, but only, it now turns out, if they dance to Lula’s tune. (Photo internet reproduction)

During the transition, Senator Humberto Costa (PT) also made statements about the conditions of the Bolsa Família program.

Accompanied by the first lady, Rosangela da Silva, Janja, the health minister, Nísia Trindade, the mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Eduardo Paes, and governor Cláudio Castro (PL), Lula also said that the program would again require prenatal care for pregnant women when they are beneficiaries of the aid.

The president didn’t explain if the covid vaccine will also be required from children or just the doses of the traditional vaccines, which are part of the child vaccination calendar.

In one of his speeches, he mentioned both the vaccine against covid and the children’s vaccination campaign, which will have the return of Zé Gotinha and the participation of Xuxa Meneguel, Lula’s supporter in the electoral campaign.

“Now the Zé Gotinha campaign will begin. We can’t hesitate; we can’t play around. It is a question of science. If there are ten covid vaccines, 50 to take, I will take as many as necessary because I like my life. I think everyone has a duty to their children’s life, take them [to vaccinate] at the right age,” Lula said.

Health Minister Nísia Trindade also spoke but did not say which vaccines would be required.

“Vaccination is a child’s right,” Nísia declared about the requirement of proof of vaccination to receive Bolsa Família.

Children’s vaccination – including doses against polio, viral triplet (measles, mumps, and rubella), and tuberculosis – has fallen since 2015. In 2021, for example, polio vaccination coverage did not reach 70%, when the recommended is 95%.

Bolsa Família stopped requiring the vaccination of children up to 6 years old when the Bolsonaro government reformulated it in 2021 and started to be called Auxílio Brasil.

The other conditions for maintaining the benefit, such as school attendance and prenatal care by pregnant beneficiaries, are no longer required.

The Bolsa Família will maintain the R$600, paid during the Bolsonaro government, and an additional R$150 per child up to 6 years old.

With information from Revista Oeste

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(so jsut take the vaccine, but we removed the other rules, because really, we don't giva fuck what you do at this point...(just sayin))

The Bolsa Família will maintain the R$600, paid during the Bolsonaro government, and an additional R$150 per child up to 6 years old.

With information from Revista Oeste

Government, stats, markets, censorship: feb10 **$160 Billion Buyback Revival**

Bumper buyback announcements worth more than $160 billion from the likes of Meta Platforms Inc., BNP Paribas SA and Equinor ASA have brought enthusiastic responses this earnings season. Those that suspended programs — such as Carlsberg A/S and British American Tobacco Plc — or shied away from setting out new plans have been punished. Both in the US and Europe, buyback announcers have outperformed benchmark indexes by 6 percentage points in the past year.

After slowing down last year as firms braced for a bleaker economic outlook, stock repurchase plans have roared back in 2023, led by energy firms such as Chevron Corp. and Exxon Corp. as soaring oil prices brought cash flooding in. That’s despite 53% of the participants in Bank of America Corp.’s latest fund manager survey saying they’d rather see corporates shoring up balance sheets, and less than a fifth opting for higher shareholder returns.

Not even a new US tax on buybacks or calls for further levies by President Joe Biden have acted as a deterrent, and at $132 billion in January in the US, repurchase plans notched the best ever start to a year.

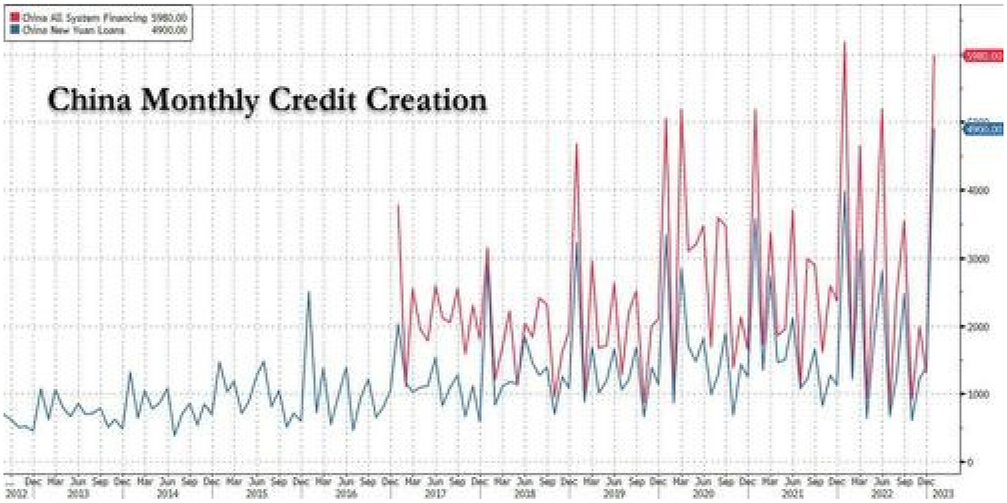
Journal, markets, china: feb10 **this is due to chinese reopening, I think.**

Then two weeks later, we got confirmation that this was indeed coming, when a local news paper said that "China Bank Lending in Jan. May Hit Record at Over 4T Yuan", to which **our response was that China had just wasted 3 years in another pointless deleveraging experiment to get back where it started: with massive credit injections as the only means for growth.**

like....wutt., anyways, got it finally..

what confused me I guess is that zh opened by with a statement about how it was wrong for china to be doing what experts were already , like, expecting them to be doing....

Fast forward to today when just as we previewed a month ago, the Chinese Credit Flood arrived with a bang, and a record 4.9 trillion in new loans, which smashed expectations as did the **Total Social Financing which came at a near record 6 trillion yuan, or almost $1 trillion in total new credit (i.e., new money) in just one month!**



but this was already expected, as the reader eventually sees later in the article when they see analyst expectations were , in line -- at least compared to the impression the reader is given at the beginning of the article.

this reuters, msm style article does a much better job, although you still learn more form the zh article.

A strong rebound in credit demand will be essential for an economic revival this year after harsh COVID measures and a crisis in the property sector dragged China’s growth down to 3% in 2022, one of its worst rates in nearly half a century.

January’s new loans more than tripled December’s tally and exceeded analysts’ expectations, according to data released by the People’s Bank of China (PBOC) on Friday.

Analysts polled by Reuters had predicted new yuan loans would jump to 4 trillion yuan in January, from 1.4 trillion yuan in December and above the previous monthly record of 3.98 trillion yuan in January 2022.

Chinese banks tend to issue more loans at the beginning of the year to gain higher-quality customers and win market share, but the size of the increase spurred hopes that business and consumer confidence is improving rapidly after the anti-COVID curbs were suddenly lifted in December.

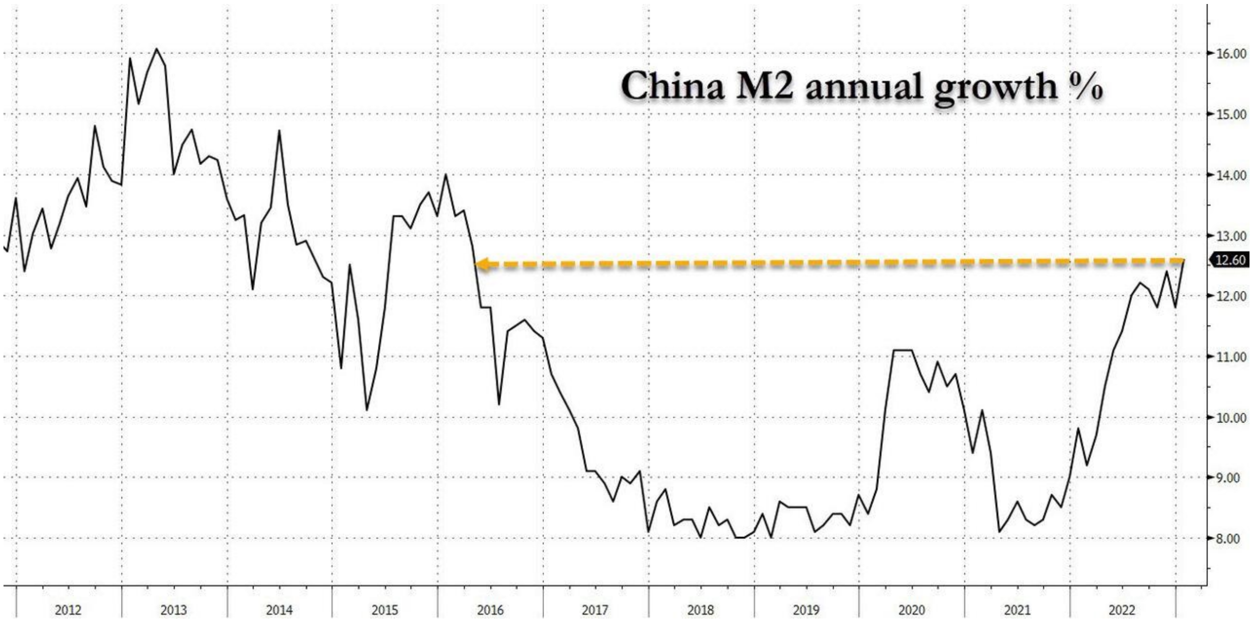
China, government: feb10 **Total Social Financing, China**

TSF is comprised of a total of ten sub-indices including:

1. RMB loans.
2. Foreign currency loans.
3. Entrusted loans.
4. Trust loans.
5. Undiscounted bank bills of acceptance.
6. Corporate bonds.
7. Non-financial corporate domestic equity financing.
8. Insurance company repayments.
9. Investment property.
10. Financing via other financial instruments.

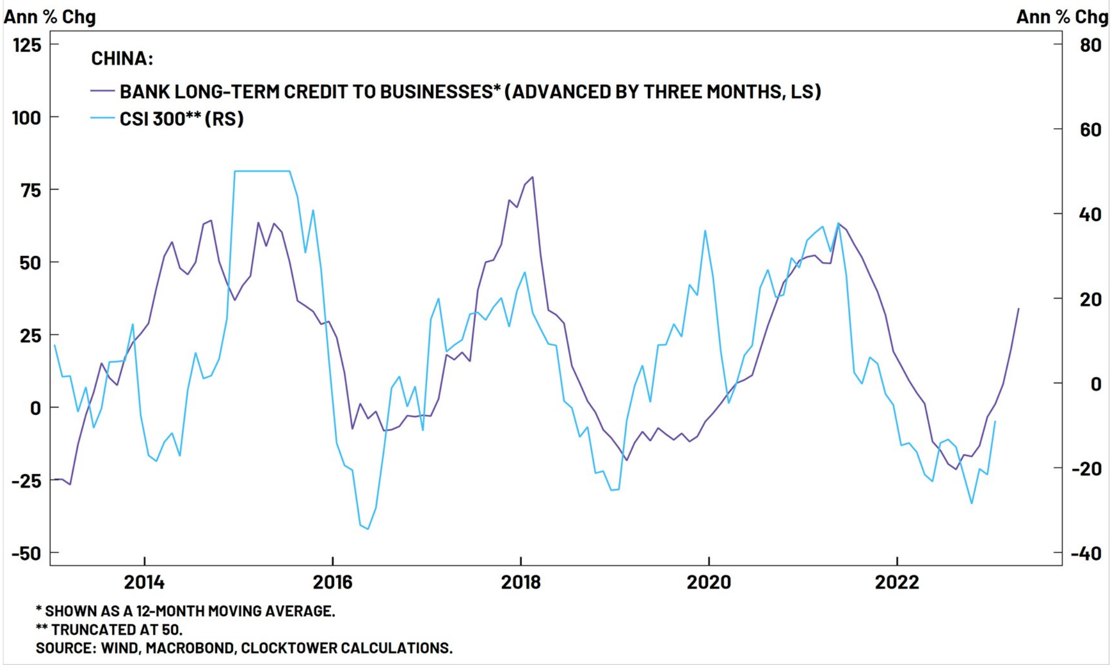
Li Wei, then chair of the State Council’s Development Research Centre, said that the introduction of TSF was part of efforts by the central government to contain the inflation created by the stimulus plan launched in the wake of the Great Financial Crisis to shore up China’s economic growth.

here's an example from a zh report. just looking intpo this now



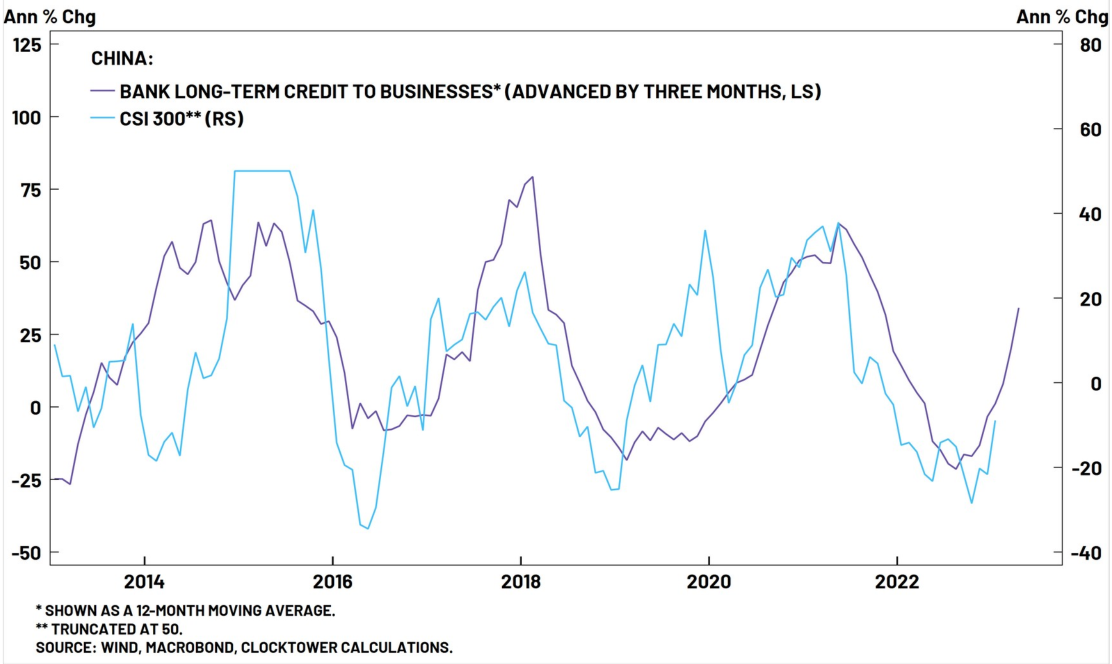
Bottom line, the January loan and credit data came red hot as we expected and as China warned, clearly expecting this outcome and hinting that there is much more to come (no surprise that the PBOC released more than 1trillion yuan in new liquidity in just the past three days). The acceleration in bank loans reflected policy support - commercial banks extended more loans to property developers after the "property 16 measures", and policy banks' credit facility targeting at infrastructure investment in recent months likely also added to overall RMB loan growth. At the same time, the sharp upward reversal in TSF growth indicates that Beijing has fully capitulated when it comes to new containing the next credit bubble and is now pursuing it wholeheartedly as it hopes to reverse three years of subdued growth by China's economy during its Zero Covid nightmare.

The question is how soon and how extensively China's massive credit impulse reboot will flood the world. One thing is clear: the burst higher in credit will lead to an even more powerful bounce in Chinese stocks in the near term.



* SHOWN AS A 12-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE.
** TRUNCATED AT 50.
SOURCE: WIND, MACROBOND, CLOCKTOWER CALCULATIONS.

Stats, markets, government, readlater, journal: feb10 interesting correlation, but would need to see a longer timescale, of course. But interesting..



* SHOWN AS A 12-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE.
** TRUNCATED AT 50.
SOURCE: WIND, MACROBOND, CLOCKTOWER CALCULATIONS.

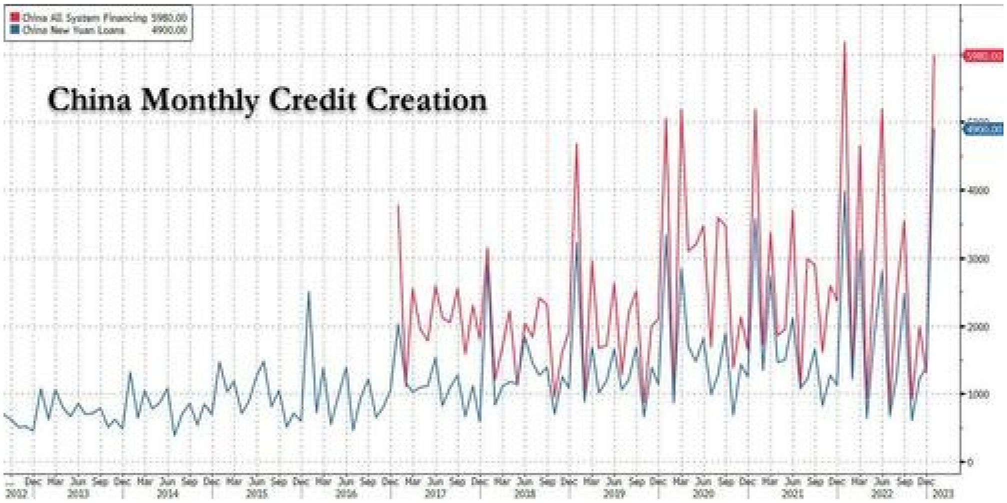
China's Credit Monster Is Back: Beijing Injects Nearly $1 Trillion In New Money In One Month

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, FEB 10, 2023 - 12:55 PM

One month ago, when looking at the latest Chinese credit data, we said that Beijing's credit flood is coming, even if the December data was a disappointment.

Then two weeks later, we got confirmation that this was indeed coming, when a local news paper said that "China Bank Lending in Jan. May Hit Record at Over 4T Yuan", to which our response was that China had just wasted 3 years in another pointless deleveraging experiment to get back where it started: with massive credit injections as the only means for growth.

Fast forward to today when just as we previewed a month ago, the Chinese Credit Flood arrived with a bang, and a record 4.9 trillion in new loans, which smashed expectations as did the **Total Social Financing which came at a near record 6 trillion yuan, or almost $1 trillion in total new credit (i.e., new money) in just one month!**



The big picture: Total RMB loans surprised the market to the upside mainly on stronger corporate loans – corporate loan growth accelerated to 23.7% month-over-month annualized in January from 16.9% in December, although short-term corporate loans grew faster than medium to long term loans. Household loan growth slowed in contrast – medium to long term loans to households (mostly mortgages) contracted in January vs December last year amid weak property transactions and early repayment of mortgages. Total social financing and M2 beat expectations as well on the back of stronger loan growth.

The key numbers:

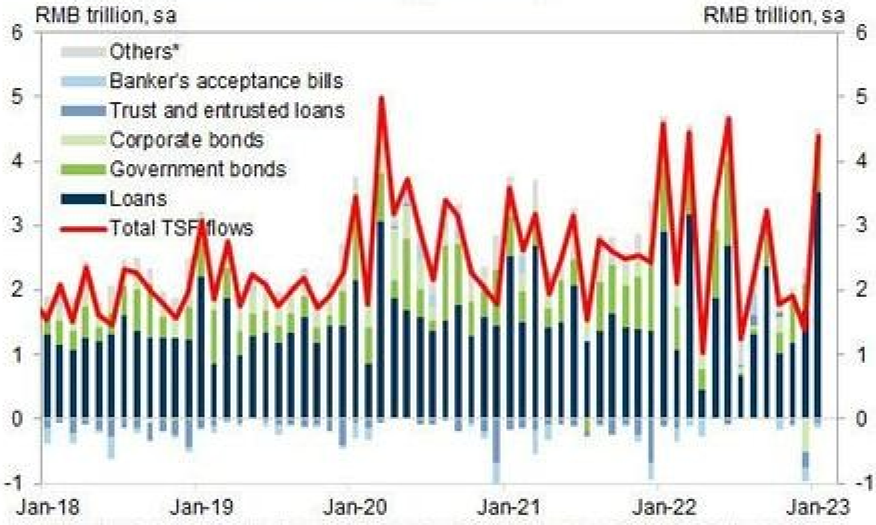
- **New CNY loans:** RMB 4900BN in January (RMB loans to the real economy: RMB 4930BN) vs. Bloomberg consensus: RMB 4200BN.
- **Outstanding CNY loan growth:** 11.3% yoy in January (+12.7% mom sa ann, estimated by GS); December: 11.1% yoy (+12.1% mom sa ann).

- **Total social financing**: RMB 5980 billion in January, vs. consensus: RMB 5400bn
- **TSF stock growth:** 9.4% yoy in January, vs. 9.6% in December. The implied month-on-month growth of TSF stock: 11.5% in January (seasonally adjusted annualized rate), more than double the 4.8% December rate.
- **M2:** 12.6% yoy in January (21% mom sa ann estimated by GS) vs. Bloomberg consensus: 11.7% yoy, December: 11.8% yoy (+2.5% mom sa ann).

  Courtesy of Goldman's Maggie Wei, here are the main points from the report:

- **1. January total social financing (TSF) came in above market expectations, mainly on stronger loan growth.** The sequential growth of TSF stock accelerated to 11.5% mom sa annualized in January from 4.8% in December, and in year-on-year terms, TSF stock growth slowed to 9.4% from 9.6% in December. Among major TSF components, new CNY loans rose strongly after seasonal adjustment, **and shadow banking credit turned less negative as well.** Trust loans, entrusted loans and undiscounted bankers' acceptance bills combined contracted by RMB 140bn in January, vs a contraction of RMB 453bn in December last year. **Corporate bond showed net issuance of RMB 91bn, vs net redemption of RMB 505bn in December,** and government bond net issuance rose to RMB 794bn, from RMB 425bn in December.

Exhibit 2: TSF flows accelerated sharply in January



*Others primarily include equity financing, loan write-offs and depository financial institutions' ABS

Source: PBOC, Wind, CEIC, Data compiled by Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

- **2. Overall CNY loans came in well above market expectations, and the sequential growth of RMB loans accelerated to 12.7% mom sa annualized from 12.1% in December.** Year-on-year growth of RMB loans was 11.3% in January, edging up from 11.1% in December. Based on loan breakdown by different sectors after our seasonal adjustment, corporate loan growth accelerated while household loan growth slowed. In particular, household short-term loan growth slowed to 3.4% month-over-month annualized from 5.7% in December, and household medium to long term loans, which are mostly mortgages, contracted by 2.2% in January from 5.2% expansion in December last year, on the back of slow property transactions and early repayment of mortgages, despite on-going property policy easing.

- **3. M2 growth accelerated to 12.6% yoy in January from 11.8% in December,** above market expectations and the highest since 2016. FX inflows have likely been quite strong in January, adding to the overall M2 growth in the month, besides the contribution from faster RMB loan growth.

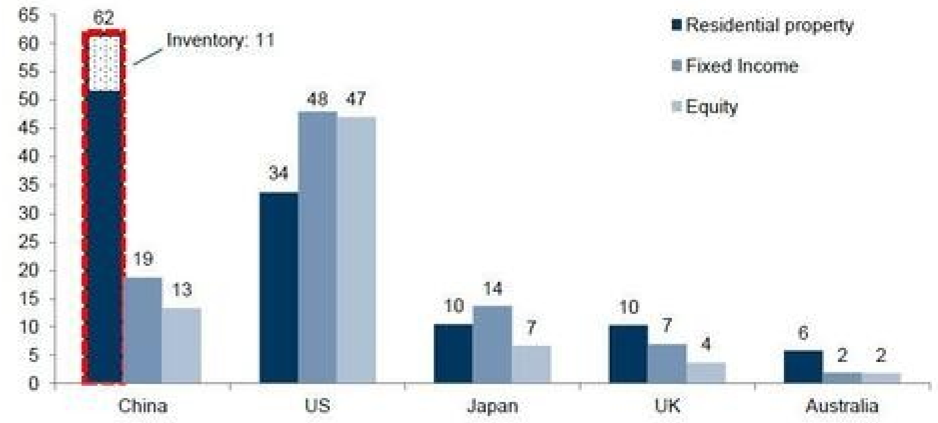
- **4. January loan and credit data were stronger than expectations, mostly on higher RMB loans to the corporate sector.** The acceleration in corporate loans reflected policy support and some improvement in credit demand – policymakers urged commercial banks to accelerate loan extensions and market color suggests faster loan growth in infrastructure and manufacturing sectors. However, corporate short-term loans grew faster than long-term loans – short-term loans expanded by 39.3% month-over-month annualized, vs 5.4% in December last year, and medium to long term loans expanded by 28.2% month-over-month annualized, vs 24.4% in December. Whether the fast speed of corporate loan growth could be sustainable thus remains to be seen. In contrast, the weak household loans and in particular household medium to long term loan growth highlighted the challenges in the property sector – despite the on-going policy easing in the sector, households chose to repay mortgages early amid falling mortgages rates and relatively conservative expectations on future property prices.
- **5. PBOC revised the statistical standards for money and credit data this month by including credit extensions from consumer credit companies,** wealth management companies, and financial asset investment companies to the loan and TSF data, though this impact is relatively small. According to the PBOC, total loan extensions by these companies stood at RMB 841bn in January, around 0.4% of outstanding RMB loan stock.

Bottom line, the January loan and credit data came red hot as we expected and as China warned, clearly expecting this outcome and hinting that there is much more to come (no surprise that the PBOC released more than 1trillion yuan in new liquidity in just the past three days). The acceleration in bank loans reflected policy support - commercial banks extended more loans to property developers after the "property 16 measures", and policy banks' credit facility targeting at infrastructure investment in recent months likely also added to overall RMB loan growth. At the same time, the sharp upward reversal in TSF growth indicates that Beijing has fully capitulated when it comes to new containing the next credit bubble and is now pursuing it wholeheartedly as it hopes to reverse three years of subdued growth by China's economy during its Zero Covid nightmare.

The question is how soon and how extensively China's massive credit impulse reboot will flood the world. One thing is clear: the burst higher in credit will lead to an even more powerful bounce in Chinese stocks in the near term.

How widely that spreads across the globe remains to be seen and will be a function of how much inflation China manages to export to the world in the next year. This a topic we discussed in "Nikileaks Spooks Markets That Chinese Reopening May Be Inflationary, But Wall Street Disagrees." But what is perhaps most important is that the wobbly foundation of the world's biggest asset bubble - China's property market..

The Chinese property market is likely the largest asset class in the world
Total value, US $tn



Source: WFE, CEIC, Japan Cabinet Office, Halifax, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research.

... is about to be reinforced with monetary concrete, as discussed in "In Huge Policy Reversal, China Will Ease "Three Red Lines" Rule To Kickstart World's Biggest Asset Bubble", and not long after expect all global "high beta" asset classes to follow suit.

War, Erdogan, iran, middle east: feb10 **israel bombins in syria, recent..**

SOHR also said that the strikes coincided with air patrols carried out by US coalition drones.

The Al-Bukamal border crossing has been open since 2019 for travel and commerce, despite the closure of the other border crossings between the two countries. Dozens of trucks pass through this crossing on a daily basis, including food and aid trucks, as well as oil tankers, aimed at alleviating the severe shortages caused by the illegal US sanctions and economic warfare against Syria and Lebanon.

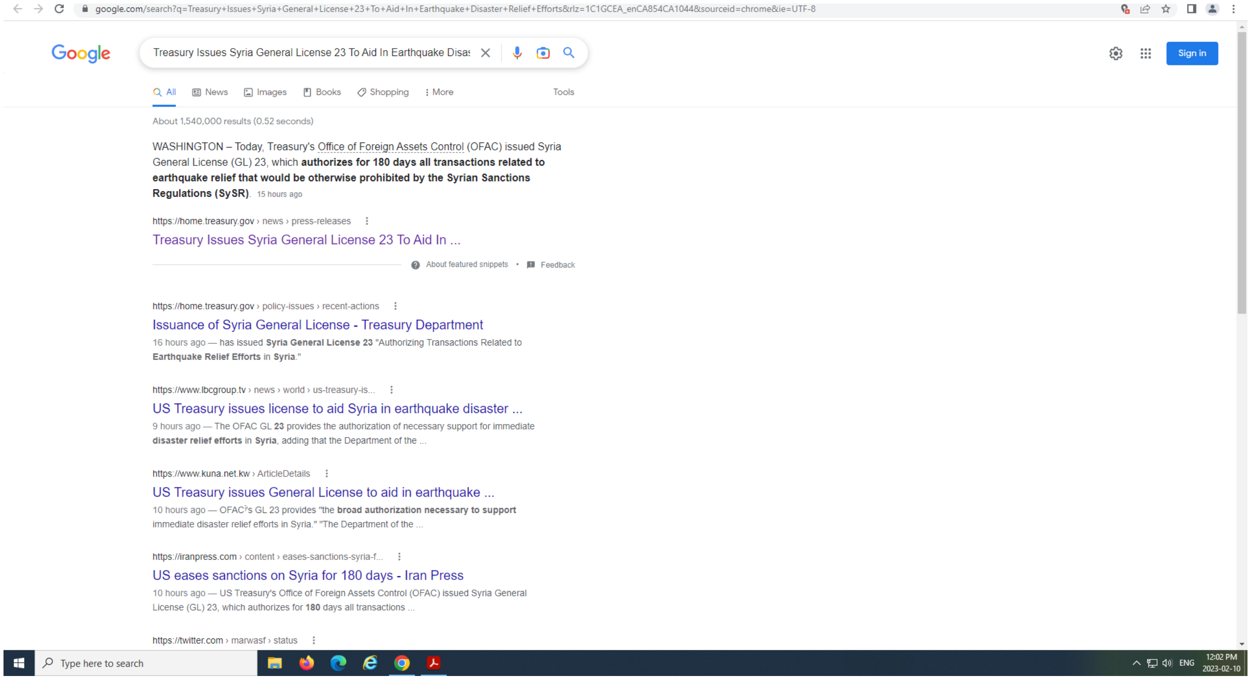
On 9 November 2022, large explosions rocked the outskirts of the Al-Bukamal area following airstrikes near the Syrian-Iraqi border. Israel's chief of staff at the time, Aviv Kochavi, admitted during a press conference around a month later that Tel Aviv was behind the attack.

Former Israeli air force general and military intelligence chief, Amos Yadlin, said in reference to yesterday's attack: "We all understand that there is a whole plan to stop the transfer of advanced weapons from Iran to Hezbollah. This attack proves that there is very accurate intelligence and there is an ability to operate in very remote places."

War, Erdogan: feb10 **u.s. makes temporary exemption to longstanding syria economic sanctions in light of, force majeure....**

<div class="view-content"><div class="mm-news-row"><time datetime="2023-02-10T15:30:00Z">February 10, 2023</time><div class="news-title">Treasury Sanctions Corrupt Elites Across Bulgarian Political Spectrum</div></div><div class="mm-news-row"><time datetime="2023-02-10T14:10:00Z">February 10, 2023</time><div class="news-title">Treasury Takes Action Related to Excepted Foreign State and Excepted Real Estate Foreign States</div></div><div class="mm-news-row"><time datetime="2023-02-10T00:40:40Z">February 9, 2023</time><div class="news-title">Treasury Issues Syria

General License 23 To Aid In Earthquake Disaster Relief Efforts</div></div></div>


google.com/search?q=Treasury+Issues+Syria+General+License+23+To+Aid+In+Earthquake+Disaster+Relief+Efforts&rlz=1C1GCEA_enCA854CA1044&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
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Stats, sanctions, government, journal: feb10 **from 2021: "U.S. waives sanctions on Nord Stream 2 as Biden seeks to mend Europe ties". The article creates the impression that the united states is caving to russia pressure. They can't stop its construction; it will bypass ukraine; it will force reliance on russian gas, america is making concessions. This article was written in 2021, of course, long before nordstream was 'taken out'.**

"Today's actions demonstrate the administration’s commitment to energy security in Europe, consistent with the President’s pledge to rebuild relationships with our allies and partners in Europe," Blinken said in a release, issued as he met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Iceland for an Arctic Council conference.

President Joe Biden, a Democrat, has opposed the $11 billion project that would take Russian gas from the Arctic to Germany, saying it is a bad deal for Europe. The United States is an exporter of natural gas to Europe in the form of LNG, but Russian gas is cheaper.

5 minute readMay 19, 20218:25 AM ADTLast Updated 2 years ago

U.S. waives sanctions on Nord Stream 2 as Biden seeks to mend Europe ties

By Andrea Shalal
, Timothy Gardner
 and Steve Holland

A road sign directs traffic towards the Nord Stream 2 gas line landfall facility entrance in Lubmin, Germany, September 10, 2020. REUTERS/Hannibal Hanschke/File Photo

WASHINGTON, May 19 (Reuters) - The Biden administration waived sanctions on the company behind Russia's Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Germany and its chief executive, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday, a move decried by critics of the project in Congress.

A State Department report sent to Congress concluded that Nord Stream 2 AG and its CEO, Matthias Warnig, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, engaged in sanctionable activity. But Blinken immediately waived those sanctions, saying that it was in the U.S. national interest.

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The decision came as the Biden administration seeks to rebuild ties with Germany, after relations deteriorated under Republican former President Donald Trump. The waivers have no specific end date, but can be rescinded by the secretary of state.

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The State Department imposed sanctions on four Russian ships, including the Akademik Cherskiy, which began pipe-laying for the project in Danish waters in April. It also imposed the measures on five other Russian entities, including the Russian Marine Rescue Service.

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Washington fears Russia could use Nord Stream 2 as leverage to weaken European Union states by increasing dependency on Moscow.

STOPPING PIPELINE IS A 'LONG SHOT'

Russia's state energy company, Gazprom (GAZP.MM), and its Western partners are racing to finish the pipeline to send natural gas under the Baltic Sea. The project, now about 95% complete, would bypass Ukraine, depriving it of lucrative transit fees and potentially undermining its struggle against Russian aggression.

A U.S. official conceded that stopping the project would be difficult but that Washington would keep trying. "We inherited a pipeline that was over 90% complete and so stopping it has always been a long shot," the State Department official said.

At the rate it is being constructed, Nord Stream 2 will be finished before the end of the year, if not sooner, analysts said.

U.S. lawmakers from both parties who oppose the project said the sanctions did not go far enough, as Russia could likely continue work.

Senator Jim Risch, the senior Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the waivers will be "a gift to Putin that will only weaken the United States' leverage in the lead up to the impending Biden-Putin summit."

Biden "should do everything possible to accomplish what the Trump administration failed to do for four years: stop the completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline for good," said Senator Bob Menendez, a Democrat and chair of the committee.

Yuriy Vitrenko, the new CEO of Ukraine's state-owned energy company, Naftogaz, said Nord Stream 2 is Russia's "most malign and dangerous geopolitical project" and that Ukraine would ask Washington to fully apply its laws and impose sanctions to stop the pipeline.

U.S. officials hope the waiver will give time for discussions with Germany on potential negative effects of the pipeline and provide some leverage to deepen cooperation on broader issues, such as the pandemic, climate change, the economic recovery and dealing with China and Russia.

The waiver also "provides space for diplomatic engagement with Germany to address the risks that a completed pipeline would pose to Ukraine and European energy security," the State Department official told reporters.

Germany has been pressing for the United States to drop its opposition to the project, arguing that the overall relationship was too important to sacrifice over what Berlin has described as a commercial project.

"We see this as a constructive step, which we are happy to further discuss with our partners in Washington," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told reporters. read more
Russian officials signaled on Wednesday that waivers could help mend Washington's fraught ties with Moscow. read more

Stats, government: The United States Department of Agriculture reports that in 2020 the average American household spent 12% of its income on food. But a lot of food is simply thrown away, despite being perfectly safe to eat. The USDA Economic Research Center reports that nearly 31% of all available food is never consumed. Historically high food prices make the problem of waste seem all the more alarming.

Scientific formula

Infant formula is the only food product with a "use by" date that is both government regulated and scientifically determined. It is routinely lab tested for contamination. But infant formula also undergoes nutrition tests to determine how long it take the nutrients - particularly protein – to break down. To prevent malnutrition in babies, the "use by" date on baby formula indicates when it's no longer nutritious.

Nutrients in foods are relatively easy to measure. The FDA already does this regularly. The agency issues warnings to food producers when the nutrient contents listed on their labels don't match what FDA's lab finds.

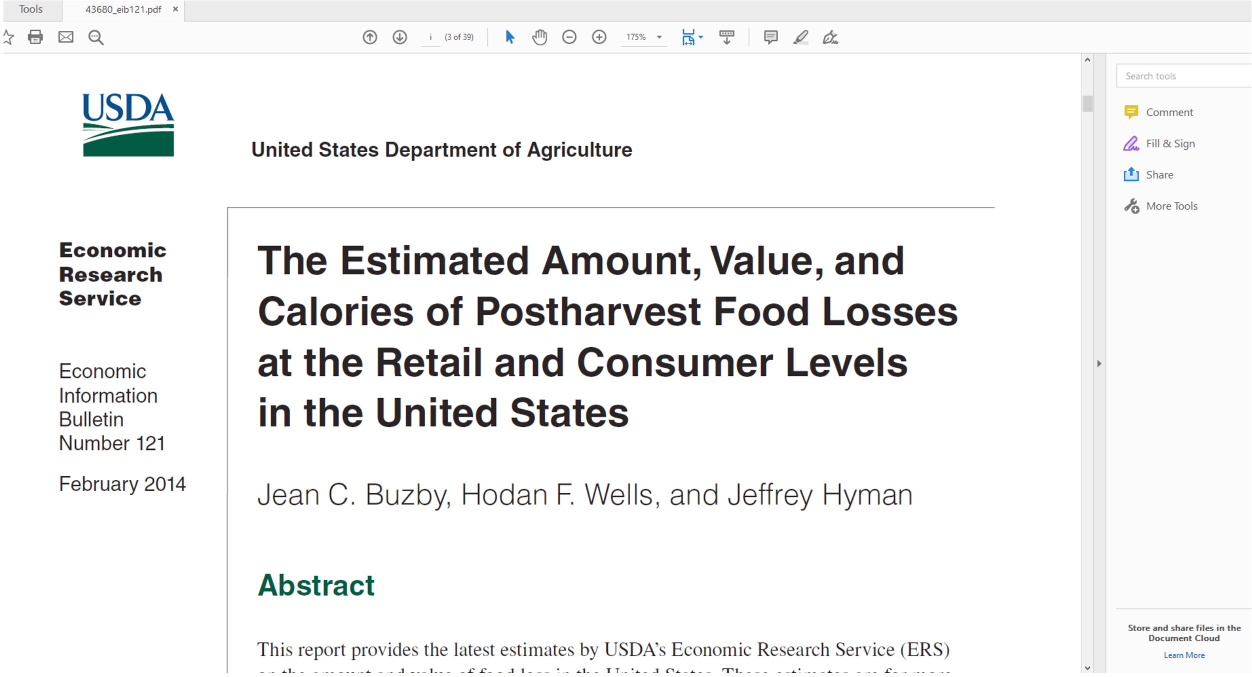
https://theconversation.com/food-expiration-dates-dont-have-much-science-behind-them-a-food-safety-researcher-explains-another-way-to-know-whats-too-old-to-eat-186622

https://theconversation.com/the-uk-wastes-millions-of-tonnes-of-food-every-year-heres-how-we-can-change-that-162783

What Did the Study Find?
In the United States, 31 percent—or 133 billion pounds—of the 430 billion pounds of the available
food supply at the retail and consumer levels in 2010 went uneaten. Retail-level losses represented

10 percent (43 billion pounds) and consumer-level losses 21 percent (90 billion pounds) of the available food supply. (Losses on the farm and between the farm and retailer were not estimated due to data limitations for some of the food groups.)

The estimated total value of food loss at the retail and consumer levels in the United States was $161.6 billion in 2010. The top three food groups in terms of share of total value of food loss were meat, poultry, and fish (30 percent, $48 billion); vegetables (19 percent, $30 billion); and dairy products (17 percent, $27 billion). The total amount of food loss represents 387 billion calories (technically, we mean Calorie or kcal hereafter) of food not available for human consumption per day in 2010, or 1,249 out of 3,796 calories available per American per day. Recovery costs, food safety considerations, and other factors would reduce the amount of food that could actually be recovered for human consumption.



United States Department of Agriculture

Economic Research Service

Economic Information Bulletin Number 121

February 2014

The Estimated Amount, Value, and Calories of Postharvest Food Losses at the Retail and Consumer Levels in the United States

Jean C. Buzby, Hodan F. Wells, and Jeffrey Hyman

Abstract

This report provides the latest estimates by USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS)

Before ending up on a European supermarket shelf, an avocado has effectively emitted 1.3 kilograms of carbon into the atmosphere. Its production alone consumes 60 gallons of water. Despite this, the fruit will often be discarded as household waste.

Wastage occurs at each stage of the food supply chain, but household food waste is one of the most significant. British households waste an estimated 6.7 million tonnes of food each year, amounting to approximately 32% of all purchased food items.

Household food waste is also notoriously difficult to manage. Studies show that consumers often both fail to understand the environmental consequences of food waste, and are rarely held accountable for it.

Household food waste is the result of mismanagement

Much of this wastage is avoidable and the food may have been eaten had it been better managed. This has prompted Waitrose to join a growing number of food retailers in removing date labelling, such as the “use-by” or “best-before” date, from some fresh food items in an attempt to reduce household food waste.

https://theconversation.com/scrapping-use-by-dates-could-prevent-huge-amounts-of-food-waste-heres-what-else-could-help-188085

Tech, health, ai: feb10 **Breakthrough In Blood Revitalization Could 'Delay Aging' According To Columbia University Researchers, studyfinds.org https://studyfinds.org/anti-inflammatory-drug-blood-young/**

censorship, government: EU Complains Elon Musk’s Twitter Lacks Appetite For Censorship

Elon Musk’s Twitter lagged the likes of Google, Meta, and TikTok in the fight against “disinformation” over the past six months, the European Commission said on Feb. 9, and it urged Twitter to get in line.

“I am disappointed to see that Twitter’s report lags behind others and I expect a more serious commitment to their obligations,” Vera Jourova, a European Commission vice president for values and transparency, said in a statement.

The bloc on Feb. 8 opened a Transparency Center that contains the various tech platforms’ reports, including Twitter’s.

Thierry Breton, the EU’s internal market commissioner who recently reminded Musk to follow the EU’s rules on policing content, didn’t reference Twitter directly, but said that “it comes as no surprise that the degree of quality vary greatly according to the resources companies have allocated to this project.” There have been significant staffing cuts at Twitter since Musk took over.

Vera Jourova at the European Commission in Brussels on Sept. 20, 2018. (John Thys/AFP/Getty Images)

Six months ago, before Musk bought the social media platform, Twitter was among 34 entities that signed on to an updated EU anti-disinformation pledge called the Code of Practice on Disinformation.

Along with the recently agreed Digital Services Act—which lets regulators fine tech platforms up to 6 percent of their global turnover for violations—and draft rules on political advertising, the code is part of the European Commission’s “toolbox for fighting the spread of disinformation in the EU,” the bloc’s executive said in a June 2022 release.

While the code is nonbinding, companies that take part can ease some of their compliance requirements under the Digital Services Act, which is expected to kick in around September 2023 for tech platforms with more than 45 million users in the EU, with Twitter likely falling into that category.

Signatories were given six months to implement the commitments and issue implementation reports, which the companies did, with reports published on Feb. 8.

The progress reports include data on how much advertising revenue the companies had cut from disinformation actors, instances of manipulative behaviors detected, and how they label political ads.

Twitter’s report was the only one that was singled out for criticism, with the EU saying that it lacked data and didn’t contain information on commitments to empower fact-checkers.

Twitter didn’t respond by press time to a request by The Epoch Times for comment.

Subsequent implementation reports are due in six months.

War, Erdogan: feb10 UN Warns 'Very Little' Earthquake Aid Reaching Syria Amid US Sanctions

“The goal of UN organizations is to deliver a message about the suffering of the Syrians as a result of the sanctions imposed on their country … **These sanctions have … prevented the arrival of millions of dollars to those affected by the earthquake**,” Benlamlih told Syrian news agency SANA in an interview.

“Syria today is **suffering from a ‘double crisis’ as a result of the ongoing war since 2011, as well as the earthquake**, which made the situation more difficult … before the earthquake, there were 15 million Syrians in dire need of assistance,” he said, adding that now, the numbers have increased significantly.

One day later, UN Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pederson, warned against the politicization of earthquake aid. “Emergency response must not be politicized … We need to do everything to make sure that there are no impediments whatsoever to the life-saving support that is needed in Syria,” Pedersen said on Thursday.

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken on Wednesday claimed that Washington was the ‘leading provider of aid to Syria and the Syrian people,’ **despite also announcing a refusal to coordinate with the government, whose territory is inhabited by around 70 percent of the Syrian population**. On the same day as Blinken’s statement, the UN warned that “very little” aid was reaching government-held territory.

Samuel Werberg, the regional spokesman for the US State Department, claimed on Wednesay during an interview with Saudi television that Washington’s sanctions do not restrict humanitarian aid deliveries in any way. Despite this, Bassam Sabbagh, Syria’s permanent envoy to the UN, said on the same day that **international cargo planes “refuse” to land in Syrian airports due to the threat of sanctions**.

This statement comes in the aftermath of the OPCW releasing its third report on the alleged chemical attack in Douma in 2018, which was put out as the US has been **attempting in any way it can to obstruct a potential reconciliation of ties between Syria and Turkey**, which was in the works under Russian auspices before the massive earthquake ravaged both countries.

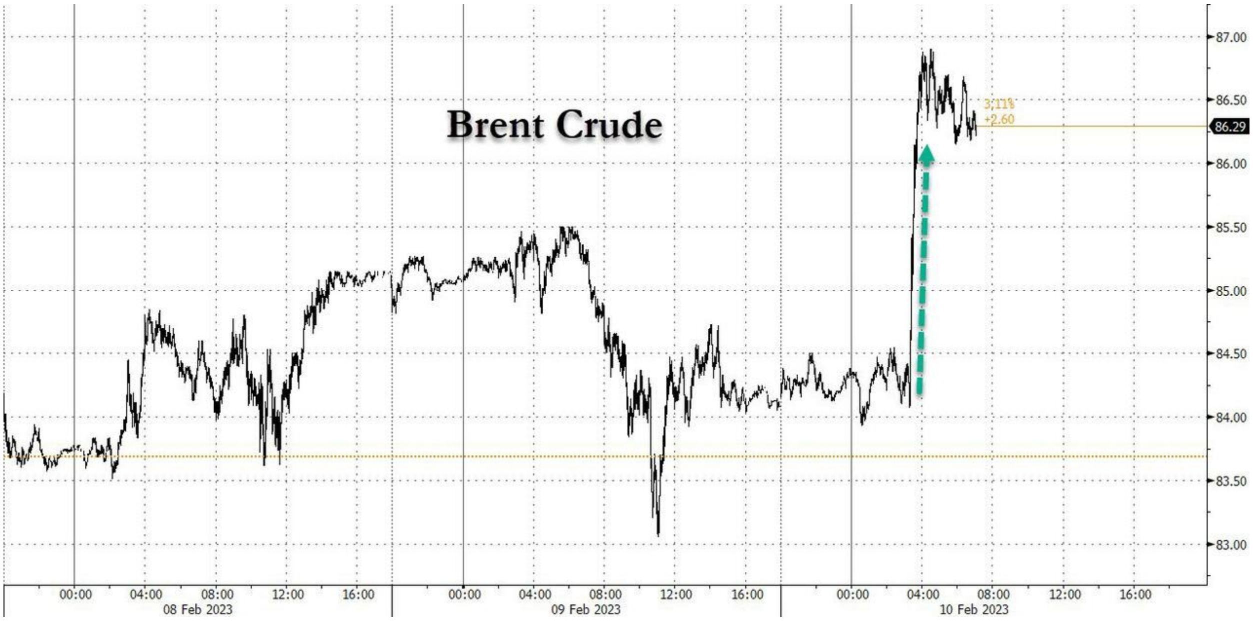
War: feb10 **After Ordering Shootdown, Biden Casually Says China Spy Balloon "Not A Major Breach"**

Russia, energy, sanctions: feb10 Oil Jumps After Russia Says It Will Cut 500,000 Barrels Of Oil Output

Crude prices jumped this morning after a top Russian official said it would reduce oil production by 500,000 barrel-a-day, or about 5% of output, next month, in retaliation against western sanctions, Reuters reported. Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said in a statement on Friday that Russia believes the mechanism of Western price caps on Russian crude and crude oil products is a destructive energy policy:

"As of today, we are fully selling the entire volume of oil produced, however, as stated earlier, we will not sell oil to those who directly or indirectly adhere to the principles of the 'price cap.'"

"In this regard, Russia will voluntarily reduce production by 500,000 barrels per day in March. This will contribute to the restoration of market relations."



Markets, government: feb1 **Japan Set To Appoint Ben Bernanke Classmate Kazuo Ueda As Next BOJ Head**

Ueda has a Ph.D. in economics from MIT and, like his classmate Ben Bernanke, was advised by Stanley Fischer" adding that he has *"largely supported the policies of Kuroda, as the next central bank governor.*"

Ueda has a Ph.D. in economics from MIT and, like his classmate Ben Bernanke, was advised by Stanley Fischer

— Nick Timiraos (@NickTimiraos) February 10, 2023

He served as a BOJ Policy Board Member from 1998 until 2005, **and his appointment would mark the first time in the post-war period that someone from an academic economics background takes on the role of BOJ governor**. At the start of this week, reports emerged that the government had sounded out Deputy Governor Masayoshi Amamiya to take over as the next governor, but that he declined (February 10, Nikkei). **Up to now, the governor post has been filled alternately by candidates from the Ministry of Finance and the BOJ, and the appointment of Kazuo Ueda would mark a departure from this practice.**

Stats, censorship, government: feb10 **Adidas Shares Crash Over $1.3 Billion Pile Of Unsold Yeezy Shoes**

Censorship, war, Erdogan: feb1 **Twitter Access Restored After Turkish Government Restricted Site**

Twitter has been restored in Turkey after it was restricted on Wednesday following the deadly earthquake in the south of the country.

“Metrics confirm access to Twitter is being restored in Turkey following hours of filtering,” tweeted web monitoring site NetBlocks early on Thursday.

It came after talks between Twitter and Turkish authorities about content being posted following the quake.

Turkey’s Deputy Transport Minister Omer Fatih Sayan said that during the discussions, he had reminded Twitter of its “responsibilities to our country after the disaster”.

“Our demands are clear, strong cooperation on disinformation and false reports, swift action against fake accounts and ... measures against content that could damage public order and security," Sayan said on Twitter.

On Wednesday, users said their access to the site was completely blocked without a VPN, while others said their access had been severely slowed.

The Turkish government regularly restricts Twitter access in the wake of disasters and incidents such as bomb attacks, supposedly as a means of countering disinformation.

In a speech on Tuesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that he would not allow "disinformation" to spread in the wake of the earthquakes and called on Turks not to listen to "provocateurs".

Eighteen people have been detained since the earthquake after posting “provocative” social media content critical of the government’s response, AFP reported.

Gurkan Ozturan, coordinator of the rapid response unit at the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom, told Middle East Eye on Wednesday that the throttling of Twitter created unnecessary problems.

"Social media in this whole process has been crucial to coordinate efforts to amplify voices of the victims from under the debris and for rescue teams to detect their location and offer support, as well as [helping] humanitarian and civil society organisations to raise donations," he said.

"This action simply adds a new layer to the already troubled situation and creates more problems for the victims and volunteers, as well as those who are trying to hear from their loved ones from the impacted cities."

Stats, government, censorship, middle east: feb10 Iraq theft of the cnetury?: "Alia Nasif, a member of the Iraqi Integrity Committee, said in a statement that “the stolen amount was withdrawn in cash by the executive directors of five companies”, which she described as “phantoms.”

A member of the Iraqi Integrity Committee, Ali Turki, revealed on 8 February, that former minister of finance and employees of former prime minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi’s government office were involved in the case of the theft of $2.5 billion from a bank fund of Iraq’s General Tax Authority, which is considered one of the biggest corruption scandals in the country’s history, reported *Anwar* TV.

Details leaked from the General Tax Authority reveal that the $2.5 billion were withdrawn between September 2021 and August 2022. The transactions involve five companies who cashed cheques that add up to the exact amount missing.

War, middle east, Erdogan: feb10 Since Saied took control of almost all powers in July 2021 when he closed parliament and dismissed the government, Tunisia has sent signals it was open to changing its diplomatic stance with Syria.

War, Erdogan: feb10 thecradle: Lebanese officials meet with Syrian president for first time since start of war, "this was the first time a Lebanese official delegation met with the Syrian president since the start of the US-backed 11-year war"

During the meeting, Assad thanked Lebanon and all other Arab countries that provided aid to Syria after the earthquake and risked being subjected to US Caesar Act sanctions by doing so

A high-level ministerial delegation from Lebanon visited Syria on 8 February to discuss relief efforts for the country and meet with President Bashar al-Assad following the devastating 6 February earthquake that left over 16,000 Syrian and Turkish people dead.

The Lebanese delegation was received by Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad. Upon its arrival, it expressed "solidarity with the Syrian people in this plight" and vowed to offer all capabilities "to assist in the relief efforts," according to Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA).

It was headed by Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdullah Bou Habib, who was accompanied by several other ministers and officials, including the Minister for Social Affairs, Hector

Hajjar, and the Director General of the Ministry of Health, Fadi Sinan.

While addressing the Syrian Foreign Ministry, the Lebanese officials expressed their condolences for the victims and promised to stand by Syria in its time of need as it “stood by Lebanon in its difficult times.”

The officials then made their way to Damascus’ Muhajireen Palace, where they were received “one by one” by the Syrian president.

During their meeting, Assad expressed “confidence in [Syria’s] ability to overcome the ordeal.” He then went over the efforts of other Arab countries that provided relief aid for Syria, which include Algeria, Egypt, and Iraq. The Syrian president expressed gratitude for this aid, which was sent from Lebanon through the Lebanese army, civil defense, and red cross.

This gratitude comes in light of the fact “that many countries [including Lebanon] are under American pressure” and that aid has been making its way to Syria from other Arab countries in disregard of US-imposed Caesar Act sanctions, which many have warned pose a grave threat to the humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly following the earthquake.

“The countries of the region realize that America is a friend and ally to nobody … so we appreciate [and take into consideration] the circumstances [of all these countries],” Assad added.

This is the second high level delegation to visit Syria from Lebanon since the start of the war, the first of which took place in September 2021 and related to a US-sponsored energy cooperation deal that never materialized.

However, this was the first time a Lebanese official delegation met with the Syrian president since the start of the US-backed 11-year war, representing warm and brotherly ties between the two countries despite a tense history.

On 7 February, Lebanese Minister of Public Works Ali Hamieh – who was part of the delegation – announced that “the ports of Beirut and Tripoli, as well as Beirut airport, are exempt from all fees and taxes for the delivery of any aid to Syria.”

War, Erdogan: feb10 **Shielded From War, Syria Town Emptied Out by Earthquake and Floods**

Shielded from 12 years of civil war, the small northwest Syrian town of Al-Tloul near the Turkish border has been devastated by Monday's huge earthquake and ensuing flooding that has pushed out nearly all of its inhabitants, residents said.

Three residents told Reuters the earthquake killed between 35 to 40 people and left most buildings either destroyed or damaged in the small town that hugs the border, separated from Turkey only by the Orontes river.

Following the quake, locals discovered cracks in a small dam nearby and attempted to fortify it with sandbags, Al-Tloul resident Abdelrahmen al-Jassim said.

But heavy rains over the past week, which have also impeded earthquake relief efforts across the region, swelled the river.

As the call to prayer went out around 4 a.m. on Thursday, the dam gave way and the flooding came, al-Jassim said, covering fields and filling homes with knee-high murky brown water.

"Women and children are now staying under the olive trees without anything. And who can you ask (for help)? Everyone is devastated. God help us," he said.

The earthquake has killed more than 3,200 people in Syria, nearly 2,000 of whom resided in the country's northwest that already faced a humanitarian crisis after years of isolation and bombardment by the Syrian government and its allies.

Almost no outside help has come to the northwest since the earthquake, with the first U.N. aid convoy comprised of six trucks entering Thursday morning.

This stands in stark contrast with a massive international relief effort in neighboring Turkey.

In Al-Tloul, people said they had been left to fend for themselves, save for when rescue workers came after the tremor to remove survivors and the dead from the rubble.

Firas Aziz Hawash, a longtime resident of the town, said that some 500 families had been displaced by the flooding.

"The water is in the homes now, there is no one left in the town," he said. "You cant live there anymore. It's a tragedy."

(This story has been refiled to change the day to Thursday from Wednesday, in paragraph 5)

(Reporting by Khalil Ashawi; Writing by Timour Azhari; Editing by Bill Berkrot)

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Tags: Turkey, Syria, earthquakes, Middle East, floods, Europe

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War, Erdogan: feb10 US Church Head Urges Biden to Lift Sanctions on Syria to Help Earthquake Victims

The head of Presbyterian Church (USA) has called on the Biden administration to lift sanctions on Syria so that humanitarian aid can reach earthquake victims.

A massive earthquake clocked in with a magnitude of 7.8 hit the Turkish town of Nurdagi, which is near the Syrian border, resulting in more than 11,200 deaths.

The Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, stated clerk for PCUSA Office of the General Assembly, said in a statement Tuesday that the United States should lift its sanctions on Syria.

“This earthquake adds yet more misery to the people of Syria who, in recent years, have been slowly trying to rebuild their homes and their lives.”

According to Nelson, “the effect of the sanctions slows down transfers of aid” to its partners working in the region, sometimes delaying the delivery of humanitarian aid by months at a time.

“Lifting the sanctions will enable the aid that is required for the immediate emergency to flow smoothly and equip people to rebuild their homes and lives in the coming weeks and months,” said Nelson.

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Advanced Settings
FullscreenPauseUp Next

“This would be the most compassionate action our government could take in response to this tragedy. We urge that the well-being and needs of the most vulnerable people in Syria and throughout the region — who have suffered so greatly — be at the center of our concern.”

In addition to the initial 7.8 magnitude earthquake that was felt as far as Lebanon and Israel, there have been multiple aftershocks in the region, including one that registered as a 7.5 magnitude quake.

"I have never felt anything like it in the 40 years I've lived," said a resident of Gaziantep, southern Turkey, as quoted by the BBC. “We were shaken at least three times very strongly, like a baby in a crib.”

According to the U.S. Department of State, Syria was labeled an official state sponsor of terror back in 1979, and various sanctions were implemented against the Middle Eastern nation in 2004 and 2011.

In addition to the PCUSA, the Middle East Council of Churches have also called on the United States to immediately end sanctions against Syria "so sanctions may not turn into a crime against humanity."

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War, erdogan: feb9 **thecradle.co: In addition to the deaths and injuries, hundreds of thousands of**

people across both countries have now been left homeless in the middle of winter

Tech, censorship, government, stats: feb9 **if this is true, this is fucked. "Facial Recognition Systems to Be Introduced at Russian Land Borders"**

The Russian authorities have invited tenders for a contract worth 830 million rubles ($11.3 million) for the provision of facial recognition technology at some of its land borders, according to an announcement on Russia's public procurement portal reported by independent Russian media outlet Polygon on Thursday.

The facial recognition technology, which is to be installed at multiple Russian border crossings with China, Kazakhstan, Poland and Lithuania, is intended for the cross-checking of traveler identities with data stored in a "biometric database," though the tender call gave no further details.

The delivery of the new technology is due by Nov. 25, 2023, according to the tender announcement.

The move to modernize Russia's dozens of land border crossings comes in the wake of the huge Exodus of citizens seen in late 2022 after President Vladimir Putin announced a "partial" mobilization of military reservists to bolster Russian forces in Ukraine.

Fearing detention should they attempt to leave the country from one of its major airports, many Russians fleeing mobilization — and even political activists under house arrest — managed to leave Russia by exiting through one of its remote border crossings due to issues with the current video surveillance systems used by the immigration authorities.

War, Erdogan: feb9 **quake: middleeastey, death toll for Turkey has risen to 17,674 and the number of injured has hit 72,879, according to the country's vice president, Fuat Oktay, 1 hour ago**

: Feb 09, 2023 8:32 AM AST | Last Updated: 3 hours ago, cbc

"Especially in this cold, it is not possible to live here," he said. "People are warming up around campfires, but campfires can only warm you up so much. … If people haven't died from being stuck under the rubble, they'll die from the cold."

Turkish authorities said Thursday that the death toll had risen to more than 17,100 in the country, with more than 70,000 injured. In Syria, which includes government- and rebel-held areas, more than 3,100 have been reported dead and more than 5,000 injured.

It was not clear how many people were still unaccounted for in both countries.

"There's no hope," said Yilmaz, 67, who had six relatives, including a three-month-old baby, trapped inside. "We can't give up our hope in God, but they entered the building with listening devices and dogs, and there was nothing."

One survivor, Ahmet Tokgoz, called for the government to evacuate people from the region. Many of those who have lost their homes found shelter in tents, stadiums and other temporary accommodation, but others have slept outdoors.
“Especially in this cold, it is not possible to live here,” he said. “If people haven’t died from being stuck under the rubble, they’ll die from the cold.”

Turkey’s disaster agency raised the country’s confirmed death toll on Thursday night to 17,406, while the number of lives lost in neighbouring Syria stood at 3,317.

Cold weather hampering rescue efforts

Rescuers are working in freezing temperatures to dig through the remains of buildings flattened by the earthquakes.

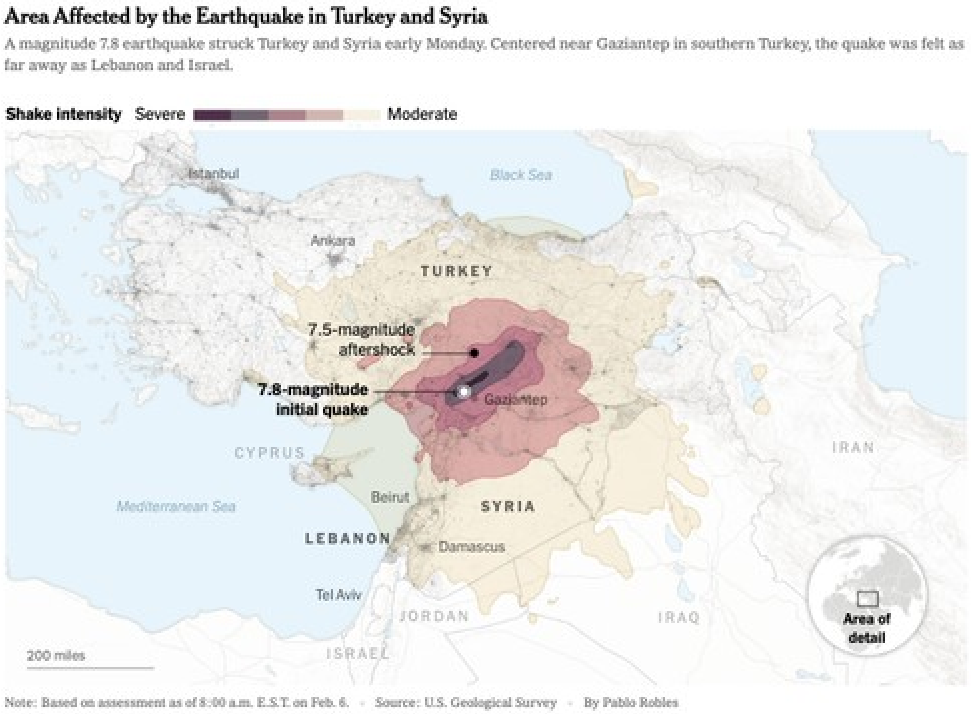
More bad weather is expected to hit the region, further hampering rescue operations. Downed buildings and destroyed roads have also made it difficult to find survivors and get crucial aid into affected areas. Several airports have also been closed after being damaged by the earthquakes.

War, Erdogan, middle east: feb9 **quake: President Recep Erdogan said the quake is the country's largest disaster since the 1939 Erzincan earthquake that killed upwards of 30,00 people., zh reports**

For 100,000-plus rescue personnel, the task is monumental, as there are thousands of collapsed buildings to search. Blocked roads and other logistical challenges have made it challenging for first responders. They're also racing against time as a person's survival probability drops due to a lack of food and water.

We noted yesterday that President Erdogan declared a three-month emergency for ten of Turkey's 81 provinces. He said the measure is because of the widespread destruction in cities, some of which have an equivalent population size to small US cities.

Here's the latest map detailing the quake-affected areas.



Area Affected by the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Turkey and Syria early Monday. Centered near Gaziantep in southern Turkey, the quake was felt as far away as Lebanon and Israel.

Shake intensity
Severe
Moderate
Istanbul
Black Sea
Ankara
TURKEY
7.5-magnitude aftershock
7.8-magnitude initial quake
Gaziantep
CYPRUS
IRAN
Mediterranean Sea
Beirut
SYRIA
LEBANON
Damascus
Tel Aviv
JORDAN
IRAQ
ISRAEL
Area of detail
200 miles

Note: Based on assessment as of 8:00 a.m. E.S.T. on Feb. 6. · Source: U.S. Geological Survey · By Pablo Robles

Since the powerful earthquake struck southeastern Turkey before dawn on Monday, there have been 650 aftershocks in the region.

And here's more footage of the shocking aftermath.

- ## Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: "We can call it the disaster of the century."

The death toll in the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria this week has climbed even higher: 19,000 people are dead.

And thousands are reportedly still missing under rubble and collapsed buildings.

In a brief press conference Thursday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: "We can call it the disaster of the century" and said the devastation spans 10 provinces.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, [towns and buildings across the two countries were decimated.]

business insider,

19,000 dead: 'Disaster of the Century' as thousands are still missing in Turkey and Syria's horrific earthquake

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Chris Panella
Feb 9, 2023, 12:20 PM

Africa, war: feb9 **somaliland counter-attack after losing city held for 16 years: Nearly 300 have been killed since the troops launched the attack on February 5 to retake the city, which was the epicenter of the ongoing protests calling for reunification with Somalia, according to Hamda Jama, a senior nurse at the city’s maternity hospital. Most of the deaths occurred on Wednesday.**

Las Anod, which was captured by Somaliland from Somalia’s autonomous region of Puntland in 2007, has become the epicenter of ongoing unionist protests since late December, forcing the occupying Somaliland troops to withdraw to the city’s outskirts in early January 2023.

China, war: feb9 **Japan Plans to Replace Military Aircraft With Drones**

The Japanese ministry of defense is considering replacing several manned aircraft with unmanned platforms.

The “scrap and build” approach includes decommissioning 12 Ground Self-Defense Force AH-64D combat helicopters, 47 AH-1S anti-tank attack helicopters, and 33 OH-1 observation helicopters, *Yomiuri Shimbun* revealed, citing sources.

The service could have a drone unit, including attack drones, in the future, the outlet added.

SeaGuardian Deployment

In addition, the Maritime Self-Defense Force is mulling downsizing its fleet of 33 P-1 patrol aircraft and 75 SH-60K patrol helicopters.

The service plans to start deploying US-made SeaGuardian unmanned aerial vehicles on a trial basis this year at the Hachinohe air base in Aomori Prefecture.

The plan includes surveillance operations performed through a fleet of SeaGuardians in the future.

Air Self-Defense Force Fleet Decommissioning

Finally, the Air Self-Defense Force’s U-125A aircraft, used for search and rescue missions, could also be decommissioned, leaving its tasks performed by helicopters.

The development comes as Tokyo is planning to raise its defense budget by 56 percent to $318 billion over the next five years.

War, Erdogan, middle east, sanctions: feb9 **also didn't know this: "Syria has been designated a State Sponsor of Terrorism since December 1979"**

(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the Senate on November 11, 2003. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Sec. 4) Declares as U.S. policy that: (1) Syria should bear responsibility for attacks committed by Hizballah and other terrorist groups with offices or other facilities in Syria, or bases in areas of Lebanon occupied by Syria; (2) the United States will work to deny Syria the ability to support acts of international terrorism and efforts to develop or acquire weapons of mass destruction; (3) the Secretary of State will continue to list Syria as a state sponsor of terrorism until it ends support for terrorism, including its support of Hizballah and other terrorist groups in Lebanon and its hosting of terrorist groups in Damascus, and comes into full compliance with U.S. law relating to terrorism and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 (September 28, 2001); (4) the full restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity is in the U.S. national security interest; (5) Syria is in violation of Security Council Resolution 520 through its continued occupation of Lebanese territory and its encroachment upon its political independence; (6) Syria's obligation to withdraw from Lebanon is not conditioned upon progress in the Israeli-Syrian or Israeli-Lebanese peace process but derives from Syria's obligation under Security Council Resolution 520; (7) Syria's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs threaten the security of the Middle East and U.S. national security interests; (8) Syria will be held accountable for any harm to Coalition armed forces or to any U.S. citizen in Iraq if the Government of Syria is found to be responsible owing to its facilitation of terrorist activities and its shipments of military supplies to Iraq; and (9) the United States will not provide any assistance to Syria and will oppose multilateral assistance for Syria until Syria ends all support for terrorism, withdraws its armed forces from Lebanon, and halts the development and deployment of weapons of mass destruction and medium- and long-range surface-to-surface ballistic missiles.

(Sec. 5) Sets forth the following penalties against Syria until the President determines and certifies to Congress that Syria meets the requirements of this Act.

Directs the President to prohibit the export to Syria of any item, including the issuance of an export license, on the United States Munitions List or Commerce Control List of dual-use items in the Export Administration Regulations.

Requires the President, at the same time, to impose two or more of the following sanctions: (1) prohibit the export to Syria of U.S. products (other than food and medicine); (2) prohibit U.S. businesses from investing or operating in Syria; (3) restrict Syrian diplomats in Washington, D.C., and at the United Nations in New York City, to travel only within a 25-mile radius of Washington, D.C., or the United Nations headquarters building, respectively; (4) prohibit aircraft of any air carrier owned or controlled by Syria to take off from, land in, or overfly the United States; (5) reduce U.S. diplomatic contacts with Syria (other than those required to protect U.S. interests or carry out the purposes of this Act); and (6) block transactions in any property in which the Government of Syria has any interest, by any person, or with respect to any property, subject to U.S. jurisdiction.

Authorizes the President to waive such sanctions for one or more six-month periods if the President determines that it is in the national security interest of the United States to do so and reports his reasons to Congress.

Syria Accountability Act

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Syria Accountability Act

Long title	Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act
Acronyms (colloquial)	SALSRA
Enacted by	the 108th United States Congress

Legislative history

- **Introduced** in the House by Eliot L. Engel (D–NY) on April 12, 2003
- **Signed into law** by President George W. Bush on December 12, 2003

The **Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act** (**SALSRA**,Pub. L. 108–175 (text) (PDF)) is a bill of the United States Congress passed into law on December 12, 2003.

The bill's stated purpose is to end what the United States sees as Syrian support for terrorism, to end Syria's presence in Lebanon, which has been in effect since the end of the Lebanese Civil War in 1990, to stop Syria's alleged development of WMDs, to cease Syria's illegal importation of Iraqi oil and to end illegal shipments of military items to anti-US forces in Iraq.

The bill was sponsored by Representative Eliot L. Engel (D) from New York and was introduced April 12, 2003.

2013 Ghouta chemical attack[edit]

In response to the use of chemical weapons against civilians during the 2013 Ghouta chemical attack, president Barack Obama asked Congress to authorize the use of military force against Syria. An early draft of that authorization cites the Syria Accountability Act, saying:[1]

> Whereas in the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003, Congress found that Syria's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction threatens the security of the Middle East and the national security interests of the United States.

Five months after signing the bill, in May 2004, the administration rolled out its sanctions choices. Essentially, the administration agreed to implement the congressionally-mandated prohibition (of export of munitions and dual-use items), as well as (1) the prohibition of exports other than food or medicine to Syria, and (2) the prohibition on Syrian aircraft landing or taking off from the U.S. At the same time, the administration announced that it was imposing, albeit at a later date, Section 311 USA PATRIOT Act sanctions, and International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) designations.

In practice, the first three of these measures resulted in some additional scrutiny of an already-constricted U.S.-Syrian trade relationship. Indeed, trade with Syria had previously been subject to controls based on its status as a state sponsor of terrorism. The IEEPA and Patriot Act sanctions were significant pressure tools, however. Regrettably, these measures were held in reserve for up to two years after the implementing executive order was signed.

IEEPA (Executive Order 13338)

When President Bush signed E.O. 13338 implementing IEEPA in May 2004, he declared "a state of emergency" regarding Syria, authorizing the Department of Treasury in consultation with Department of State, to freeze assets within U.S. jurisdiction, belonging to Syrian individuals and government entities. This authority was significant; indeed, it has been described by the 9-11 Commission as some of the "most powerful tools in the U.S. legal arsenal."

The administration first used this authority in July 2005, when it identified Ghazi Kanaan and Rustom Ghazali, then former and current Syrian intelligence chiefs in Lebanon, as special designated nationals under E.O. 13338 for directing "Syria's military and security presence in Lebanon and/or contributing to Syria's support for terrorism." More recently, in January 2006—following the preliminary findings of the Hariri investigation—the administration designated Assef Shawkat, current director of Syrian military intelligence, for directly furthering the Syria's support for terrorism and interference in the sovereignty of Lebanon.

While IEEPA designations only affect those financial accounts registered in the U.S.—and hence do not directly effect Syrian leaders, most of whom hold their accounts in Europe and the Middle East—the action can be expanded via other executive orders (such as E.O. 13224) to impose sanctions against individuals, organizations and financial institutions that service those designated persons. Hence, the designations potentially have a long reach. This did not escape the Syrians, who were clearly rattled by the designations of these high ranking officials.

Regrettably, although the president has used other authorities (E.O. 13315) to designate a Syrian company and its proprietors (SES International owned by the Shaleesh family) for its dealings with the former Iraqi regime in 2005, to date the administration has implemented IEEPA designations against only three Syrians.

Sanctions against Syria

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Sanctions against Syria are a series of economic sanctions and restrictions imposed by the European Union, the United States, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, the Arab League, as well as other countries, mainly as a result of the repression of civilians in the Syrian civil war from 2011 onwards.

History[edit]

In 1979, the United States put Syria on the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.[1]

Between March and August 2004, the United States issued new sanctions against the Syrian government. These new sanctions are a follow-up to the policy of combating the Axis of evil conducted by the Bush administration, which "condemns the alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction by the Syrian regime, condemns its grip on Lebanon and its willingness to destabilize Iraq, as well as its support for terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas."

The first sanctions were applied on the country after the outbreak of the crisis was on 29 April 2011.,[a] after an executive order was issued by President Barack Obama to block property of those involved in the violations.[2] Canada imposed its first sanctions on May 25, 2011 in the form of a travel ban, asset freeze, ban on the export of certain goods and technology that may be used by the armed forces, and suspension of all bilateral agreements and initiatives.[3]

China, war: feb9 **globaltimes frontpage arcvd**
https://perma.cc/NY23-PNCS

Journal, war: feb9 **so thjey just laid it all out through hesh, in my opinion, anyways..**
It was commenting on a blog post published earlier on Wednesday by respected American journalist Seymour Hersh that accused the US military of involvement in the blasts and alleged President Joe Biden green-lighted the operation.

Hersh is a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist who exposed the 1969 massacre of Vietnamese civilians by American forces. He also broke the story of US troops brutalising Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib after the US invasion in 2003.

Russia, without providing evidence, has repeatedly said NATO nations were behind last September's explosions affecting the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines – multibillion-dollar infrastructure projects that carried Russian gas to Germany under the Baltic Sea. Western officials have denied those accusations.

"The White House must now comment on all these facts," Zakharova said in a post on her Telegram page, where she summarised Hersh's main claims regarding the alleged US involvement.

The White House on Wednesday dismissed Hersh's post. "This is utterly false and complete fiction," said Adrienne

Watson, a spokesperson for the National Security Council. A US Department of State spokesperson said the same.

A Central Intelligence Agency spokesperson echoed the White House denial, calling the report "completely and utterly false".

Shortly after the plans were devised, President Biden publicly threatened the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, a project the US tried to stop for years through sanctions. "If Russia invades . . . there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it," President Biden said on February 7, 2022.

A few weeks earlier, Victoria Nuland, undersecretary of state for political affairs, made a similar threat. Hersh's source said Nuland and Biden's comments were like "putting an atomic bomb on the ground in Tokyo and telling the Japanese that we are going to detonate it."

In the wake of the Nord Stream bombings, Western media, and some Western officials blamed the attack on Russia even though the pipelines are mainly owned by Gazprom, Russia's state natural gas company. But recently, it's been acknowledged by major American newspapers, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, that there's no evidence pointing to Moscow's involvement.

War, energy, russia, journal: feb9 Construction of Nord Stream 2, designed to double the amount of gas Russia could send directly to Germany under the sea, was completed in September 2021. But the pipeline was never put into operation after Berlin shelved certification just days before Moscow sent its troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

War, Russia: feb9 Moscow Considering Windfall Tax to Cover Plunging Oil Revenues

The price of Russia's flagship Urals oil blend is no longer set by Europe but by Asia, which has become the largest market for the commodity, Rosneft's chief executive Igor Sechin said at the India Energy Week.

"If Russian oil does not enter the European market, then there is no reference price. Reference prices will be formed where oil volumes actually go," Sechin said, as quoted by Reuters.
"As it's scripted in Ecclesiastes: what is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted," he added.

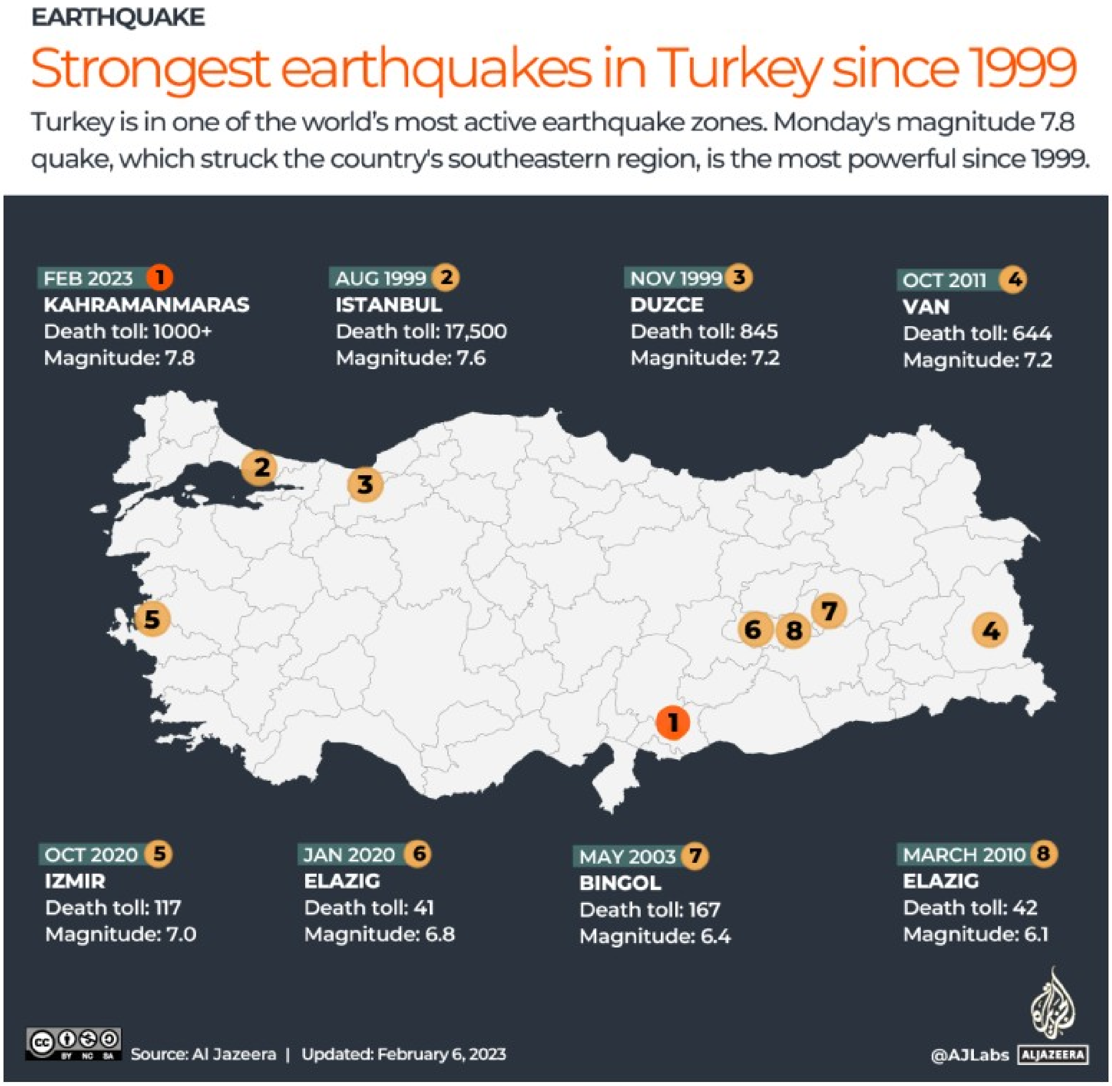
According to Reuters calculations, some 70 percent of the Urals cargoes loaded last month went to India. Russia has become India's largest supplier of crude oil, Sokol was above the threshold which is $10 per barrel above the EU/G7 price cap. Urals, at the same time, averaged $49.48 per barrel in January, according to Finance Ministry data cited by Reuters. This was 42 percent cheaper than its price for January 2022.

War, Erdogan: feb9 Quoting one unnamed source with "direct knowledge of the operational planning", Hersh detailed how "skilled deep-water divers" from the US Navy planted C-4 explosives during a training exercise last June, then detonated the payload remotely three months later.

War, Erdogan: feb9 Turkish Leader Admits 'Shortcomings' in Earthquake Response

War, Russia: feb9 UN Experts Slam Latvia for Clamping Down on Russian-Language Minorities

War, Erdogan: feb9 **histogram of full turkey earthquake history**



EARTHQUAKE

Strongest earthquakes in Turkey since 1999

Turkey is in one of the world's most active earthquake zones. Monday's magnitude 7.8 quake, which struck the country's southeastern region, is the most powerful since 1999.

FEB 2023 ①
KAHRAMANMARAS
Death toll: 1000+
Magnitude: 7.8

AUG 1999 ②
ISTANBUL
Death toll: 17,500
Magnitude: 7.6

NOV 1999 ③
DUZCE
Death toll: 845
Magnitude: 7.2

OCT 2011 ④
VAN
Death toll: 644
Magnitude: 7.2

OCT 2020 ⑤
IZMIR
Death toll: 117
Magnitude: 7.0

JAN 2020 ⑥
ELAZIG
Death toll: 41
Magnitude: 6.8

MAY 2003 ⑦
BINGOL
Death toll: 167
Magnitude: 6.4

MARCH 2010 ⑧
ELAZIG
Death toll: 42
Magnitude: 6.1

BY NC SA

Source: Al Jazeera | Updated: February 6, 2023

@AJLabs ALJAZEERA

War, Erdogan: feb9 **The death toll from the Turkey-Syria earthquakes has passed 19,000. At least 16,546 people have died in Turkey, according to the country’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, while at least 3,162 have been**

killed in Syria. The first UN aid convoy has reached rebel-held northwest Syria from Turkey.

- Hopes of finding survivors are quickly fading and residents of southeastern Turkey and northwestern Syria are criticising what they call slow search and rescue efforts.
- Yet amid the freezing cold, rescue workers are still pulling people out alive from the rubble, as search operations continue for a fourth day.

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"dateModified": "2023-02-08T11:01:21Z",

said death toll wads 11 thousand yesterday
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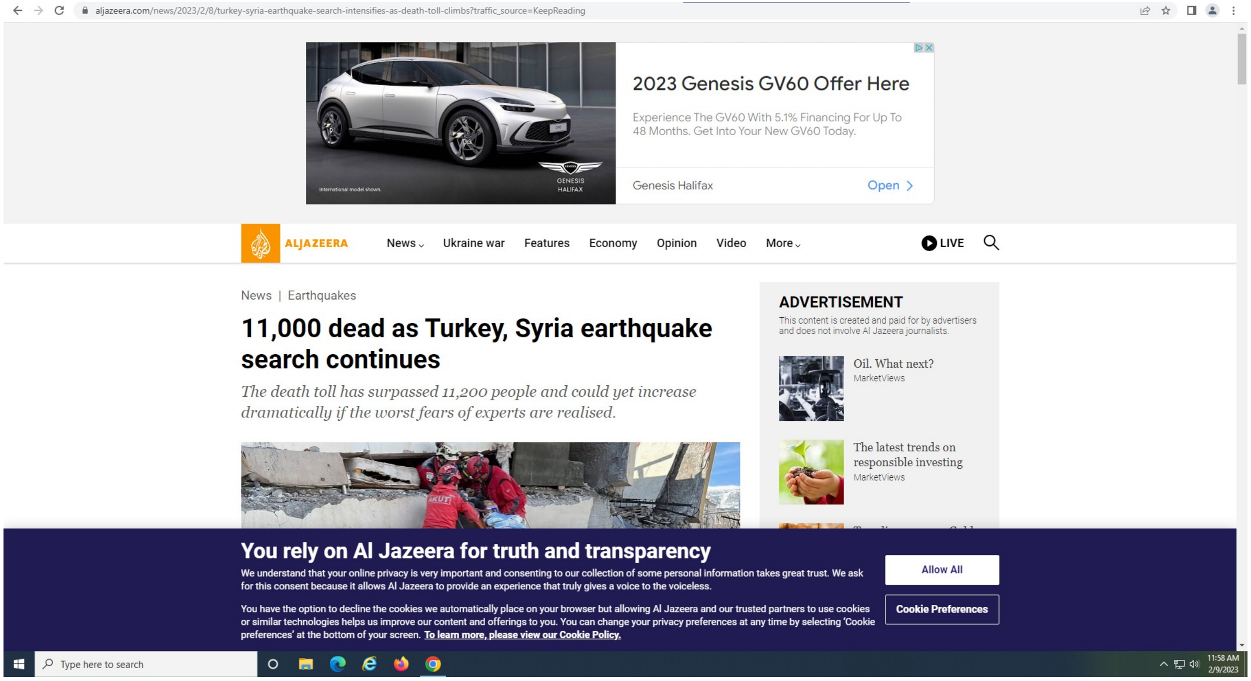

aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/8/turkey-syria-earthquake-search-intensifies-as-death-toll-climbs?traffic_source=KeepReading

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11,000 dead as Turkey, Syria earthquake search continues

The death toll has surpassed 11,200 people and could yet increase dramatically if the worst fears of experts are realised.

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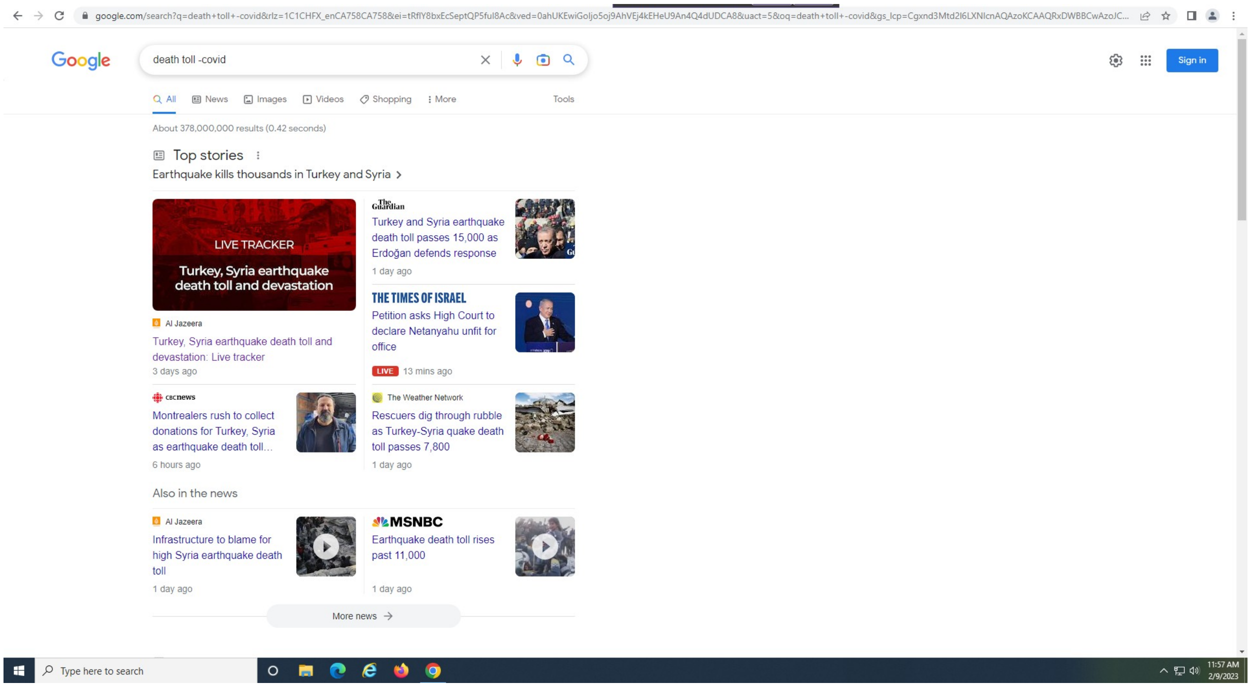
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“Around 80 people, bodies at this stage as rescue workers are saying, are believed to be under the rubble of this apartment. They are no longer hearing voices,” she said.

“We just came back from another location where we saw a body being pulled from the rubble. It was a father. His daughter was there, she was sobbing – all the family members were there.

Absolutely heartbreaking to see,” Dekker added.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said 13 million of the country’s 85 million people were affected and declared a state of emergency in 10 provinces.

Erdogan visited Kahramanmaras on Wednesday, and announced plans to help the survivors of the earthquake.

“We will not allow citizens to go homeless,” Erdogan said, adding that victims would be able to stay in hotels. “The state housing authority will do what is necessary.”

In Syria, where a conflict that began in 2011 continues, despair was growing among those still waiting for help.

Aid efforts have been hampered by the continuing war and the isolation of the opposition-held region along the border, which is surrounded by Russia-backed government forces.

Damage to roads and other infrastructure in southern Turkey has prevented aid from reaching northern Syria through the only crossing, known as Bab al-Hawa.

Syria itself is under Western sanctions linked to the war. The government of Bashar al-Assad and its allies in Russia have seized the moment to renew their push for aid to the north to be routed through Damascus.

Countries opposed to al-Assad do not trust the Syrian authorities to effectively deliver aid to opposition areas and worry it would be diverted to benefit people and institutions linked to the government.

At a press conference on Tuesday in Damascus, Syrian Arab Red Crescent head Khaled Hboubati said his group is “ready to deliver relief aid to all regions of Syria, including areas not under government control”.

He called for the European Union to lift its sanctions on Syria in light of the emergency.

Stuck in the cold

Even for survivors, the future seems bleak. Many have taken refuge from relentless aftershocks, cold rain and snow in mosques, schools and even bus shelters, burning debris to stay alive.

In Gaziantep, where the violent aftershocks rumble on, shops are closed, there is no heat because gas lines have been cut to avoid explosions and finding petrol is tough.

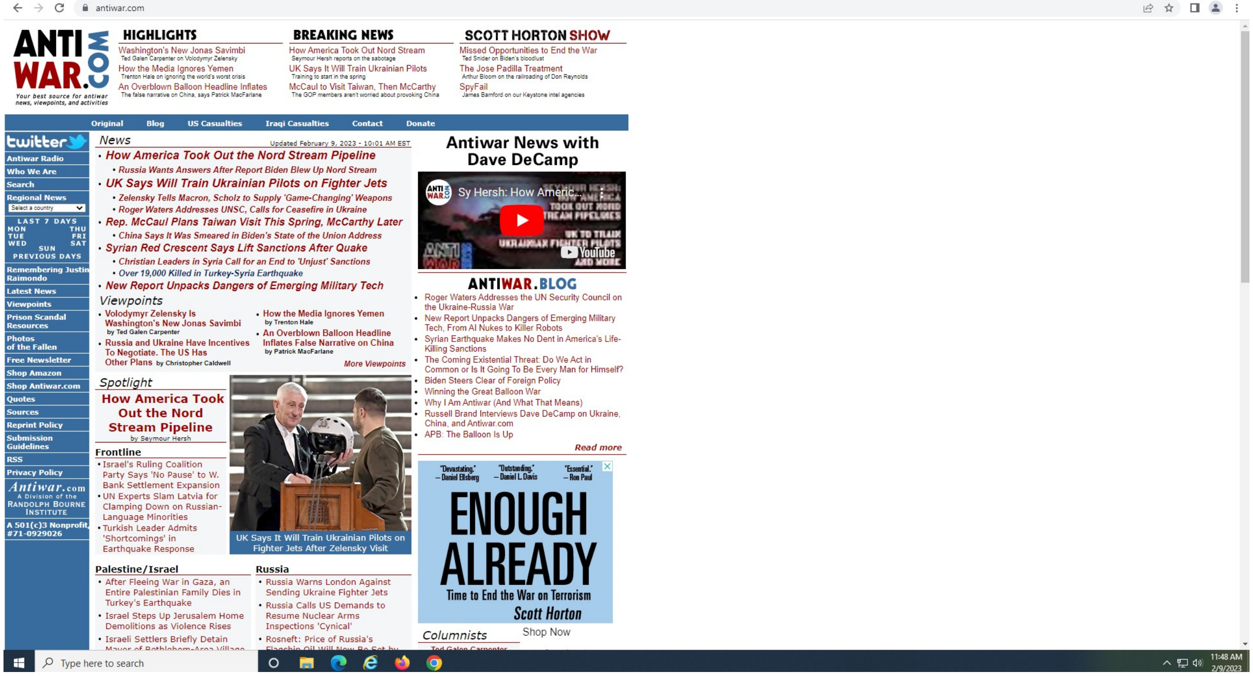
Only bakeries remain open, drawing long queues.

Some of the worst damage in Gaziantep’s eponymous province took place in the most remote districts, where hundreds of buildings have collapsed.

With the airport and many roads outside the city blocked, attempts to flee the city have been frustrated.

Many survivors, who rushed outside without even having time to put on shoes when the earthquake struck, feel abandoned as they also battle cold weather.

War, Erdogan: feb9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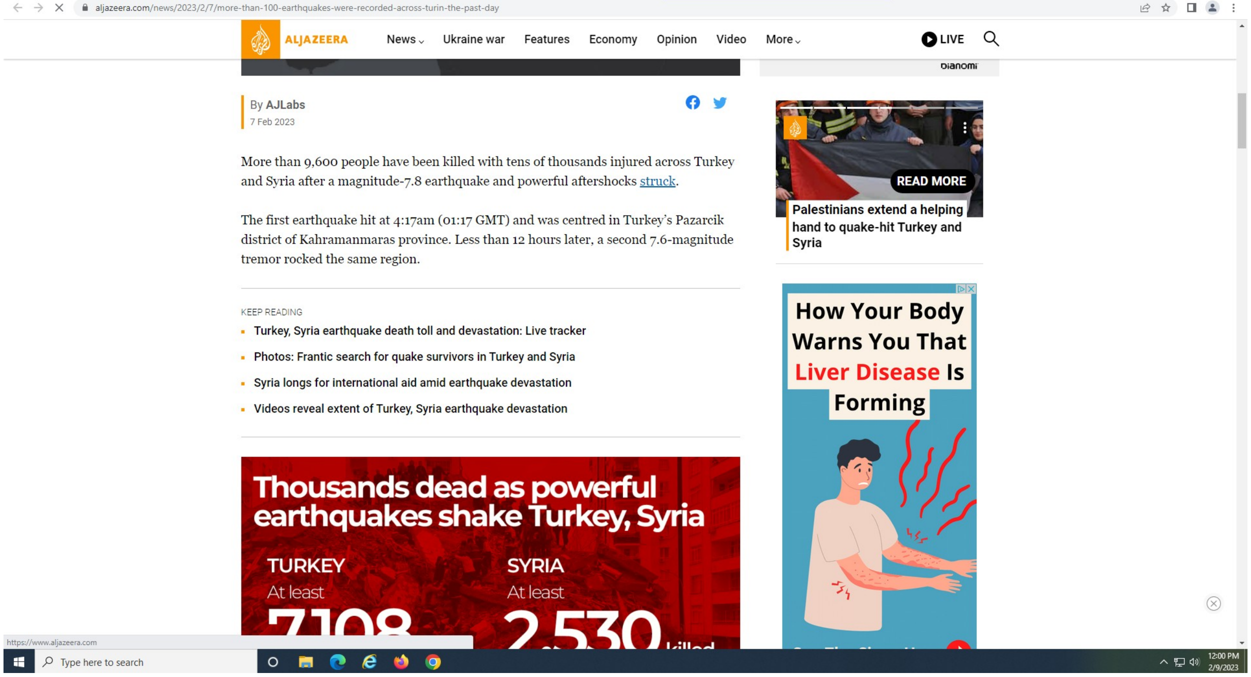
Mapping the 100+ aftershocks from the Turkey-Syria earthquake Turkey has been hit by more than 100 magnitude-4+ quakes since a deadly 7.8 earthquake struck the southeastern region along the border with Syria on February 6.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By **AJLabs**
7 Feb 2023

More than 9,600 people have been killed with tens of thousands injured across Turkey and Syria after a magnitude-7.8 earthquake and powerful aftershocks struck.

The first earthquake hit at 4:17am (01:17 GMT) and was centred in Turkey's Pazarcik district of Kahramanmaras province. Less than 12 hours later, a second 7.6-magnitude tremor rocked the same region.

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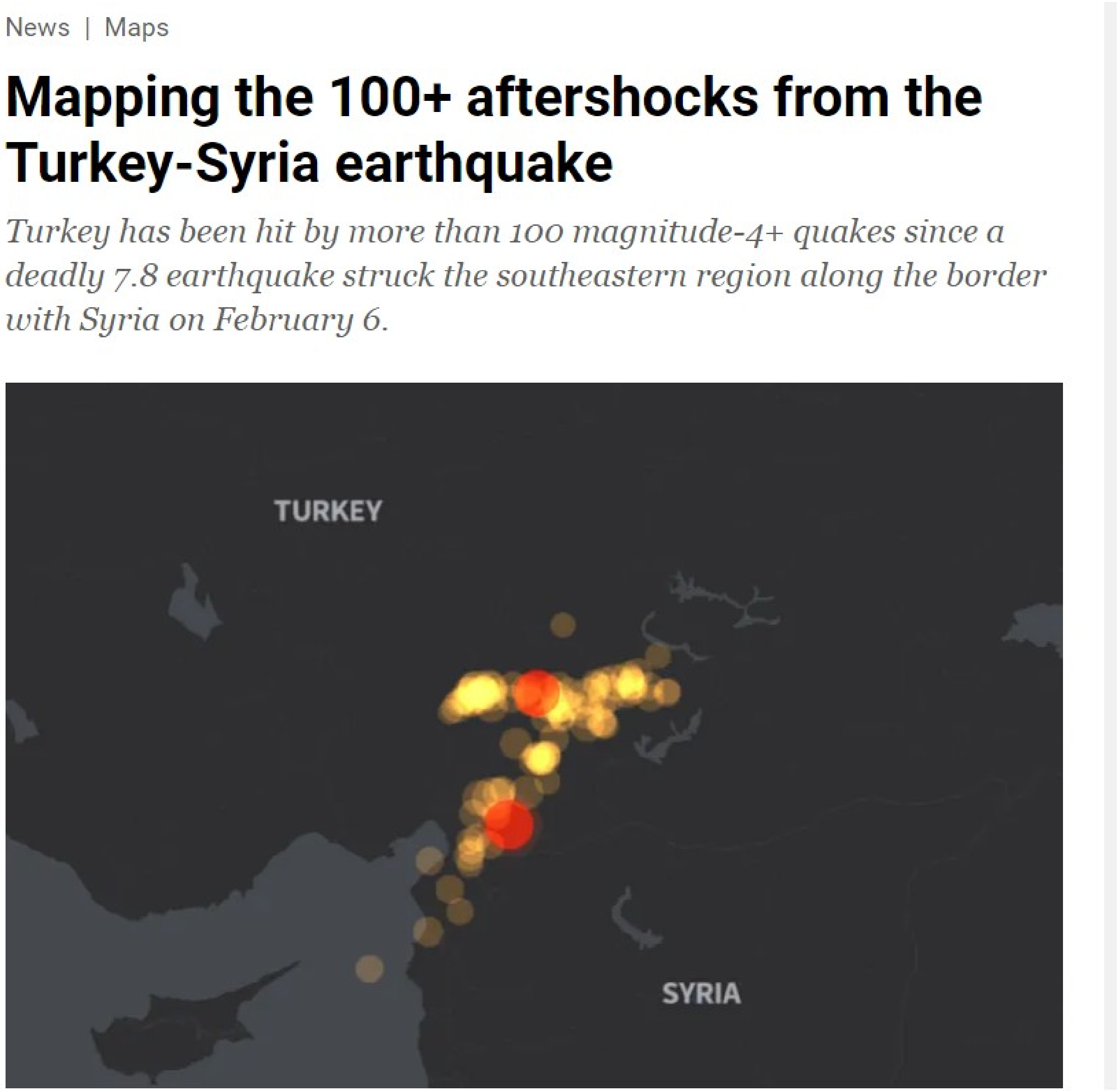

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Mapping the 100+ aftershocks from the Turkey-Syria earthquake

Turkey has been hit by more than 100 magnitude-4+ quakes since a deadly 7.8 earthquake struck the southeastern region along the border with Syria on February 6.

By **AJLabs**

Published On 7 Feb 20237 Feb 2023

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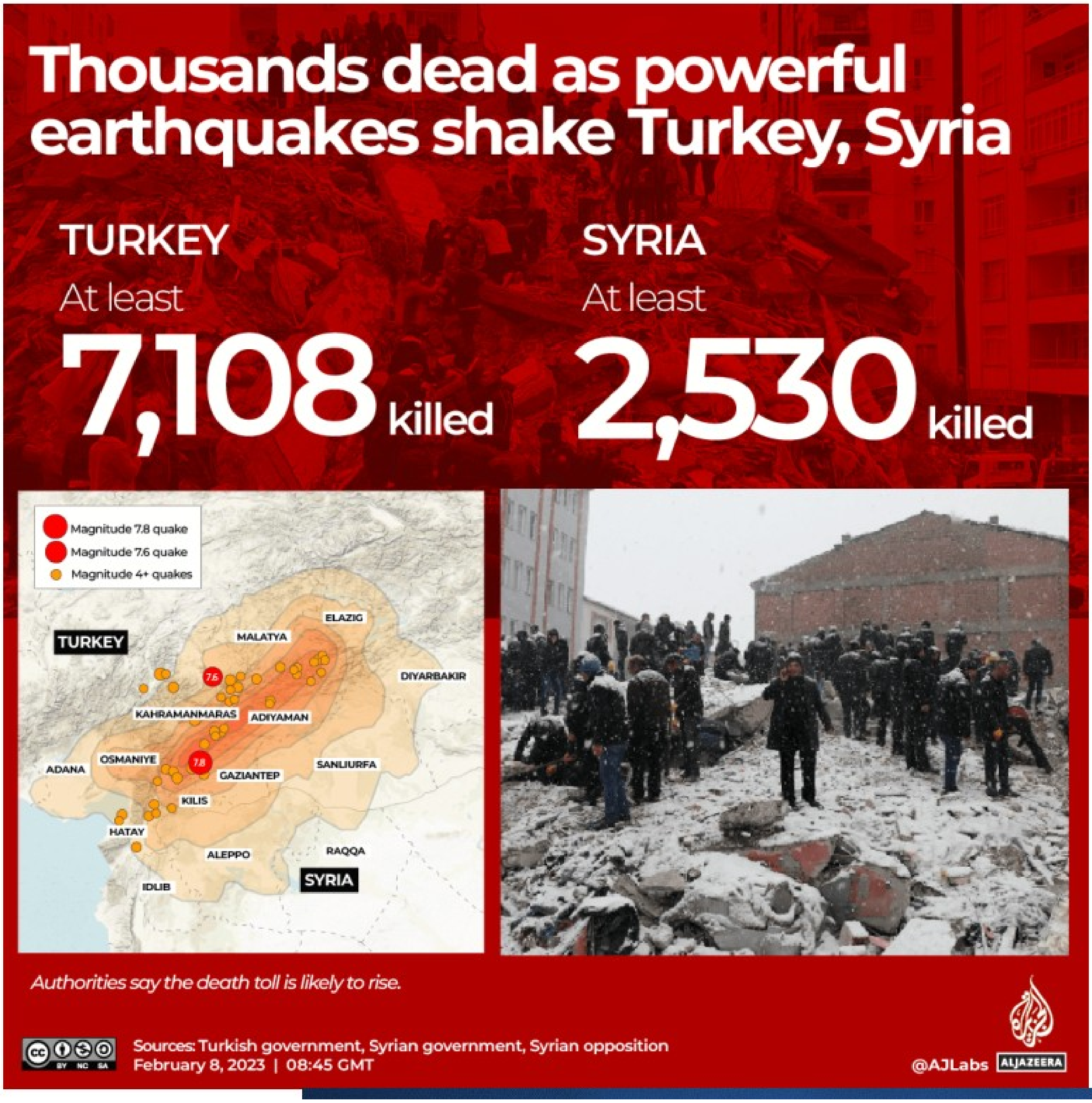

Thousands dead as powerful earthquakes shake Turkey, Syria

TURKEY

At least

7,108 killed

SYRIA

At least

2,530 killed

● Magnitude 7.8 quake
● Magnitude 7.6 quake
● Magnitude 4+ quakes
TURKEY
ELAZIG
MALATYA
7.6
DIYARBAKIR
KAHRAMANMARAS
ADIYAMAN
OSMANIYE
ADANA
7.8
GAZIANTEP
SANLIURFA
KILIS
HATAY
ALEPPO
RAQQA
SYRIA
IDLIB

Authorities say the death toll is likely to rise.

CC BY NC SA

Sources: Turkish government, Syrian government, Syrian opposition
February 8, 2023 | 08:45 GMT

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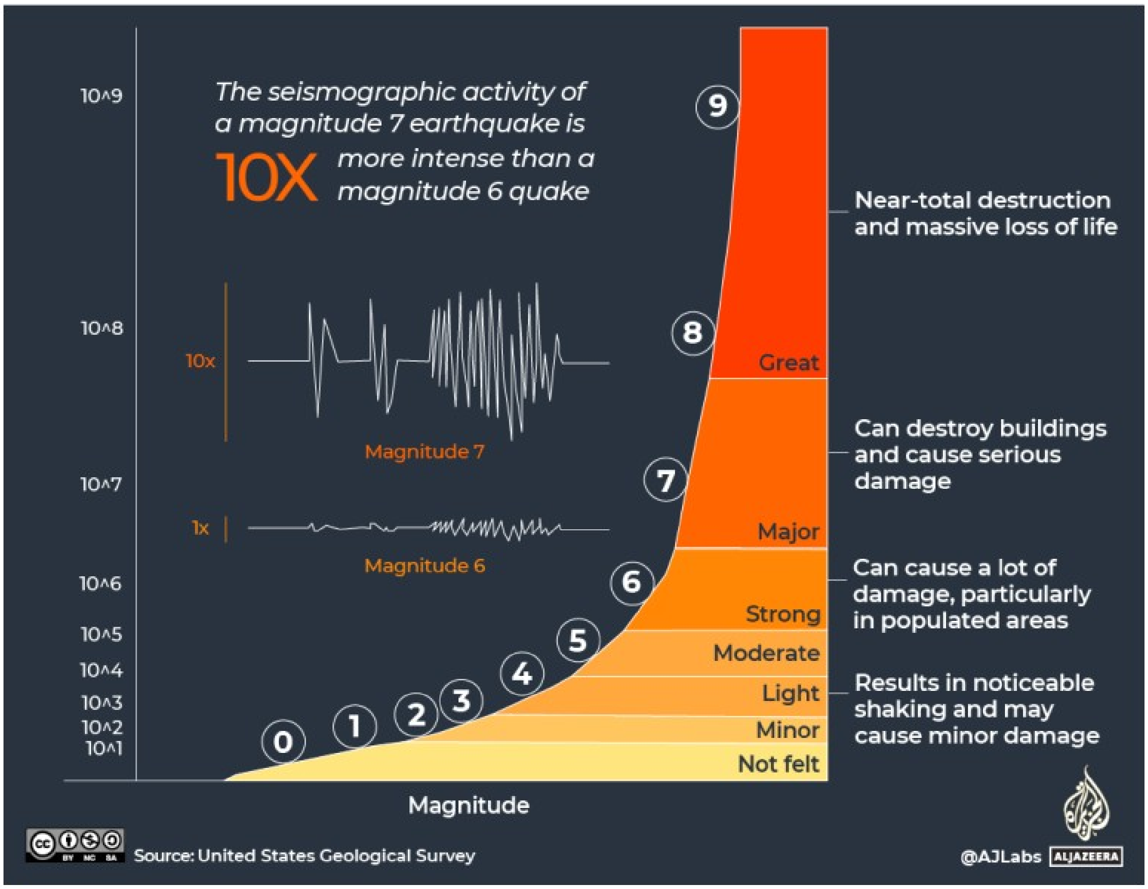
EARTHQUAKE

How are earthquakes measured?

The strength of an earthquake is measured on the Richter scale and recorded on a seismograph. Magnitudes are based on a logarithmic scale, which means every whole-number increase on the scale is actually a tenfold increase in magnitude.



Source: United States Geological Survey

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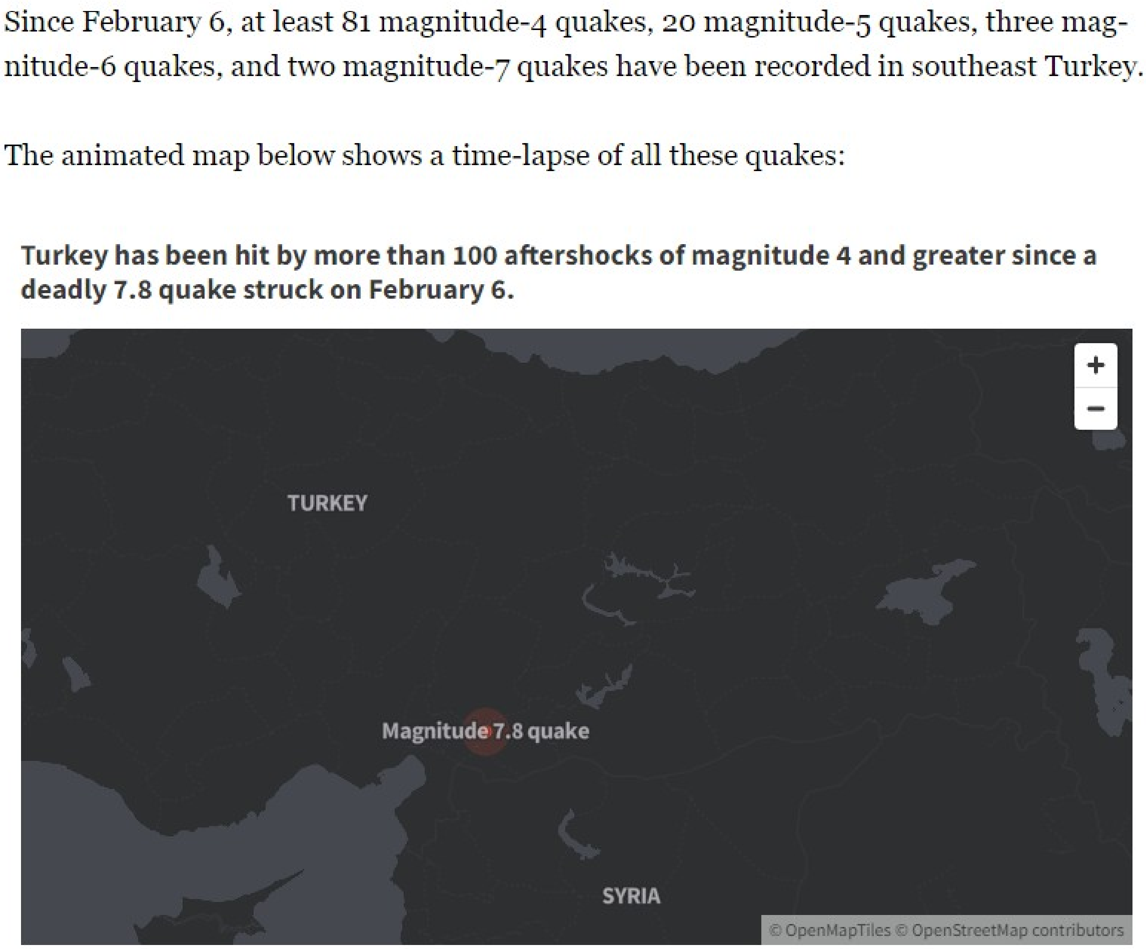
(Al Jazeera)



Since February 6, at least 81 magnitude-4 quakes, 20 magnitude-5 quakes, three magnitude-6 quakes, and two magnitude-7 quakes have been recorded in southeast Turkey.

The animated map below shows a time-lapse of all these quakes:

Turkey has been hit by more than 100 aftershocks of magnitude 4 and greater since a deadly 7.8 quake struck on February 6.

War, Russia, government: feb9 Macron Says Russia Cannot Win Against Ukraine

After a surprise UK visit, Ukraine's President Zelensky went to Paris immediately afterward in a whirlwind European tour to meet with Western leaders. In Paris he held talks with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

Macron asserted during the visit that **Russia cannot win the war against Ukraine**. "Ukraine can count on France, its European partners and allies to win the war. Russia cannot and must not win," Macron said before a working dinner among the three leaders at the Elysee Palace.

Stats, government, markets: feb **giant commodity trader has recorded a $577 million impairment**

as a result of the fraud, and fired the group's head of nickel and cobalt trading, Socrates Economou

Having been at the epicenter of a massive short-squeeze that almost shuttered the London Metal Exchange (and remains mired in litigation), Bloomberg reports that the nickel market has been rocked once again as one of the world's largest commodity traders, **Trafigura Group, is facing more than half a billion dollars in losses after discovering metal cargoes it bought didn’t contain the metal they were supposed to.**

giant commodity trader has **recorded a $577 million impairment as a result of the fraud, and fired the group's head of nickel and cobalt trading,** Socrates Economou (though the company made it clear that this was a systematic fraud committed against it by an outsiude party, and does not believe that anyone at the company was complicit in the fraud.).

Trafigura said in a statement that it has started legal action against Indian businessman Prateek Gupta and several companies connected to him including TMT Metals and subsidiaries of UD Trading Group.

*“**Since late December 2022, a small proportion of the containers purchased** from these companies have been inspected as they reached their destination, and were **found not to contain nickel**,” Trafigura said in the statement.*

“The majority of the shipments remain in transit awaiting further inspection.”

This is yet **another black mark for the metals-trading industry**, which in recent years has been beset by tales of **fake warehouse receipts**, duplicate shipping documents and **containers filled with painted rocks**.

Finally, Bloomberg reports that **nickel is a popular metal with fraudsters.** Its high value means that a single container full can be worth $500,000, yet it is traded in relatively large volumes and without the strict security that accompanies shipments of precious metals like gold.

ECONOMY

The Ten Wealthiest Greeks in Greece

March 10, 2020
TNH Staff

Pages from 50 WEALTHIEST 2020

10. STASINOPOULOS FAMILY

$600 MILLION (TNHE)

MANUFACTURING

Viohalco (Viomichania Chalkou kai Alouminiou Company), one of the world's biggest metals mining and trading businesses, is run by brothers Nikolaos and Evangelos Stasinopoulos. Originally founded in 1937 as Hellenic Copper Industry, Viohalco engages in the metal processing of aluminum, copper, and steel. Its subsidiaries focus on technological advancement and R&D and specialize in the manufacture of cables and pipes product solutions.

The company employs more than 8,000 people worldwide and has seen its revenues rise in recent years. A few years ago, Viohalco decided to shift its headquarters and stock market list away from Athens to Brussels over concerns about the local economy.

Viohalco has heavily invested in Romania, Bulgaria, and the UK and achieved a major deal in steel manufacturing with a US-based company.

9. CANELLOPOULOS & PAPALEXOPOULOS FAMILIES

$800 MILLION (TNHE)

MANUFACTURING

The Canellopoulos and Papalexopoulos families have owned the Titan Cement Company, an international cement and building materials producer, since 1902. Together, they have run the company for almost 120 years and own 40% of the company. Titan has production facilities in 10 countries and a presence in more than 15 countries. With an annual capacity of 27 million metric tons of cement and cementitious materials, it employs about 5,500 people worldwide. The company's activities include the production, transportation, and distribution of cement, concrete, aggregates, fly ash, mortars and other building materials.

Dimitrios Papalexopoulos is executive director of the Group Executive Committee of Titan. Born in Athens, Greece, Papalexopoulos started his career as a business consultant for McKinsey & Company Inc. in the United States and Germany. He then joined Titan in 1989. He is Vice Chairman of the Board of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV), and Vice-Chairman of the European Round Table for Industry (ERT), while he is a member of the Board of the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE) and the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP). He holds a

MSc in Electrical Engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETHZ-1985) and an MBA from Harvard Business School (1987).

Also born in Athens, Greece, Takis Canellopoulos started his career as financial analyst in AIG and later in the Financing Division of EFG Eurobank. He was Investor Relations Director of the Titan Group from 2001 until May 2016. Before that (1995–2001) he had worked in various positions in the Finance Department of the Group.

Currently, he is a member of the Board of Directors of Canellopoulos Adamantiadis S.A. and he is a Founding Partner of 3K Investment Partners. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Union of Listed Companies (ENEISET). He studied Economics (BA) at Brown University and Business Administration (MBA) at New York University/Stern School of Business.

True to form, members of both families are linked to a host of other businesses in Greece through cross-holdings and directorships.

8. THEODORE & GIANNA ANGELOPOULOS

$819 MILLION (Forbes)
STEEL/SHIPPING
Married, 3 children

Theodore Angelopoulos, is a Greek shipping and steel magnate. He lived in Switzerland for many years where he received his BSc in Business Administration from Zurich University.

Theodore’s family developed the steel industry in Greece and began dealing in the dry cargo sector of the shipping industry in the early 1950s. Angelopoulos evolved to become a shipping magnate, acquiring the Dutch shipbuilding company Oceanco and transforming it as a leading shipbuilder of custom-built luxury mega-yachts. He also has invested heavily in real estate and private equities, as well as other financial entities worldwide.

In 1996, Angelopoulos established Metrostar Management in Athens, and entered the oil tanker market in the same year, with his company going on to become one of the world’s leading oil tanker operators.

Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki is a Greek businesswoman. She is best known as being at the helm of organizing the 2004 Olympics in Athens. She was named one of the 50 most powerful women by Forbes.

Born to a middle-class family in Crete, she distinguished herself academically (she studied law at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and politically (she was appointed Ambassador at Large by the Greek government).

Gianna has served at Harvard University, as vice-chairman of the Dean’s Council of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government since 1994, and now also serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Business and Government. In 2011, she established the Angelopoulos Global Public Leaders Program at the HKS to bring distinguished leaders to Harvard in order to interact with students, share lessons learned, and reflect upon the next phase of their public service.

In October 2019, she established the Gianna Angelopoulos Programme for Science Technology and Innovation (GAPSTI) at Cambridge University, which nurtures exceptionally talented early-career scientists, from postgraduate study and research to the successful commercialization of their ideas, through a structured training and research program enhanced by industrial collaboration and entrepreneurial activities.

In 2019, Greece’s Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, appointed her as President of the Greece 2021 committee for the celebrations of the bicentennial anniversary of the commencement of the Greek Revolution in 1821.

Gianna is the founder and sponsor of the Angelopoulos CGIU Fellowship Program, through which 100 young Greek entrepreneurs have benefited, and is also a leading philanthropist for projects in Greece and around the globe.

7. SOCRATES KOKKALIS
$1.2 BILLION (BUSINESS INSIDER)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/SPORTS

Socrates Kokkalis is a Greek entrepreneur and businessman. His father, Petros Kokkalis, was a communist politician and Greek Resistance member, living in exile in East Germany after the end of the Greek Civil War.

Kokkalis is the founder and majority shareholder of Intracom Holdings, one of the largest multinational technology groups in Southern Europe. He is also the chairman, majority shareholder and chief executive officer of Intralot, a gaming technology supplier and licensed lottery operator. He is also chairman at Vodafone-Panafon Hellenic Telecommunications Co. SA. For many years Kokkalis was the president and major shareholder of Olympiacos

FC, Greece’s leading football club. His tenure saw Piraeus club conquer 12 top division titles, five Greek Cups, and one Greek Super Cup.

In 1997 Kokkalis became a John Harvard Fellow after establishing the Kokkalis Program at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. He also established and presides over the Kokkalis Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes “education and training, culture and social welfare, medical research and information technology, and athletics,” both in Greece and abroad.

A fluent speaker of English, German and Russian, Kokkalis also speaks Romanian, Italian, Bulgarian and conversational Serbian and French.

Sokratis S. Kokkalis Jr., the son of Kokkalis, died unexpectedly during a business trip to Cleveland, OH from a drug overdose at the young age of 34. He was found dead in his hotel room in July 2018 after having ingested cocaine laced with heroin and fentanyl. The Ohio drug dealer who sold the young Kokkalis the drugs was sentenced in February of 2020 to 15 years in federal prison.

War, Erdogan, middle east, energy, stats: feb9

turkey/syria, key:

Ankara and the Syrian regime have engaged in talks mediated by Russia in recent months as part of efforts to mend ties, which were cut at the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011.

Turkish officials have previously said that they expect Ankara to withdraw from northern Syria once an acceptable political settlement is reached with the regime in Damascus.

Russia’s foreign ministry on Sunday announced an upcoming meeting between Russian, Turkish and Syrian military delegations without giving a specific date. Sources close to the Syrian regime said the meeting would take place sometime around mid-February.

Moscow – which has been mediating the talks – has backed Bashar al-Assad’s regime since 2015.

Turkey has provided support and a base for political opponents of Assad's regime, while training and fighting alongside armed rebels against his troops.

Prospects and pitfalls of a Turkish withdrawal from northern Syria

Syria has conditioned the withdrawal of the Turkish military from its territory as a prerequisite for any normalisation in relations between the two countries.

However, as analysts note, a full Turkish withdrawal in the near future is unlikely for a number of reasons, and an eventual withdrawal will likely prove immensely complicated.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is eager to renormalise relations with his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad for the first time since 2011.

Turkey severed ties that year when Assad violently crushed a popular revolt against his rule, sparking a violent civil war that has lasted over a decade and left an estimated 500,000 people dead in its wake.

> "Syria has conditioned the withdrawal of the Turkish military from its territory as a prerequisite for any normalisation in relations between the two countries"

Turkey took in millions of Syrian refugees fleeing that vicious conflict. In recent years, however, hostility towards this large refugee population inside Turkey has grown as the economic situation worsened.

Erdogan, who is running for re-election this year, hopes that normalising ties with Assad could facilitate the resettlement of as many as three million refugees in northern Syria.

But Damascus says Ankara must withdraw all its military forces from Syria first.

In a series of military operations launched in 2016-19, Turkey invaded and occupied three separate parts of northern Syria with the help of Syrian opposition fighters it trained and used as proxies.

Most of these areas were previously controlled by the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), an offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) Turkey has fought for decades.

Ankara also has troops in Syria's north-western Idlib province, deployed under the tripartite Astana agreement with Iran and Russia.

Large swathes of that province remain outside of Assad's control and are ruled over by the powerful Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) Islamist group.

It's also home to millions of displaced, who could flee over the border into Turkey if there is another ferocious Russian-backed Syrian offensive.

There is also the question of what happens to the thousands of armed proxy militiamen Turkey uses in these areas after an eventual withdrawal.

"A partial Turkish drawdown of forces is possible, but a full withdrawal is less likely," Emily Hawthorne, a senior Middle East and North Africa analyst at the risk intelligence company RANE, told *The New Arab*.

"Turkey wants to retain a buffer zone along the border," she said. "Syria and Turkey are negotiating over what must happen in order for their ties to normalise, so a limited drawdown would go far toward convincing Syria of Turkey's willingness to negotiate."

Hawthorne anticipates that even a partial Turkish withdrawal from Idlib would increase the prospect of Syrian and Russian military offensives in the area, leaving Syrian opposition fighters no choice other than to reconcile with Assad or fight.

Even though Turkey has trained many of these fighters and used them in past operations, it may not be willing to give them asylum after a withdrawal.

"Because of the Turkish public's low appetite for accepting more refugees, as well as Ankara's fear of welcoming any jihadist terrorists onto its soil, Turkey is not likely to accept many asylum seekers from the group," Hawthorne said. "However, if conflict erupts in Idlib province, Turkey could accept families of militants in the province."

> "Erdogan, who is running for re-election this year, hopes that normalising ties with Assad could facilitate the resettlement of as many as three million refugees in northern Syria"

She concluded by predicting that a gradual negotiated reorganisation of northern Syria "is more likely than a rapid Turkish withdrawal that suddenly opens up Idlib to Russian and Syrian military overtures".

Ankara and Damascus "will try to begin with step-by-step diplomacy to test the waters and each other's ability and willingness to deliver," Professor Joshua Landis, director of the Centre of Middle East Studies and the Farzaneh Family Center for Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies at the University of Oklahoma, predicts.

"The Sunni Arab Islamists, such at HTS, will be very difficult for the regime to reconcile with or to integrate into its own forces, as has been done with some of the militias of the Deraa region, for example," Landis told *The New Arab*.

"The regime will try to offer reconciliation to those militiamen who come forward, as it has done elsewhere in Syria," he said. "Many of the most determined fighters, who will fear for their lives, even were they to throw themselves on the mercy of the Syrian state, will ask for asylum in Turkey and elsewhere."

Landis also anticipates that Turkey will likely ask other countries that previously supported and paid for the militiamen in Syria to take in the leaders and members who cannot reconcile with the Syrian government. That would include the United States, which "did so much to legitimise and support the rebellion against Assad", Landis notes.

"I imagine that Western countries will refuse to accept their fair share of the 'freedom fighters'," he said. "The CIA may turn to the Biden administration to take some of the Free Syrian Army fighters that it trained and armed, but the United States is unlikely to accept many, if any at all. Turkey may predicate any deal on Western countries accepting their fair share."

In a worst-case scenario, Turkey may ultimately be forced to abandon fighters who refuse any reconciliation with Assad, "particularly if the 'Friends of Syria' countries that did so much to support the insurgency set a bad example by refusing to take any in themselves," Landis said.

"We shouldn't forget that it was President Obama who pressured Turkey to lead in supporting the Syria opposition, claiming that the United States would 'lead from behind'," he added.

Northeastern Syria is also complicated. Turkey captured a sizable portion of border territory east of the Euphrates River from the YPG in October 2019. Large parts of that region, known among the Kurds as Rojava, remain under the YPG's control. Turkey has repeatedly threatened to launch additional operations against the YPG.

The YPG is the main component of the larger Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighting force, which is the main ally of the United States against the Islamic State (IS) in Syria. Turkey maintains that the group is inextricably tied to the PKK and constitutes a security threat.

The US maintains there is a distinction between the two groups, an issue the two countries have been at irrevocable loggerheads over since 2014.

"Turkey understands that, given its failure to topple the Assad regime, it must reconcile with Assad," Landis said. "Turkey must get the Syrian Arab Army and Syrian state institutions to protect Turkey's southern border from incursions by the YPG and pro-PKK Kurdish fighters."

> "Turkey will unlikely withdraw its forces from Syria so long as the YPG presence remains and so long as the US 'underwrites' the northeastern statelet"

He pointed out that Ankara and Damascus want to see the United States withdraw its small troop presence in northeast Syria.

"Erdogan's biggest concern is that the United States is not only arming the YPG but also legitimising it," Landis said. "This undermines Turkish security and its effort to delegitimise Kurdish parties that seek Kurdish self-determination or a wide measure of autonomy. Assad also fears Rojava."

Kyle Orton, an independent Middle East analyst, also doubts that Turkey will withdraw its forces from Syria so long as the YPG presence remains and so long as the US "underwrites" the northeastern statelet.

"If the US was to withdraw from Syria, the PKK polity would collapse and the PKK would be reabsorbed by the Assad/Iran regime system, which would eliminate the main danger as Turkey sees it," he told *The New Arab*. "Ankara dealt with the PKK when it was a Soviet and Damascus proxy during the worst years of the war inside Turkey; it can deal with that situation again," he said.

"How quickly Turkey would withdraw from Syria following a US exit and the collapse of the PKK statelet is obviously very uncertain, but the contours of how it would be done can be guessed," he added.

War, Erdogan: feb9 **Earthquakes Cause Severe Damage To Turkey's Energy Infrastructure, Feb 07, 2023, 3:30 AM CST**

Turkey's energy infrastructure has suffered severe damage from the two earthquakes that shook Turkey and neighbor Syria yesterday, killing more than 3,000 people, according to the country's government.

The first 7.7-magnitude quake damaged a big port on the Mediterranean, Turkey's Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Donmez said, as quoted by news agencies, and later in the day, a fire broke out at the same port.
Operations at the Ceyhan oil terminal were halted as a result of the quake but Turkey's oil pipelines—Kirkuk-Ceyhan and Balku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan—were undamaged.
Despite the fact that the oil pipelines are intact, there could be delays to operations at the Ceyhan oil terminal, the endpoint of the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline, a major export line from Kirkuk in Iraq.

What's more, the Kurdistan Regional Government said it had suspended flows along the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline in the wake of the quake.

"Due to the earthquake that hit Türkiye and Syria, and to ensure the safety of oil exports and prevent any undesirable incidents, oil exports through the pipeline connecting the Kurdistan region to Türkiye have been suspended," the KRG said.

Kurdistan normally transits some 450,000 barrels of crude daily through Turkey via the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline. An official from the Kurdistan government said on Twitter that the flow of oil will only resume after careful inspection of the pipeline to make sure it has sustained no damage.

Sanctions, war, Erdogan: feb9 **China, India, Turkiye, and several other countries are not adhering to the G7 price formula, and despite the price cap on Russia’s seaborne oil supply, its oil exports did not see any meaningful cut, despite fierce western efforts.**

China, India, Turkiye, and several other countries are not adhering to the G7 price formula, and despite the price cap on Russia’s seaborne oil supply, its oil exports did not see any meaningful cut, despite fierce western efforts.

In 2021, around 3 million barrels per day (mb/d), or 45 percent of Russian crude oil exports were imported by the EU. The price cap may reduce that amount to a little more than 0.25 mb/d, but Russian oil will still flow into the EU. This is largely because Germany and Poland have agreed to stop importing oil through the northern Druzhba pipeline by 2023, while Bulgaria has been permitted to keep importing oil from Russia by sea.

The immediate impact of this ban is a decrease in demand for Russian oil and, consequently, its relative price. But oil markets are interdependent and will themselves independently test the global appeal for Russian fuel. When the EU appealed to world markets to replace their purchases from Russia, new and alternative purchasers for Russian barrels came forward instead. The global oil trade is very likely to simply re-equilibrate itself with perfect market corrections.

As the EU increasingly spurned Russian oil, Russia found new consumers for approximately 1 mb/d of displaced crude oil, albeit with price discounts relative to the global market. Russia is now on the lookout for clients to take an additional 0.8 mb/d of exports through western ports.

Media reports claim that Eastern Siberia Pacific Ocean (ESPO) crude oil prices exceeded the cap in Asia. The reports say that China’s teapot refiners had placed orders at $67.11 per barrel with Russia in December last year. To bypass the price limit, Russia is using its own tankers and insurance coverage.

Pakistan’s oil imports from Iran

Pakistan has a hard time securing enough energy supplies, and the Iranian oil in its backyard is more affordable than its Russian counterpart. However, US and EU sanctions make it difficult for Islamabad to engage in official trade with Tehran.

Tehran is now seeking to establish a land route trading system with Islamabad, similar to the one Pakistan has enjoyed with Afghanistan through the Sistan-Balochistan province’s 1,000-kilometer common border, to curb the illegal trade in Iranian oil and consumer goods.

The informal border trade with Pakistan, according to Iranian officials, has risen to over $5 billion per annum and should ideally be moved into legal channels to improve state-to-state bilateral trade relations. Tehran has also suggested bartering trade in local currency with Pakistan to transfer the $5 billion worth of illegal commerce between the two countries at the Sistan border into the formal, official trade sector.

Iran’s Consul General in Karachi, Hassan Nourian, stated during a visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry in December last year that if Pakistani authorities allowed legal trade across the Sistan border, trade volumes between the two countries could surpass $5 billion – up from the current $1.5 billion that flows within legal channels.

Nourian said this would address urgent, mutual, national needs, whereby Iran could transport natural gas, crude oil, and petrochemicals to Pakistan in exchange for Pakistani agricultural products.

Opposition to regulated trade with Iran

Majyd Aziz, president of the UN Global Compact and a former president of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), told *The Cradle* that various Pakistani “interest groups” do not want Islamabad to regularize trade with Iran.

> “Countries, organizations, and individuals with vested interests in the region oppose the development of bilateral trade between neighboring nations. These parties prevented the government from establishing seven border markets in Iran and five in Afghanistan,” he said, noting that the Saudi factor has also contributed to the deterioration of trade relations with Iran.

Despite repeated pledges, Aziz lamented, the Pakistani Ministry of Commerce has yet to execute the barter trade modalities necessary to restart regular trade with Iran. Similarly, he stated that there were no direct banking connections between the two nations to facilitate trade.

“By not directing the unlawful border trade to the legitimate sector, we deprived ourselves of a low-cost oil supply from Iran, which India, China, and Afghanistan already enjoy,” he explained.

Stats, tech, government, sanctions: feb9 **China's digital economy accounts for 39.8 per cent of gross domestic product**

despite having the world's strongest industrial manufacturing capability, and they are easy prey for Washington in its strategy of tech containment.

Without mastery of the fiendishly complex chips that power everything from cars to smartphones, President Xi Jinping's hopes of transforming China into the pre-eminent global digital power, while surpassing the US to become the No 1 economy in the world, could fall apart.

"Chips are the foundation of the modern economy," said Jun Zhang, an associate professor of economic geography at the University of Toronto. "There's a rough estimate that a yuan worth of chips can support 10 yuan worth of electrical capacity and generate 100 yuan's economic output."

Who will take on China's biggest economic challenges?

China sees the digital economy, which accounts for 39.8 per cent of its GDP, as the country's major engine of growth. But to reach its potential, the country needs semiconductor chips.

"Virtually every hardware company in China must deal with the fallout from the sweeping restrictions announced by the US," said Dan Wang, an analyst with Gavekal Dragonomics.

"These sanctions will hobble China's semiconductor advances," he wrote in a report, Eight questions for China's Tech Sector in 2023, published last month.

Censorship, war: feb9 **Ukraine Withdraws 19 Million Russian, Soviet-Era Books From Libraries**

Energy, sanctions: feb9 **full update on russian oil embargo 2 months after it took effect on dec5, learned a lot**

Loadings of Russia’s flagship Urals crude using ship-to-ship (STS) transfers in the Mediterranean surged eight times in January from December to a record in the first full month in which the EU banned seaborne imports of Russian oil.

STS loadings, used by traders to move the crude from smaller tankers onto larger ones to make the journey to Asia profitable, have soared since the EU ban came into effect on December 5, according to data from Refinitiv Eikon cited by Reuters on Tuesday.
The key STS loading points in the Mediterranean are near Kalamata in Greek waters and near the Spanish port of Ceuta in the Strait of Gibraltar.

STS loadings in the Mediterranean hit an all-time high of 1.7 million tons in January, an eightfold surge compared to December, per Refinitiv Eikon data and Reuters calculations.

Since Urals is no longer being imported into the EU, cargoes are being diverted to Asia, mostly to India, China, and Singapore.

While the Urals crude is now finding a home outside Europe, the low price of Russia’s flagship grade is reducing Russian revenues from oil, due to the steep discount at which Urals trades relative to Brent Crude.
Russia’s budget revenues from oil and gas plunged in January by 46% compared to the same month last year. Russian budget revenues from energy sales – including taxes and customs revenues – plummeted last month to the lowest level since August 2020.

In January 2023, the price of Urals grade averaged 42% lower than in the same month of 2022, as its discount to Brent Crude grew wider following the EU embargo and the G7 price cap, which came into effect on December 5. The average price of Urals in January, at $49.48 per barrel, was 1.7 times lower than in January 2022, when it averaged $85.64 per barrel, Russia’s Finance Ministry said last week.

Russia is considering taxing its oil firms based on the price of Brent – instead of Urals – to limit the fallout on the Russian budget revenues due to the widening discount of Urals to Brent, Russian daily Kommersant reported last week, quoting sources.

Stats, middle east, war: feb9 **firsthand story shows the struggles of the arab in the new american century: "The corpses have swollen, it's the third day, the bodies are on the street, no one has removed them," she said. "If they don't bury them here, we want to take them to Iraq."**

ERBIL, Iraq (Reuters) - Six years ago, Rehab Talal and her family fled the Islamic State-held city of Mosul in northern Iraq seeking shelter in Turkey, but seven members of her family died, including a week-old baby, when her parents' house collapsed in the earthquake.

Talal said seven of her 13-member family had died. The bodies of her father, two brothers and four nieces and nephews remained on the ground in front of the collapsed building.

"The corpses have swollen, it's the third day, the bodies are on the street, no one has removed them," she said. "If they don't bury them here, we want to take them to Iraq."

Energy, middle east, stats, Erdogan: feb9 **Around 450,000 barrels of oil are exported to Turkey from the Kurdistan Region and Kirkuk through the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline every day.**

Iraq’s Prime Minister Mohammed Shia’ al-Sudan on Tuesday announced that the country will be allocating three billion dinars to purchase humanitarian aid and delivering them to the victims in both countries.

War: feb9 **last years figures: As of February 2022, over 370,000 people have lost their lives thanks to the war thanks to lack of food, medical necessities, and bombings."**

Between 2015 and 2019, the media only covered about ninety-two minutes of the ongoing war. Based on the atrocities, this is shockingly low. It is especially low when the media chose to cover the false Russian election meddling. MSNBC even went an entire year without mentioning the conflict.

War: Added feb9th, feb7: “As was the case during World Wars I and II, the major powers are rushing ahead with the weaponization of advanced technologies before they have fully considered—let alone attempted to mitigate—the consequences of doing so, including the risk of significant civilian casualties and the accidental or inadvertent escalation of conflict,” writes Michael Klare, a senior visiting fellow and board member at the Arms Control Association.," New Report Examines Effects of Emerging Military Technologies on Strategic Stability

War, Erdogan: feb Over 15,000 Killed in Turkey-Syria Earthquake (was 12 000 when i last looked last night)

War: feb9 america admits to blowing up nordstream, full atw page saved

News

Updated February 9, 2023 - 1:10 AM EST

How America Took Out the Nord Stream Pipeline

Russia Wants Answers After Report Biden Blew Up Nord Stream

UK Says Will Train Ukrainian Pilots on Fighter Jets

Zelensky Tells Macron, Scholz to Supply 'Game-Changing' Weapons

Roger Waters Addresses UNSC, Calls for Ceasefire in Ukraine

Rep. McCaul Plans Taiwan Visit This Spring, McCarthy Later

China Says It Was Smeared in Biden's State of the Union Address

Syrian Red Crescent Says Lift Sanctions After Quake

Christian Leaders in Syria Call for an End to 'Unjust' Sanctions

Over 15,000 Killed in Turkey-Syria Earthquake

New Report Unpacks Dangers of Emerging Military Tech

Viewpoints

Volodymyr Zelensky Is Washington's New Jonas Savimbi by Ted Galen Carpenter

Russia and Ukraine Have Incentives To Negotiate. The US Has Other Plans by Christopher Caldwell

How the Media Ignores Yemen by Trenton Hale

An Overblown Balloon Headline Inflates False Narrative on China by Patrick MacFarlane

More Viewpoints

Spotlight

How America Took Out the Nord Stream Pipeline

by Seymour Hersh

Frontline

Israel's Ruling Coalition

Palestine/Israel

- After Fleeing War in Gaza, an Entire Palestinian Family Dies in Turkey's Earthquake
- Israel Steps Up Jerusalem Home Demolitions as Violence Rises
- Israeli Settlers Briefly Detain Mayor of Bethlehem-Area Village
- Barcelona Freezes Ties With Israel
- Two Palestinians Injured in Israeli Military Raid Near Nablus
- Grief-Stricken Palestinians Recount Deadly Israeli Raids
- Family of Druze Israeli Teen Snatched in Jenin File ICC Complaint Against Palestinian Authority

Turkey

- Turkey Restricted Twitter Across Country, Complicating Rescue Efforts
- Kurdistan Region Resumes Oil Exports to Turkey
- Syrian Refugees Volunteer With Rescue Efforts in Turkey
- We Fled War to Die in an Earthquake, Says Iraqi Woman Mourning Family in Turkey

Syria

- Syria Requests EU Support for the First Time After Earthquake
- UN Aid Deliveries to Syria From Turkey Could Resume Thursday

Middle East

- Oman Signs Four-Year LNG Deal With Chinese Firm
- Egypt Pledges to Sell Stakes in 32 State Firms Over Next Year
- Bahrani, Qatari FMs Meet in Saudi Arabia to Establish Bilateral Talks
- Lebanese Banks Close Doors to Customers to Protest Ruling

Africa

- MSF Suspends Operations in Northwest Burkina Faso After Gunmen Kill Two Staff
- Two Police Officers, Gendarme

Russia

- Russia Warns London Against Sending Ukraine Fighter Jets
- Russia Calls US Demands to Resume Nuclear Arms Inspections 'Cynical'
- Rosneft: Price of Russia's Flagship Oil Will Now Be Set by Asia
- Russia Sanctions 77 Americans in Tit-For-Tat Move
- Moscow Considering Windfall Tax to Cover Plunging Oil Revenues
- Russia Raps US Over Lack of UN Visas for Its Diplomats, Seeks Arbitration

United Kingdom

- UK Sanctions More Russian Entities and Individuals
- UK Counter-Extremism Program Review: Four Years of Delays, Legal Challenges, Boycotts, Leaks
- High Court Rules UK-Based Bahrain Activists' Case Against Kingdom Can Proceed
- Britain and the EU Remain in Talks Over Northern Ireland Trade Rules

Europe

- Danish, Finnish Industries Team for Joint Naval Mine Development
- French Oil Major TotalEnergies Doubles Annual Profit to $36 Bln.
- Blaze at US Drone Plant in Latvia; Arson Not Suspected
- Norwegian Navy Seeking New Coastal Ranger Commando Vessels
- Sweden: Anti-Turkish Protests Have Increased Attack Threat
- Zelensky to Ask EU Summit for More Arms and Quick Accession: Ukrainian Official
- Germany's Scholz Criticizes 'Public Competition' to Send Arms to Ukraine

Afghanistan

- Taliban's Statement on Smuggling of Currency

More News

Stats, ai, tech: **global unit charts of robots by country**

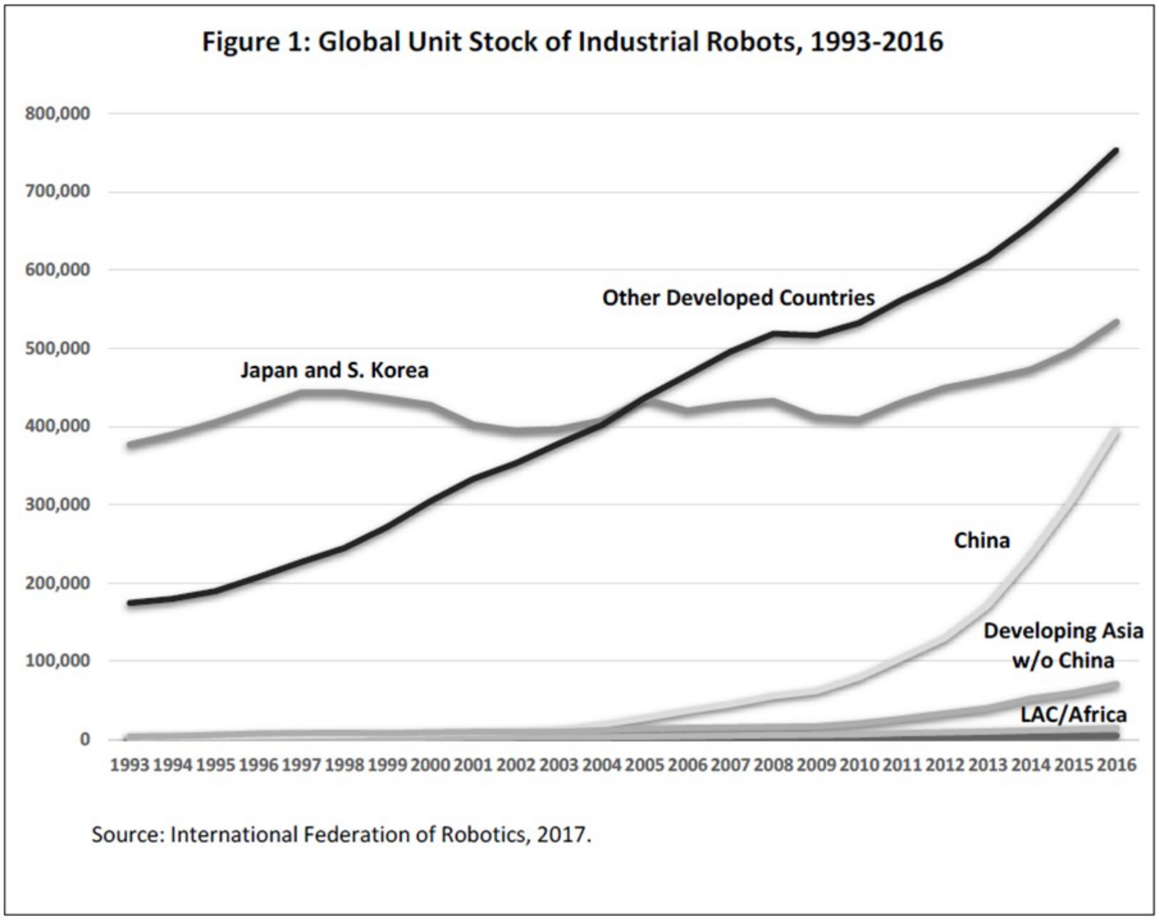


Figure 1: Global Unit Stock of Industrial Robots, 1993-2016

Source: International Federation of Robotics, 2017.

Markets, stats, journal: feb9 robinhood hides what at least appears to be a massive trading loss as processing error in q4 earnings call, according zh

Barron's, Avi Salzman notes **the breakdown cost Robinhood 7 cents a share -- "the difference between beating and missing**

expectations." Analysts expected a 15-cent loss, but the company instead lost 19 cents a share.

Cosmos Health is a pharmaceutical company. As its shares nearly tripled to $23 that day on record volume, "online traders looking for heavily shorted companies accused exchanges of not allowing them to sell their shares into the updraft," recounts *MarketWatch*'s Jeremy Owens.

The stock then collapsed, closing at $7.59 the next day. On Wednesday, it traded around $5. **Robinhood's $57 million loss on the disaster was $4 million more than Cosmos Health's current market cap.**

This guy's fired up, though!

Government, energy, war, sanctions, journal: **"Al Gore is testing out his performative Greta mode at the World Economic Forum in Davos this week. The former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate who as early as the 1990's was dubbed in the pages of The Washington Post as "very boring" and as having a "naturally stiff, wooden persona" momentarily (and very awkwardly) tried to go climate activist beast mode during a Q&A panel. His attempt this week to pull off a "Greta moment" and shed his notorious stiffness resulted in an unhinged rant wherein he claimed that carbon emissions and greenhouses gases are trapping "as much extra heat as would be released by 600,000 Hiroshima class atomic bombs exploding every single day on the earth."**

All of a sudden turkey and syria report 300 000 literal climate change refugees right as Turkey was blocking scandinavian membership to NATO ahead of what was considered to be a bloody offensive into SDF backed northern syria, where the united states is openly stealing syria's oil to both sanction the country and support their miulitary forces.

Seems like an incredible coincide that right as all this goes on, turkey suddenly gets hit with its worst quake sicne 1939...

Al Gore is testing out his performative Greta mode at the World Economic Forum in Davos this week. The former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate who as early as the 1990's was dubbed in the pages of *The Washington Post* as "very boring" and as having a "naturally stiff, wooden persona" momentarily (and very awkwardly) tried to go climate activist beast mode during a Q&A panel.

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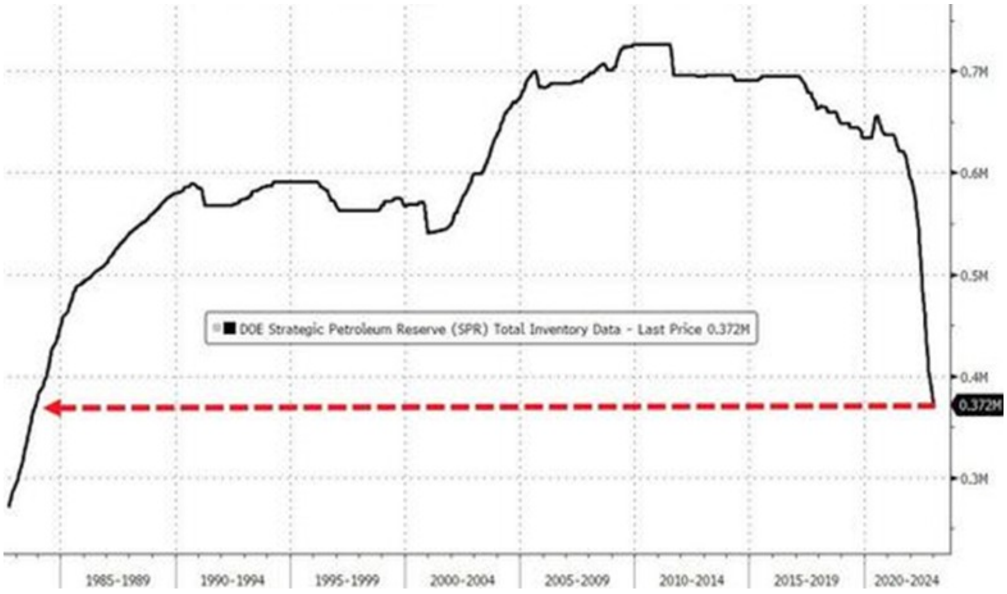
That's right, you heard him correctly... *six-hundred-thousand Hiroshima bombs every single day* - according to his bizarre rant, which he further said is **"boiling the oceans"** and creating "rain bombs" and "atmospheric rivers" resulting in millions of "climate refugees".

"Climate refugees are expected to reach one billion in this century"... he said, before turning to the "xenophobia" somehow unleashed on the world in the process due to the "Hiroshima bombs".

and this is as the world experiences the warmst winter in history in another strange cvoincidence: what experts has coined an upcoming 'putin winter' due to unprecendent saber rattling from the us and russia during the most earth shaking economic sanctions since at least world war 2



and right as freeport opened up after multiple long term closures tha t reduced the supply oif gas to europer, while harboring supply in the united states:

jan 23rd,

Markets, war: **US NatGas Prices Soar After Freeport "Completed Repairs" Of Damaged Terminal, Aims For Partial Restart**

US natural gas futures jumped late in the session after news hit that Freeport LNG, a major liquefied natural gas export terminal on the Texas coast which has been closed since an explosion last summer, said repairs to the terminal are complete and is seeking approval for restart.

Freeport wrote a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requesting permission to restart the terminal that accounts for about 15% of all US LNG exports.

Pursuant to your letter dated June 30, 2022, Freeport LNG Development, LP ("Freeport") ***must obtain written approval from FERC before restarting*** *any non-emergency operations in existing facilities, constructing new or modified facilities, and commissioning and placing any facilities back into service.*

As further described herein, ***Freeport has completed repairs*** *to the Export Facility on Quintana Island, Texas, performed safety reviews, revised various procedures, implemented new safety systems and performed necessary training in order to* ***safely begin to resume initial operations at its Export Facility****.*

NatGas surged 9% to $3.45 per million British thermal units.

In recent weeks, we've pointed out Freeport flows were indications the plant was nearing a restart:

- *NatGas Flows Start To Freeport LNG's Long-Shut Export Plant*
- *Freeport LNG Export Facility's Power Flows Surge For First Time Since Explosion*

However, Houston-based energy firm Criterion Research had this to say:

Criterion's weekly analysis of progress at Freeport LNG indicated that repair work was still taking place as of last week, so it's unclear what Freeport means when it cited that they have "completed repairs." We don't believe feed gas will be flowing in January, and February still seems to be an optimistic time frame for strong nominations. Based on prior announcements, once they get the green light to restart, Freeport's timeline pinned down a ramp from zero to 2 Bcf/d over an approximately two-month period.

Here's Freeport's full letter to FERC:

Any February cold weather across the Lower 48, plus the Freeport export restart, could be bullish catalysts for reversing months of sliding NatGas prices.

Policy: Go to first pageGo to previous pageGo to page 11Go to page 22Go to page 33Go to next pageGo to last page

Use your mouse to resize the view. If you're using your keyboard, you can use left and right arrow keys to resize.

and just to add to this unusually perfect turn of event for the united state: they haven't used the SPR since 1982...

America's SPR – once the world's largest stockpile – has been depleted to the lowest levels since 1983. To date, President Biden has released more from the SPR than all U.S. presidents in history combined]

and this guy is syaing that it's this SPR that is main driver of oil prices crashing back down to earth, when to everyone watching, they looked poised to reach 200 for the first itme ever, and that this is also the main reduction for the inflation is droppiujng narrative thats been flyign around so much in the 4th quartedrs

"The longer I'm in this business, the clearer it becomes that no one actually reads anymore. Everyone simply trumpets headlines, or retweets articles, without looking at the data.

The latest and most glaring example of this is the claim that "inflation has peaked." Everywhere you look in the media (and on social media) people repeat this statement as if it is a fact.

"Almost ALL of the drop in inflation data has come from energy prices falling. And energy prices have fallen because the Biden administration dumped over 250 MILLION barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

To put this into perspective, it's nearly 40% of the SPR. And the Biden admin dumped it in the span of less than two

years. *THAT* is why energy prices dropped, which accounts for almost ALL of the drop in inflation data.
See for yourself. Outside of the drop in energy prices, the only significant drop in prices occurred in used car vehicles. Everything else is still RISING in price year over year.

See not sure if this is real lol. It obviously is, but it's just what he's saying is completely the opposite of what practically everybody in the msm business media is reporting right now, so I have to just...double check to be sure. He continues on below.

"I bring all of this up because now that the Biden admin is no longer dumping tens of millions of barrels of oil on the open market, energy prices are bottoming.

Oil has bottomed and is starting to turn up.

So, unless President Biden wants to empty the SPR to zero, this “inflation has peaked” narrative is over. Inflation is coming back in a big way. And NO ONE is positioned for it."

AND ADDED THIS LATER BECAUSE I FORGOT TO ADD TO FIRST MESSAGE

The sudden turn around seems to have been driven by a combination of low initial positioning and a sudden increase in confidence about the outlook for the global economy and oil consumption. **Recent inflation data have shown the rate of price increases is moderating, which has raised hopes for an early peak in the interest rate cycle.**

what we've al been waiting for. ukraine death toll so high
just noticed that I added my own impression, which was on that most people who werew monitoring the situation closely enough could probably sense: ukraine was losing too many

lives, and they were c learly looking like they were being used by NATO with no end in sight.

On jan.12, I note an article written by an expert where they note the obvious: that ukraine, after a year of bloodshed with no end in sight, looked like they were clearly being used a a human shield.
"its impossible to hide the fact that they are being used as pawns for NATO; this is an important turning point: Ukraine Is Shedding Blood for 'NATO Mission': Ukrainian Defense Minister "
Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said last week that Ukraine is "shedding blood" for a "NATO mission" in candid remarks about the relationship between Kyiv and the Western military alliance. "At the NATO Summit in Madrid (in June 2022), it was clearly delineated that over the coming decade, the main threat to the alliance would be the Russian Federation. Today, Ukraine is eliminating this threat," Reznikov said in an interview on Ukrainian TV last week. "We are carrying out NATO's mission today. They aren't shedding their blood. We're shedding ours. That's why they're required to supply us with weapons," he added.

And as I remember very clearly: the keyword in the second half, or even throughout all of january, was escalation, escalation, escalation...

War, journal: jan11 **US now just openly admitting to training Ukrainians in their own country: "US to Begin Training Ukrainians on Patriot Missiles in Oklahoma Next Week"**

The Pentagon announced on Tuesday that the US will begin training 100 Ukrainian soldiers how to use Patriot missile defense systems as soon as next week on US soil at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The US has been training thousands of Ukrainians how to use US-provided weapons at its bases in Germany and elsewhere in Europe but hasn't had similar training inside the US since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Russia strongly warned the US against providing the Patriots to Kyiv, saying the systems would become a target for Russia's armed forces. But like most Russian warnings, it was ignored, and the US continues to escalate military aid, most recently by pledging Bradley Fighting Vehicles for the first time as part of an arms package worth over $3 billion.

and here is the turkey about to invade northern sdf controlled syria...

War, Erdogan, middle east: jan10 Turkey frequently strikes Kurdish military targets in northern Syria. It has also conducted three full-blown invasions of the area since 2016, seizing territory from Kurdish-led forces.

Turkey claimed Sunday that it had killed, injured or arrested several members of Kurdish-led forces in northern Syria, amid its sustained threats of a full-scale operation in the area.

War, history, stats, Erdogan, middle east: jan8 perfect syria breakdown.. Without Turkiye's involvement in Syria, the Neocons' goal of strangling Russia on gas imports to Europe never happens

Without Turkiye's involvement in Syria, the Neocons' goal of strangling Russia on gas imports to Europe never happens. This was the main impetus behind the Syrian War in the first place. To get him on board, Erdogan had to be bribed with a massive land grab, which he's tried to accomplish.

But when he didn't do enough to start a war with Russia in November 2015 after Turkiye supposedly shot down a Russian SU-24, he was rewarded with a coup attempt against him led by the CIA and US military out of the Incerlik airbase, by all accounts.

He was saved, apparently, by an early warning from Putin and ferried out to Iran to issue his counter-attack orders to the Turkish military on the night of the coup attempt.

This was the beginning of the end of Turkiye's relationship with NATO and the US.

The road between Turkey and Russia to this point has been incredibly rocky. Putin has been exceedingly patient with Erdogan over a dozen issues, his back-pedaling and, at times, double-dealing.

But the reality is that, like him or not, every year since Russia's move into Syria Erdogan has acted in his interest, creating leverage on the ground by taking territory in Syria, making outrageous claims against the Eastern Mediterranean, while playing the West and Russia against each other on NATO expansion, refugee policy, and his support of Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

Stats, war, middle east, energy: jan4 World Food Programme: 60% of syrian close to staring, feb 2021, Syrians have been grappling with a rise in the price of basic items over the past year as the national currency, the Syrian Pound, has plummeted in value.

"The situation has never been worse. After 10 years of conflict, Syrian families have exhausted their savings as they face a spiralling economic crisis," said Sean O'Brien, WFP Representative and Country Director in Syria.

Meanwhile, the cost of basic foods to feed a family for a month – such as bread, rice, lentils, oil and sugar – far exceeds average salaries.

"It is alarming that a simple meal is beyond the reach of families across Syria, and this new data shows humanitarian assistance is the difference between putting a meal on the table and going to bed hungry. Lifesaving support has never been so crucial," said Mr. O'Brien.

Erdogan, war: Syria and Turkey's defense ministers recently met for the first time since 2011.

Energy, middle east, war, sanctions: As part of its occupation of Syria, the US and Kurdish allies control most of the country's oil and gas resources.

Energy middle east, war, sanctions: Jordan opened its border with Syria in September, October 13, 2021, antiwar

dec8 Xi JingPing makes first vist to Riyadh in 6 years

While $30 billion in deals will be signed between Beijing and Riyadh, something much bigger is at play which too few have come to properly appreciate.

Xi Jinping last visited the kingdom in 2016, to advance Riyadh's participation in China's newly unveiled Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). A January 2016 policy report by the Chinese government to all Arab states reads:

https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/imports/saudi-arabia#:~:text=United%20States%20Imports%20from%20Saudi%20Arabia%20was%20US%2413.93%20Billion,updated%20on%20December%20of%202022

900 troops in sdf controlled areas in northern syria, kurdistan region

The US has about 900 troops in SDF-controlled areas of Syria, keeping the territory out of the hands of Damascus. The US paused patrols with the SDF as a result of recent Turkish airstrikes but said they resumed this week.

U.S. army creates own cogen operator through, well, to put it simply: theft. I know I sound like a niave civilian here, but that's what it is, cogeneration-by-theft.

John Kirby, spokesman for the National Security Council, told reporters Friday that, as in the past, when there are Turkish operations in northern Syria, it has had an impact on the counter-ISIS operations as SDF forces concentrate on defending themselves in northern Syria. The U.S. said the SDF's decision to pause its missions against the Islamic State group triggered the U.S. decision to do so as well

stats, war, Erdogan, middle east: dec3 **2019 Turkish offensive into north-eastern Syria**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Turkish_offensive_into_north-eastern_Syria

middle east, Erdogan, war: dec3(OCT152019)Russia has said Turkey’s invasion of north-eastern Syria is unacceptable

Russia has said Turkey’s invasion of north-eastern Syria is unacceptable and was not agreed with Moscow in advance.
Turkey has launched an assault into Syria to claim territory held by Kurdish groups after US troops withdrew from the area. Russia in response brokered a deal between the Kurds and the government in Damascus for the Syrian army to move into the territory.

“We always called for restraint from Turkey, we always believed that some kind of military operation in Syria was unacceptable,” Alexander Lavrentiev, President Vladimir Putin’s special envoy for Syria, told reporters.

Mr Lavrentiev also said that “real time” negotiations were taking place between the Turkish and Syrian governments amid the threat of armed conflict between the two states’ militaries.

“A dialogue between Turkey and Syria is taking place, it is taking place continuously,” he said, in remarks published by state-run news agencies. “Negotiations are proceeding in real time between the defence and foreign ministries and special services.”

Russia, which backs Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, is the most powerful foreign military in the more than eight-year-long civil war in Syria.

Erdogan, war: dec3 they kidnapped the general of turkey and tried to legitimately stage a coup

this was the guy that was kidnapped

"Hulusi Akar (born 12 March 1952) is the current Turkish minister of defense and a former four-star Turkish Armed Forces general who served as the 29th chief of the Turkish General Staff.[2] Akar also served as a brigade commander in various NATO engagements including the International Security Assistance Force against the Taliban insurgency, Operation Deliberate Force during the Bosnian War, the Kosovo Force during the Kosovo War, as well as overseeing much of the Turkish involvement in the Syrian Civil War.[3][4][5]"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hulusi_Akar
https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2016/07/16/turkeys-chief-of-staff-hulusi-akar-rescued-from-pro-coup-soldiers

After decades of negationiations for entry into the EU, all talks officially came to a standstill on February 20th, 2019.

"Turkey is negotiating its accession to the European Union (EU) as a member state, following its application to become a full member of the European Economic Community (EEC), the predecessor of the EU, on 14 April 1987.[2]

After the ten founding members in 1949, Turkey became one of the first new members (the 13th member) of the Council of Europe in 1950.[3][4] The country became an associate member of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1963 and was an associate member of the Western European Union from 1992 to its end in 2011. Turkey signed a Customs Union agreement with the EU in 1995 and was officially recognised as a candidate for full membership on 12 December 1999, at the Helsinki summit of the European Council.

Negotiations for full membership were started on 3 October 2005.[5] Progress was slow: out of the 35 chapters necessary to complete the accession process, only 16 had been opened and one had been closed by May 2016.[6] The early 2016 refugee deal between Turkey and the European Union was intended to accelerate negotiations after previous stagnation and allow visa-free travel through Europe for Turks.[7]

Since 2016, accession negotiations have stalled.[8] The EU has accused and criticized Turkey for human rights violations and deficits in rule of law.[9] In 2017, EU officials expressed that planned Turkish policies violate the Copenhagen criteria of eligibility for an EU membership.[10] On 26 June 2018, the EU's General Affairs Council stated that "Turkey has been moving further away from the European Union.

On 20 February 2019, a European parliament committee voted to suspend the accession talks, sparking criticism from the government of Turkey.[11][12][13] Turkey's accession negotiations have therefore effectively come to a standstill and no further chapters can be considered for opening or closing and no further work towards the modernisation of the EU-Turkey Customs Union is foreseen."[14][15][16][17][18]"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accession_of_Turkey_to_the_European_Union

Turkey has complained about a supposed presence of PKK-related forces at its southern border since 2012, when the first YPG pockets appeared during the Syrian Civil War.[101] Following the 2014 Siege of Kobanî and the expansion of YPG/SDF forces and administration, Erdoğan's government considered the force a national security threat.[101] The 2013–2015 peace process collapsed in July 2015, resulting in a war between PKK and Turkish forces. Like other regions in southeast Turkey, regions north of the border with Syria have seen numerous PKK-related deaths. According to a Crisis Group death toll analysis based upon Turkey government and Turkish media publications, the border regions north of SDF-controlled areas had 8 Turkey security forces and 5 civilians killed in PKK-related violence in 2018 and 2019 prior to the offensive. The Şırnak region had 26 security forces and 6 civilian deaths over the same period.[100] Crisis Group did not specify if "PKK-related" deaths are linked to Syria's YPG and SDF, or from Turkey or Iraqi PKK.[100]

Ten European nations and Canada imposed an arms embargo on Turkey, while the U.S. imposed sanctions on Turkish ministries and senior government officials in response to the offensive in Syria.[84] Likewise, Trump's sudden pullout of US forces in Syria was also criticized by many, including former US military personnel, as a "serious betrayal to the Kurds" as well as a "catastrophic blow to US credibility as an ally and Washington's standing on the world stage", with one journalist stating that "this is one of the worst US foreign policy disasters since the Iraq War".[85][86][87][88] On 19 November, the US Defense Department inspector general released a report finding that the American withdrawal and subsequent Turkish incursion allowed ISIL to "reconstitute capabilities and resources within Syria and strengthen its ability to plan attacks abroad".[89]

The Syrian government initially criticized the SDF for the Turkish offensive, accusing it of separatism and not reconciling with the government, while at the same time also condemning the foreign invasion of Syrian territory.[90] However, a few days later, the SDF reached an agreement with the Syrian government, in which it would allow the Syrian Army to enter the SDF-held towns of Manbij and Kobanî in an attempt to defend the towns from the Turkish offensive.[91][92][93] Shortly thereafter, Syrian state broadcaster SANA announced that Syrian Army troops had started to deploy to the country's north.[94] Turkey and the SNA launched an offensive to capture Manbij on the same day.[95]

On 17 October 2019, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence announced that the U.S. and Turkey agreed on a deal in which Turkey would agree to a five-day ceasefire in Syria in return for a complete withdrawal by the SDF from its positions on the Syria-Turkey border.[96][97] On 22 October 2019, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan reached a deal to extend the ceasefire by 150 additional hours if the SDF would move 30 kilometers away from the border, as well as from Tal Rifaat and Manbij. The terms of the deal also included joint Russian–Turkish patrols 10 kilometers into Syria from the border, except in the city of Qamishli. The new ceasefire started at 12pm local time on 23 October.[98][99] The captured area remains part of the Turkish occupation of northern Syria.

Turkey and the United States struck a deal in August 2019 after months of Turkish threats to unilaterally invade northern Syria. The United States viewed the Syrian Democratic Forces as one of its key allies in the military intervention against ISIL in Syria, while Turkey viewed the group as an extension of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which it considers a terrorist group.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Turkish_offensive_into_north-eastern_Syria

Turkish deadline for SDF withdrawal from northern Syria: Source

Turkish source tells Al Jazeera that Ankara has told the US and Russia that the SDF must withdraw within two weeks, or face a new Turkish military ground operation.

The SDF has resumed joint anti-ISIL patrols with the US after initially suspending them on Friday following Turkish air attacks [File: Baderkhan Ahmad/AP Photo]

Published On 7 Dec 20227 Dec 2022

A Turkish source has told Al Jazeera that Ankara has set a final deadline for Russia and the United States to prevent a ground military operation in northern Syria.

The official said on Tuesday that Turkey has demanded that Moscow and Washington press the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to withdraw within two weeks from Manbij, Tal Rifaat and Kobane (Ayn al-Arab).

KEEP READING

list of 4 itemslist 1 of 4

Protesters storm gov’t building in southern Syria; two killed

list 2 of 4

US military reports rocket attacks on its patrol base in Syria
list 3 of 4
Fears in Syria’s Azaz as threat of conflict rises once again
list 4 of 4
Turkish air attacks on Syria threaten US personnel: Pentagon
end of list

Turkey will not extend that deadline, according to the official, and has warned that the alternative will be a military operation against the US-backed SDF, which is largely made up of the Kurdish-dominated People’s Protection Units (YPG).

Ankara considers the YPG to be the Syrian branch of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, a designated “terrorist” group in Turkey, the US, and the European Union. It has threatened a new ground operation against the groups in northern Syria since June, and has stepped up preparations since a bombing in Istanbul blamed on the PKK killed six people on November 13.

The PKK and the YPG have denied any involvement.

In response to Turkey’s demands, the Turkish official said that the US had proposed the idea of restructuring the SDF and giving a larger role to the Arab forces within it in administering the three towns that Turkey had demanded the SDF withdraw from.

However, Turkey said that SDF control of oil facilities had to end before it considered any American proposals.

The Russian side also placed its own demands related to Ukraine and linked those demands to it backing down on Syria.

SDF strategy

The SDF has attempted to head off Turkey’s planned operation by leaning on both the Russians and the Americans.

The group, which is the main local force the US relies on in the fight against ISIL (ISIS), had said on Friday that it would no longer participate in joint anti-ISIL patrols with the US as a result of Turkish shelling and bombardment from across the border.

Turkish FM: Turkey Would Support Assad Against Kurdish SDF

Says military operation could begin any timeby Jason Ditz Posted onJuly 29, 2022CategoriesNewsTagsSyria, Turkey

In a TV interview once again emphasizing a Syria operation could happen at any time, Turkish FM Mevlut Cavosoglu reported Turkey was willing to ally with the Assad government against the Kurdish SDF.

That brings Turkey's involvement in Syria full circle. Early in the Syrian Civil Warm Turkey broke with Assad and backed the Sunni rebels, reasoning they'd be more anti-Kurd if they won.

They didn't win though, and as Turkey moved against the Kurds with rebel-backed offensives, they naturally aligned with the Assad government, and both sides are preparing to resist Turkey.

Cavusoglu's comments suggest Turkey is having second thoughts at the path they went down, and would rather fight the Kurds without them having any allies. Syria almost certainly isn't going to take the bait there, and if Turkey was a valuable ally pre-war, at this point they'd be far too fickle to re-align with.

The Turkish Armed Forces and its ally the Syrian National Army have occupied[10][11] areas of northern Syria since August 2016, during the Syrian Civil War. Though these areas nominally acknowledge a government affiliated with the Syrian opposition, they factually constitute a separate proto-state[12] under the dual authority of decentralized native local councils and Turkish military administration.

Turkish-controlled areas of Syria comprise a 8,835-square-kilometre area encompassing over 1000 settlements, including towns such as Afrin, al-Bab, Azaz, Jarabulus, Jindires, Rajo, Tal Abyad and Ras al-Ayn. The majority of these

On October 7, 2019, the President of the United States ordered the withdrawal of US military troops stationed on the Syria–Turkey border. This withdrawal of military support was ordered by President Trump with the disapproval of the Pentagon and the US Intelligence community.[29][30] The US president ordered the withdrawal of military troops under the premise that Turkey would not invade the region being held by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF);[29] however Turkey attacked the SDF within two days of US military withdrawal from the region.[31]

Idlib offensive[edit]

Main article: Operation Spring Shield

A cross-border military operation began on 27 February 2020 by the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) against the Syrian Armed Forces and allied militias in the Idlib Governorate of northwestern Syria[32] in response to the Balyun airstrikes which lead to the deaths of 34 Turkish military servicemen.[33][34] Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said that the purpose of the operation had been within the framework of the Astana talks, to ensure a ceasefire agreement in the Second Northern Syria Buffer Zone and to prevent migration from Idlib towards the Turkish border. On 5 March, Turkey and Russia signed a ceasefire agreement in Moscow.[35]

Possible fourth offensive[edit]

In May 2022 Turkish and opposition Syrian officials said that Turkey's Armed Forces and the Syrian National Army are planning a new operation against the SDF, composed mostly of the YPG/YPJ.[36][37] The new operation is set to resume efforts to create 30-kilometer (18.6-mile) wide "safe zones" along Turkey's border with Syria, President Erdoğan said in a statement.[38] The operation aims at the Tal Rifaat and Manbij regions west of the Euphrates and other areas further east. Meanwhile, Ankara is in talks with Moscow over the operation. President Erdoğan reiterated his determination for the operation on August 8th, 2022.[39]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_occupation_of_northern_Syria
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_occupation_of_northern_Syria

Stats, Africa, war government: feb8 **former rebel group that faught bloody war now a political party: "The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) was a rebel group that fought a failed eleven-year war in Sierra Leone, beginning in 1991 and ending in 2002. It later transformed into a political party, which still exists today. The three most senior surviving leaders, Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao, were convicted in February 2009 of war crimes and crimes against humanity.[1]**

Political party[edit]

Revolutionary United Front Party

Secretary-General	Jonathan
Founded	2003
Ideology	Nationalism

Pan-africanism

- Politics of Sierra Leone
  - Political parties
    - Elections

After peace was established, RUF was transformed into a political party: the **Revolutionary United Front Party**. As of 2006, the general secretary of the party was Jonathan. In the May 10, 2001 general election the party won 2.2% of popular votes and no seats. Its candidate at the presidential elections, Alimamy Pallo Bangura, received 1.7% of the vote. The party received its highest voting in Kailahun, 7.8% in the parliamentary election.[28][29]

The RUF most recently participated in the 2018 general election in Sierra Leone and had the 6th highest vote tally in the country. It was not considered to be a significant contender.

War, quake: feb8 **just saving the whole atw page again. too much going on. this is ....getting fucked**

News

Updated February 8, 2023 - 3:23 PM EST

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- ***State Dept Approves $10 Billion HIMARS Rocket Sale to Poland***
- ***Head of Zelensky's Party: DM Reznikov Won't Be Removed This Week***

Syria Red Crescent Says Lift Sanctions After Quake

- ***Thousands Dead as 7.8 Quake Hits Turkey/Syria Border***

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The Israeli Raid That Left Five Dead in Jericho

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by Joe Lauria

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- Trump's '24 Game Plan: Be the Dove Among the Hawks
- Israeli Minister Says No Pause on Settlements After US Asked Israel to Halt Expansion

Israeli Drones Never Sleep

Russia/Ukraine

- Ship-to-Ship Loadings of Urals Crude Oil Hit Record High as Russian Oil Heads to Asia
- Austrian Colonel Claims NATO Soldiers Fighting in Ukraine as Mercenaries
- Ukraine Withdraws 19 Million Russian, Soviet-Era Books From Libraries
- Investigators May Name More Suspects in Downing of Flight MH17
- First US Warship to Transit Near Black Sea Since War in Ukraine Departs Turkey

United Kingdom

- Britcoin? UK Gets Closer to Launching a Digital Currency
- British Army Tests New Advanced Communication System in Belize Jungle

Europe

Palestine/Israel

- Ben-Gvir Threatens to Respond With 50 Missiles for Every Rocket Fired From Gaza
- Israel Wants to Demolish a Four-Story Building in Occupied East Jerusalem
- Former Combat Pilot Who Implied Netanyahu Deserves Death Apologizes to Protesters
- Israel Announces Plans to Build Illegal Settlement Near Besieged Gaza Strip
- Israeli Soldiers Kill 16-Year-Old for Throwing a Piece of Metal at an Army Vehicle
- Cybersecurity Company to Pull Money Out of Israel Over Judiciary Reforms

Syria

- Growing Calls to Open Border Crossing for Aid to Reach Syria
- Controversial Fundraiser for Syria Places Humanitarian Aid at Risk

More News

Ai, tech: feb8 **Google's AI chatbot Bard makes factual error in first demo, Alphabet Loses Over $110 Billion Market Cap**

Erdogan, sanctions: feb8 **When pressed on why the US wouldn’t engage with Damascus, Price said it "would be quite ironic, if not even counterproductive, for us to reach out to a government that has brutalized its people over the course of a dozen years now."**

from the guardian: Syrian officials and a rescue group in rebel-held north-west Syria have said the death toll there has reached 2,662, bringing the combined tally to 11,719.
The president also condemned criticism of the government’s rescue effort, condemned by many in the country as slow and inadequate.

“This is a time for unity, solidarity. In a period like this, I cannot stomach people conducting negative campaigns for political interest,” Erdoğan said, adding that it was not possible to be prepared for such a disaster.

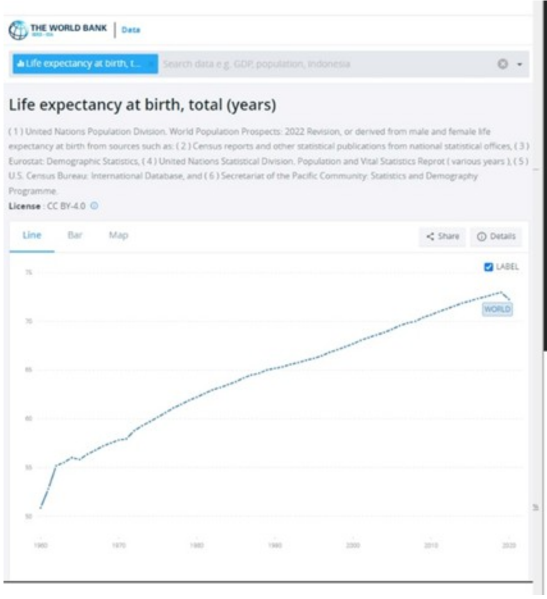
Nearly 300,000 displaced by quake in Syria – state media

More than 298,000 people have been forced to leave their homes due to this week’s deadly earthquake, Syrian state media has reported.
The number appeared to be a reference only to the parts of Syria under government control, not those held by other factions in the north-west of the country, which is closer to the epicentre of Monday’s quake.

Reuters reports the state news agency Sana as quoting Hussein Makhlouf, minister of local administration and environment, as saying the state had opened 180 shelters for displaced people.

War: feb8 **(we knew this was true) Nord Stream Sabotage Was CIA, US Navy Covert Op: Seymour Hersh Bombshell Prompts White House Response**

Journal, stats, vaccine, censorship: **Eye opening..**


THE WORLD BANK
Data
Life expectancy at birth, t...
Search data e.g. GDP, population, Indonesia
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75
70
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1960
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2020
WORLD

Life expectancy at birth, total (years)

(1) United Nations Population Division. World Population Prospects: 2022 Revision, or derived from male and female life expectancy at birth from sources such as: (2) Census reports and other statistical publications from national statistical offices, (3) Eurostat: Demographic Statistics, (4) United Nations Statistical Division. Population and Vital Statistics Reprot (various years), (5) U.S. Census Bureau: International Database, and (6) Secretariat of the Pacific Community: Statistics and Demography Programme.

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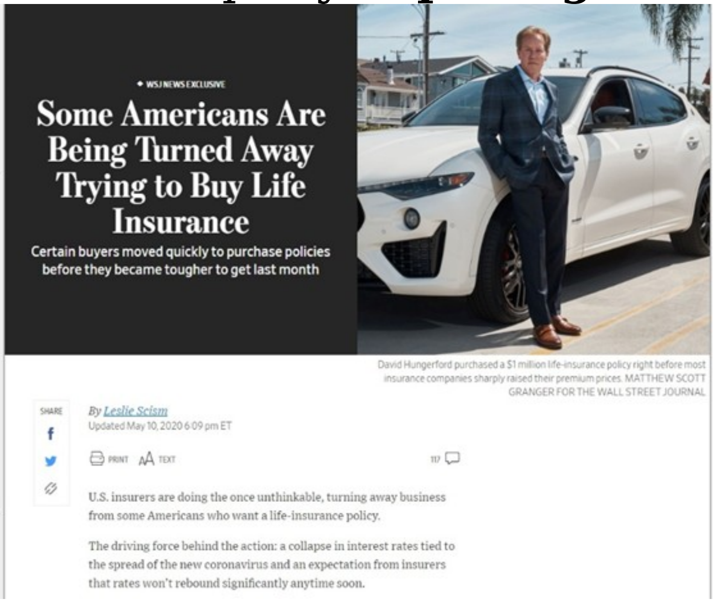
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117

◆ WSJ NEWS EXCLUSIVE

Some Americans Are Being Turned Away Trying to Buy Life Insurance

Certain buyers moved quickly to purchase policies before they became tougher to get last month

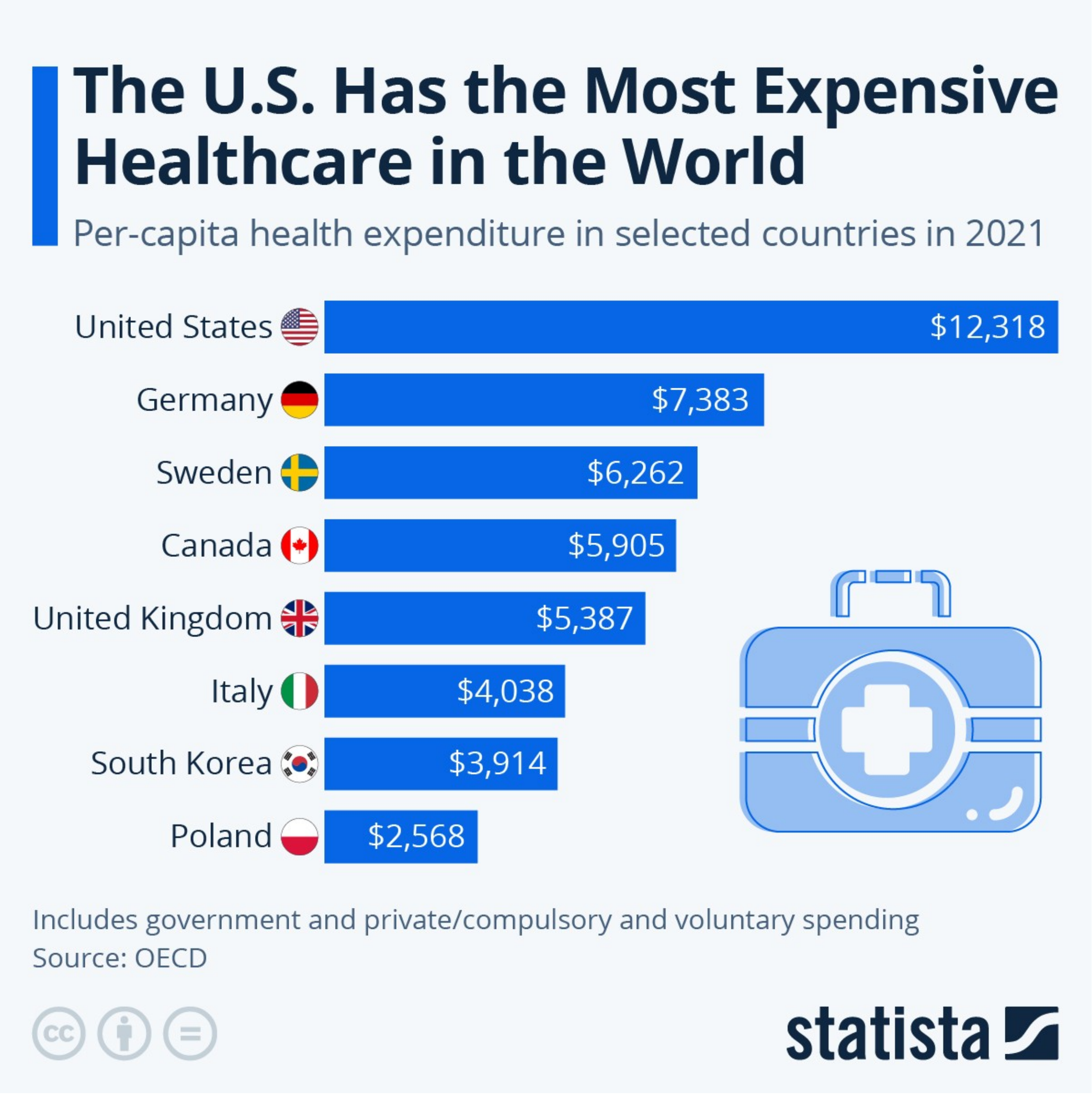
David Hungerford purchased a $1 million life-insurance policy right before most insurance companies sharply raised their premium prices. MATTHEW SCOTT GRANGER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

By Leslie Scism
Updated May 10, 2020 6:09 pm ET

U.S. insurers are doing the once unthinkable, turning away business from some Americans who want a life-insurance policy.

The driving force behind the action: a collapse in interest rates tied to the spread of the new coronavirus and an expectation from insurers that rates won't rebound significantly anytime soon.

Stats: feb8 **The US Has The Most Expensive Healthcare In The World**



Markets, china: feb8 **gold: the second-highest level of net purchases on record dating back to 1950, and the 13th straight year of net central bank gold purchases**

China officially started buying gold again in November and made another large purchase of 30 tons in December. That raised China’s total gold reserves to over 2,000 tons for the first time.

The Chinese central bank accumulated 1,448 tons of gold between 2002 and 2019, and then suddenly went silent. Many speculate that the Chinese continued to add gold to its holdings off the books during those silent years.

There has always been speculation that China holds far more gold than it officially reveals. As Jim Rickards pointed out on *Mises Daily* back in 2015, many people speculate that China keeps several thousand tons of gold "off the books" in a separate entity called the State Administration for Foreign Exchange (SAFE).

The Central Bank of Türkiye (Turkey) continued its consistent buying in December, adding another 25 tons to its swelling gold reserves. Over the course of 2022, Turkey added about 150 tons of gold to its hoard.

Croatia bought 2 tons of gold after having not reported any changes in its gold reserves since 2001.

After a pause in November, the Reserve Bank of India resumed purchasing gold in December, with a modest 1-ton purchase. India ranks as the ninth largest gold-holding country in the world. Since resuming buying in late 2017, the Reserve Bank of India has purchased over 200 tons of gold. In August 2020, there were reports that the RBI was considering significantly raising its gold reserves.

Quake, Erdogan, war: feb8 Turkish Stock Market Halted To Prevent Further Crash As Quake Deaths Top 11,000

Ai, tech, china: feb8 **Alibaba Shares Rise As It Tests ChatGPT-Like AI Bot**

*"...the reporter learned from **Alibaba that the Alibaba version of the chat robot ChatGPT is under development** and is **currently in the internal testing stage."***

Journal, war: feb7 whole antiwar page saved foillowing United States obvious show of force

following air balloon story. Those balloons were always flying around. they shot them dowon ON PURPOSE. THEY KNEWWWWWW. THIS WEATHER IS IMPOSSIBLEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

News

Updated February 7, 2023 - 5:12 PM EST

US Won't Lift Syria Sanctions After Earthquake

Thousands Dead as 7.8 Quake Hits Turkey/Syria Border

UN Chief: Ukraine Could Turn Into 'Wider War'

US 'Blocked' Early Attempt at Russia-Ukraine Peace Deal

GOP Pressures Biden to Send Ukraine More Arms

Germany Approves Transfer of Leopard 1 Tanks to Ukraine

US Mulls Deploying Long-Range Missiles to Japan

NORAD: Chinese Balloons Under Trump Went 'Undetected'

US Ramps Up Operations Against ISIS in Iraq and Syria

Americans Less Hawkish on North Korea and China: Poll

Viewpoints

US Surrounds China With War Machinery While Freaking Out About Balloons **by Caitlin Johnstone**

Is the Ukraine War Moving Toward a 'Korea Solution'? **by Lyle J. Goldstein**

An Economist's Solution to the War in Ukraine **by James Bohn**

The Monroe Doctrine Is Soaked in Blood **by David Swanson**

More Viewpoints

Spotlight

Russia

Russian Fuel Oil Flows to Asia as EU Ban Takes Effect

Russia Probing Alleged Ukrainian Use of Chemical Weapons

Russia Sentences Popular Cookbook Author Over Ukraine Posts

Russian Forces Keep Up Pressure as Ukraine Anniversary Nears

Russia's Revenue Falls Sharply in January From Year Earlier

Canada's Russia Sanctions Are Hitting People With No Connection to Putin's War

Ukraine

Outnumbered and Worn Out, Ukrainians in East Brace for Russian Assault

Ukraine Withdraws 19 Million Russian, Soviet-Era Books From Libraries

Ukraine Lays Out Demands for Israel Ahead of Key Visit to Kyiv

EU Parliament Planning for Possible Zelensky Visit in Days

Norway Looks to Donate $7.3 Billion in Aid to Ukraine

Ukraine Troops to Train on Franco-Italian Air Defense System

Europe

Kosovo Says 'Yes' to EU's Peace Deal With Serbia, With Caveats

Czech Army Eyes New Leopard 2A7+ Tanks After Testing Older Variant

Georgian Court Rejects Appeal to Release Ex-Leader Saakashvili on Health Grounds

Poland Redeploys Patriot Missiles to Capital City for Drills

US Cautions Citizens in Sweden Over Possible Attacks in Retaliation for Koran Burning

Swiss Neutrality on the Line as Arms-for-Ukraine Debate Heats Up

Syria

Photos: Deadly Quake Intensifies Suffering of Displaced Syrians

Quake Response in Syria Faces Obstacles, Says Top UN Aid Official

At Least 20 Escape Syria Prison Holding ISIS Inmates After Turkey Quake

Turkey Tried to Enlist PKK Against Syria in 2013: Kurdish Official

Iraq

Iraq Daily Roundup: Nine Killed

Two Children Die After Fire in Iraqi Kurdistan Camp

Iraq to Ask US How to Pay Russian Energy Firms

Palestine/Israel

Arab League Strongly Condemns Israel's 'Open War' on Palestinian People

Israeli Combat Drones Now Equipped With 'Silent Bombs'

Hamas Slams Sudan Agreement to Move Ahead With Israel Ties

Hamas Says Killing Palestinian Fighters Will Not Stop Resistance

Abbas Doubles Down on Halt to Israel Security Coordination

Nikki Haley, Who Once Criticized AIPAC for Being Insufficiently Pro-Israel, Is Running for President

Middle East

Beirut Blast Judge Postpones Interrogations Over Dispute

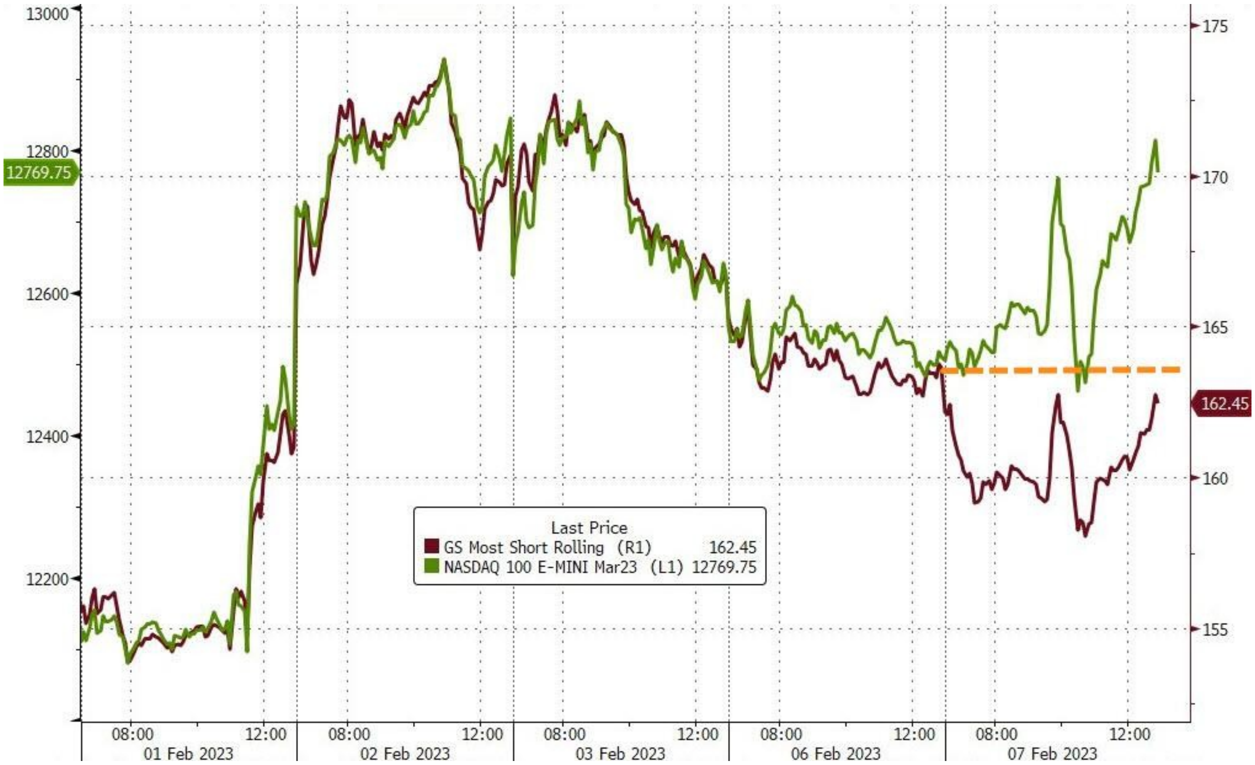
Morocco to Hand Over Saudi Man Facing Extradition, Says Brother

Afghanistan

Qatari, Taliban Officials Meet in Afghanistan for Bilateral Talks

More News

Markets, stats: feb7 most shortred following nasdaq 100 with perfect correlation.,...shows a trader trend. It's PERFECT correlation



Energy, markets, government: feb7 **California Governor Urges Federal Inquiry Into Surging Natural Gas Prices**

California’s Governor Gavin Newsom has **called on the federal authorities to launch an investigation into the soaring natural gas prices in California** and the rest of the Western U.S., **as customers have been warned they would receive high gas utility bills.**

In a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the agency responsible for regulating wholesale natural gas, Governor

Newsom requested that the agency "immediately focus its investigatory resources on assessing whether market manipulation, anticompetitive behavior, or other anomalous activities are driving these ongoing elevated prices in the western gas markets," the governor's office said in a statement on Monday.

"Since late November 2022, wholesale natural gas prices throughout the West have risen to alarming levels that greatly exceed prices in the rest of the country," Governor Newsom said in the letter.

"These wholesale natural gas price increases were exacerbated by early cold weather in the western states, but those known factors cannot explain the extent and longevity of the price spike."

The wholesale prices of natural gas in southern California jumped in December to more than nine times the price of the U.S. benchmark futures for December, per Bloomberg's estimates.

Early on Tuesday, the front-month futures price at the Henry Hub, the U.S. benchmark, was down by 0.57% at $2.441 per million British thermal units (MMBtu)—close to the lowest level in 25 months.

The high natural gas prices in California have led to warnings from utilities operating in the state that customers would receive a sticker shock with the gas utility bills.

Californians will see relief from high utility bills – with credits of $90 to $120 showing up on gas and electric bills as soon as next month, the governor said, and added, ***"We're going to get to the bottom of this because Californians deserve to know what's behind these exorbitant bills."***

[ZH: Perhaps some self-reflection Mr. Newsom, as we detailed previously...]

Besides the recent storms that have crimped national supplies, California's poor storage planning and aggressive climate action goals played a part in driving the prices skyward, Mike Umbro—an oil and gas developer in Kern County, about 150 miles north of Los Angeles—told The Epoch Times.

Utility companies use natural gas to create 43 percent of the electricity used by over 11 million customers in California, and the state only produces about 10 percent of what it needs, according to California Energy Commission.

"In the past 20 years, our in-state production was cut in half … We rely on other states around us to supply the difference of what we need," Umbro said.

The Golden State and its neighbors are “feverishly working to decarbonize the electricity grid,” he said.

“California is adding renewables while other states are shutting down coal power plants - both of these trends are increasing the usage of natural gas for power generation,” he said.

As a result, the state’s utility providers are paying “unprecedented” high prices this winter, he said.

...

To worsen matters, national supplies began flowing to Europe during the Ukraine conflict, leading to California’s storage levels dropping to the lowest in the country—41 percent—at the end of 2022, Umbro said.

But we are sure none of that matters...

War, journal, stats: feb7 **air balloons seem to be a clear 'show of force'; united states just decided to start shooting them down now--always knew they were there: President Recep Erdogan said the quake is the country's largest disaster since the 1939 Erzincan earthquake that killed upwards of 30,00 people**

President Recep Erdogan said the quake is the country's largest disaster since the 1939 Erzincan earthquake that killed upwards of 30,00 people

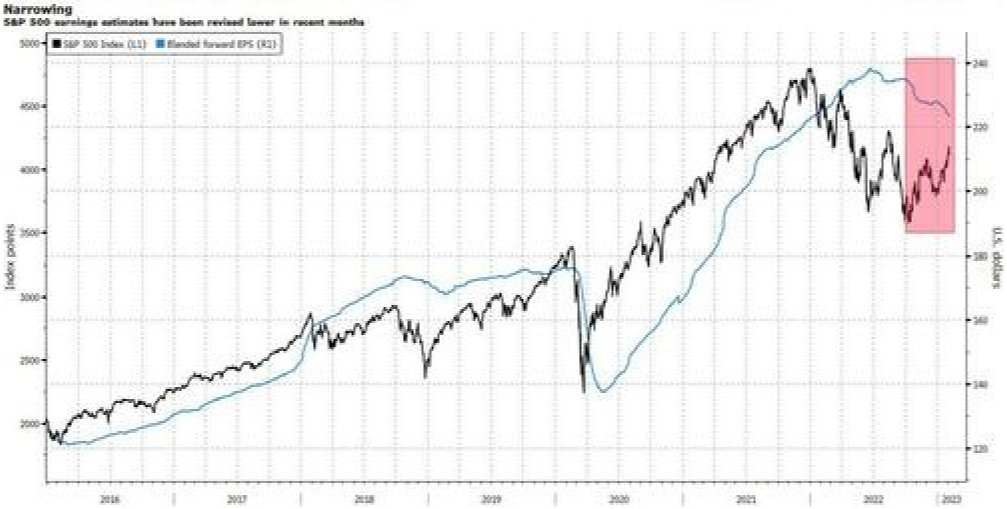
But the reality — at least for now — hasn’t been quite so grim.

With the fourth-quarter results from more than half of the S&P 500 companies already in, earnings per share have fallen 2.8% from a year earlier, according to data compiled by Bloomberg Intelligence. **That’s less than the 3.3% drop expected before earnings season began.**

The smaller-than-anticipated drop suggests that the profit contraction isn’t beginning as badly as once feared, lending support to share-price valuations. That’s likely one reason why the market is rewarding companies that exceed expectations and even dialing back the punishment of those that fall short.

“This earnings season was already projected to be pretty bad,” said Michael Casper, an equity strategist at Bloomberg Intelligence. *“When results come in line with projections or slightly worse than expected, it’s clear that investors had*

already priced that into stocks so equities aren't going to get punished as much this time around."



Narrowing

S&P 500 earnings estimates have been revised lower in recent months

That doesn't mean that stock investors are in the clear, particularly given the broad uncertainty about how long the Federal Reserve will keep monetary policy tight to ensure that inflation continues to come down. As a result, **the worst of the profit hit may not come until the economy slows further or even lapses into a recession**, which has raised some concerns about whether price-to-earnings ratios are too high after the S&P 500's nearly 15% rebound from the October trough.

"The fundamentals have started to change," said Rob Haworth, senior investment strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management.

"When does the Fed reach its peak rates? Will inflation slow sufficiently in 2023? Will there be a reset in corporate earnings? We've gotten progress in all three that has been supportive for equity markets, but investors are still cautious given uncertainty with economic growth."

The main locus of investors' valuation concerns are the growth stocks that have benefited the most from the retreat of bond yields from last year's peaks, since those rates are used to put a value today on profits that aren't expected until years in the future. In fact, the forward multiples for technology, media and telecommunication shares in the S&P 500 have returned to levels above the pre-pandemic norm at around 20 times earnings, above the five-year average of 17.6 times shortly before the pandemic struck.

That may exert a limit on future gains, particularly after the recent surge in payroll growth cast doubt on speculation that the Fed would start cutting interest rates late this year. If a strong labor market keeps wage growth elevated and prevents inflation from coming down as fast as policymakers want, the bank may raise rates more aggressively — or hold them higher for longer — than the markets had been expecting.

“People are getting ahead of themselves with the Fed slowing down policy,” Casper, the Bloomberg Intelligence analyst, added. “It’s tough for stocks to move materially higher in the near term toward record highs. It’ll probably be a bumpy ride because there’s not a lot of room for equities to inflate further.”

NORAD Pleads Incompetence Over Failure To Spot Trump-Era Chinese Spy Balloons

A "domain awareness gap."

As the Biden administration came under fire last week for allowing a Chinese spy balloon to cross the entire United States before shooting it down off the coast of South Carolina, an anonymous US Defense Department official said over the weekend that **spy balloons transited over US territory during the Trump administration**.

Trump, and his former administration officials, collectively called bullshit on the report - saying it 'never happened.'

"Now they are putting out that a Balloon was put up by China during the Trump Administration, in order to take the ‘heat’ off" the Biden administration, Trump wrote Sunday. "China had too much respect for ‘TRUMP’ for this to have happened, and it NEVER did."

In response to the entire Trump administration's **lack of knowledge of these alleged incursions**, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) on Monday called for a congressional investigation into why the US intelligence community failed to inform the sitting administration of foreign spy craft transiting over US airspace.

"**If it’s true the Pentagon purposely did NOT tell President Trump of Chinese Spy Balloons during his administration then we had a serious breach in command during the Trump admin**," Greene tweeted. "The POTUS is the Commander in Chief. We must investigate and hold accountable those who broke rank."

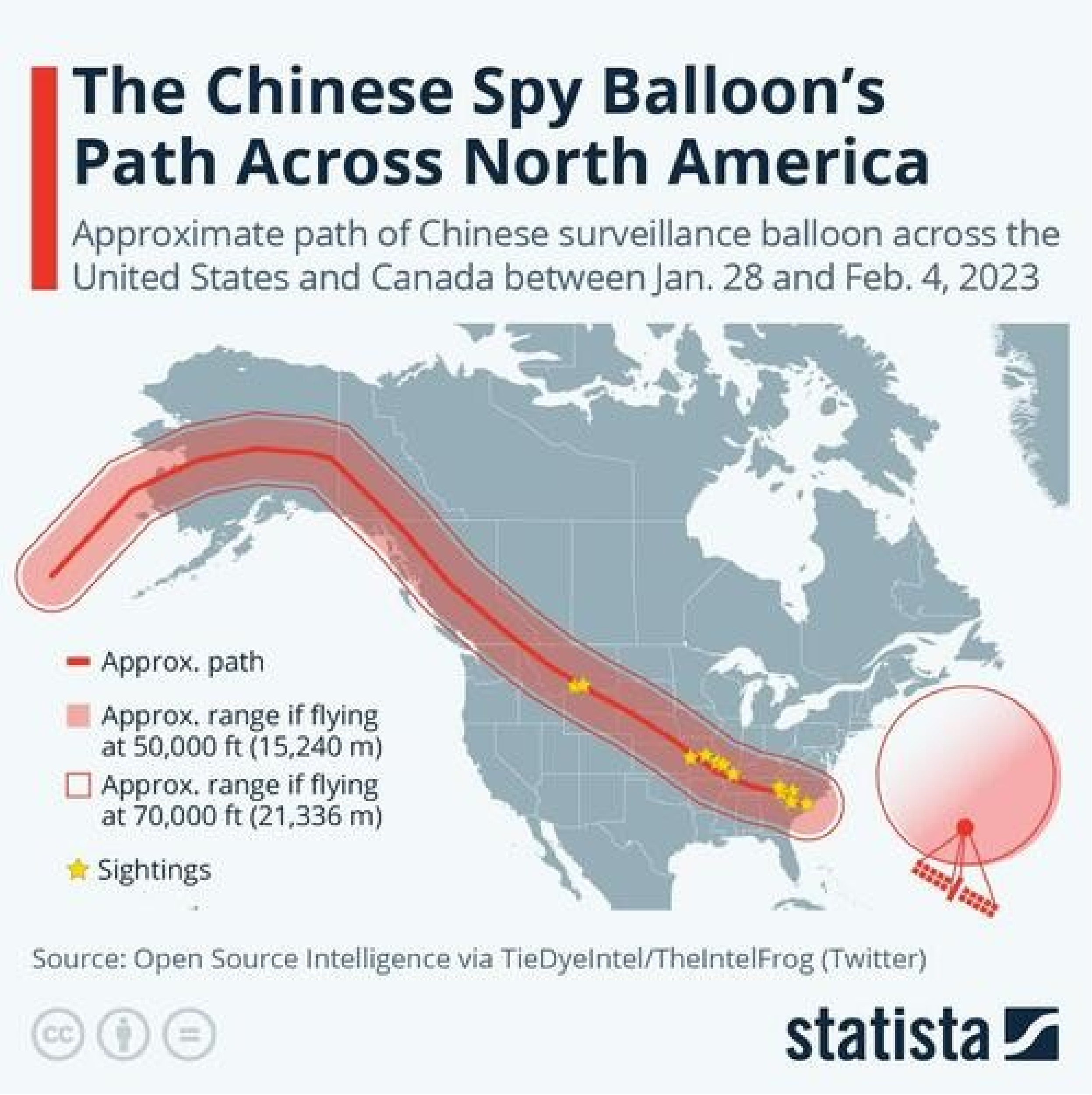
"Defense officials now claim that Chinese Spy Balloons briefly flew over the U.S. during the Trump admin, but if true, WHY is this just now being reported?" she asked earlier in the day.

Former Trump national security adviser John Bolton told *CNN* on Monday that it would be a "serious problem" if there was "any actual knowledge that these balloons were over the United States and higher authority wasn’t told."

"As far as I know, every Trump administration official who has been asked, has said **they didn’t know anything about it,**" Bolton continued.

Other members of Congress also had questions;

"Allowing a spy balloon from the Communist Party of China to travel across the entire continental United States before contesting its presence **is a disastrous projection of weakness by the White House**," said Senate Armed Services ranking member Roger Wicker (R-MI). "It is clear that standard protocol for defense of U.S. airspace was ignored."



The Chinese Spy Balloon's Path Across North America

Approximate path of Chinese surveillance balloon across the United States and Canada between Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, 2023

Approx. path
Approx. range if flying at 50,000 ft (15,240 m)
Approx. range if flying at 70,000 ft (21,336 m)
Sightings
statista

Source: Open Source Intelligence via TieDyeIntel/TheIntelFrog (Twitter)

And so, with their back up against the wall - the 'deep state' is now suggesting that they're simply incompetent when it comes to detecting foreign spy balloons in real time.

On Monday, NORAD commander Gen. Glen VanHereck told reporters that spy balloons entered US airspace *three times* during the Trump administration, but "that we did not detect those threats," calling it a "**domain awareness gap.**"

"Every day as a NORAD commander, it's my responsibility to detect threats to North America. I will tell you that we did not detect those threats," VanHereck said. "And that's a domain awareness gap that we have to figure out, but I don't want to go into further detail."

VanHereck then said that **the US intelligence community was able to determine the Trump-era transits *after the fact*** "from additional means that made us aware of those balloons that were previously approaching North America or transited North America."

Meanwhile, *CNN* (who else?) has seen an alleged April 2022 report, titled "People’s Republic of China High-Altitude Balloon," which found that a Chinese spy balloon "circumnavigated the globe" in 2019 at an altitude of around 65,000 feet, and "drifted past Hawaii and across Florida before continuing its journey."

The Air Force assessment obtained by CNN states that a spy balloon was “launched and controlled” by China in 2019, showing the country was capable of navigating a high-altitude balloon across the globe as far back as the Trump administration.

China has “deployed multiple HABs [high altitude balloons] that can operate at 65,000ft – 328,000 ft and for months at a time,” the assessment adds. -CNN

And of course; "**it is not clear from the documents when US officials first became aware of the Chinese flights or what they assessed regarding their purpose.**"

Really?

131,8951,486

War: feb7 NORAD Pleads Incompetence Over Failure To Spot Trump-Era Chinese Spy Balloons

As the Biden administration came under fire last week for allowing a Chinese spy balloon to cross the entire United States before shooting it down off the coast of South Carolina, an anonymous US Defense Department official said over the weekend that **spy balloons transited over US territory during the Trump administration**.

Trump, and his former administration officials, collectively called bullshit on the report - saying it 'never happened.'

War: feb5 "It's Disinformation": Trump, Former Officials Slam Anonymous Report Of Chinese Spy Balloons Under Their Watch

Former President Donald Trump lashed out at a report from an anonymous US Defense Department official who said over the weekend that **spy balloons transited over US territory while he was president**.

"This never happened. It would have never happened," Trump told *Fox News* on Sunday, adding that the Chinese regime "respected us greatly" under his watch.

so trump is basically supporting the idea that it would have be3en impossible for these balloons to have traversed US airspace without someone in the government knowing, a story which seems to be acceptable to any noraml perso nwatching these events right now.

Personally, I believe that this story was purposefully leaked by the united states intelligence apparatus that has an interest in molding the story to whatever suits their 'modus apparanti'. I think the deception in this story lies in the fact that chinese air balloons constantly traverse US airspace, and have been roputinely for many years now, it;'s just the US chose to leak thebn shoot down the balloojn on purposew ahead ofthe key diplomatic mission to China with **** **** cancelling a the meeting for the first time since ******. Persally, *I believe that the US shot down t he planes on purpose ahead of the meeting in specific aread as a show of force to any further attempts at controlling the economic environment. We can just change the weather, and any attempt by your member organizations to stop us will immediately result in a sho9ot down order that will eliminate any further attempt by your alliance to stand in the way of our attack.   As al gorew re c3tnmtyl dsaid at the parius [peace summit. DClimatre will have effect of 600 hydrohgen bombs.*

Gety thew drift?

DO....not.........fuck.....with us...........

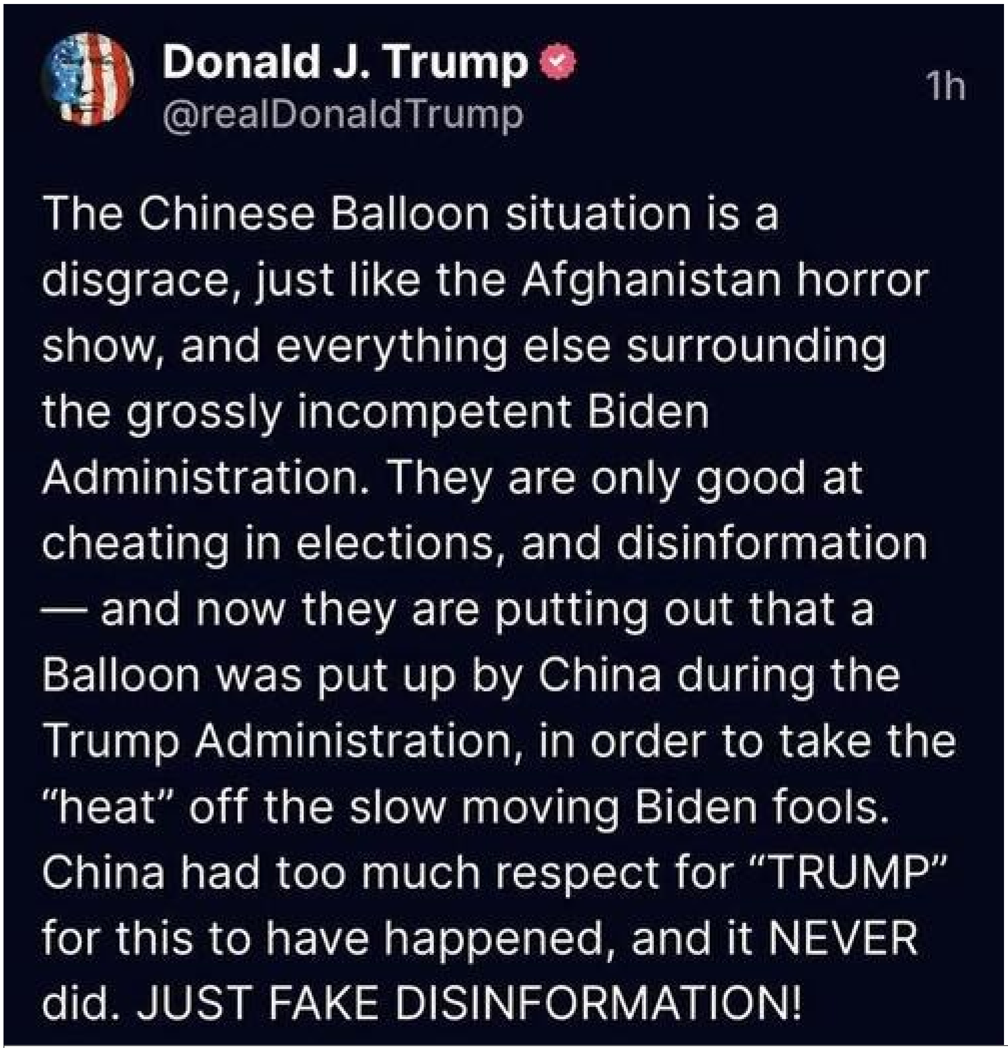
"It never happened with us under the Trump administration and if it did, we would have shot it down immediately," Trump added.

"**It's disinformation.**"

*Trump said the Biden administration is spreading this because "**they look so bad, as usual.**"*

"They are incompetent," he said. -Fox News

Trump also posted to Truth Social:



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump
1h

The Chinese Balloon situation is a disgrace, just like the Afghanistan horror show, and everything else surrounding the grossly incompetent Biden Administration. They are only good at cheating in elections, and disinformation — and now they are putting out that a Balloon was put up by China during the Trump Administration, in order to take the "heat" off the slow moving Biden fools. China had too much respect for "TRUMP" for this to have happened, and it NEVER did. JUST FAKE DISINFORMATION!

"So if these anonymous reports are legit, the woke military generals' version of events is that they have 100% allowed Red China spy balloons to traverse the US for years, not even bothering to inform political leadership, and only shot down this one because the public noticed? OK"

..."

Mollie
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Editor-in-chief,
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. Senior Journalism Fellow,

@Hillsdale

. Fox News Contributor. Online Safety Expert. "Be lovers of freedom, and anxious for the fray!"

My latest book: "Rigged"amazon.com/Rigged-Media-D…Joined December 2008

1,423 Following

1M Followers

Trump's former Director of National Intelligence, John Ratcliffe, **also says it never happened**.

.zerohedgedotcom/political/its-disinformation-trump-former-officials-slam-anonymous-report-chinese-spy-balloons

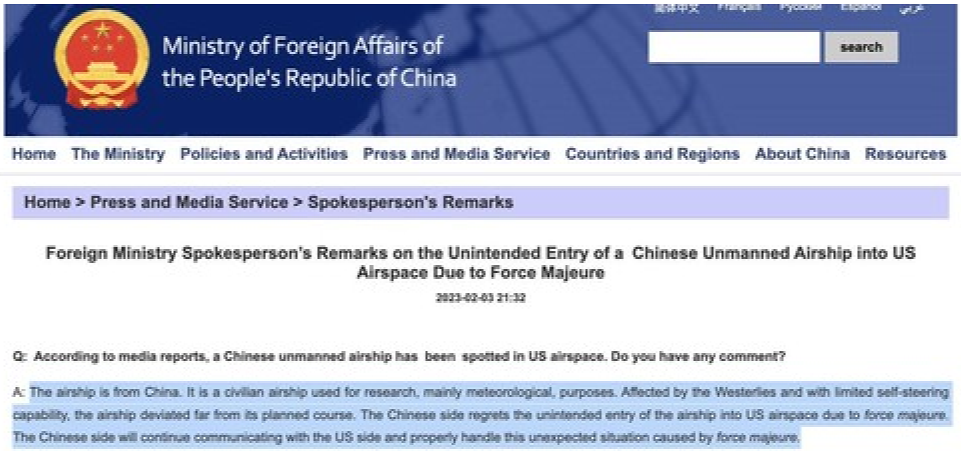
"

War: feb5 balloon official story in a nutshell..

First, the US story.

China sent a “spy balloon” over highly strategic US sites. It chose to spy on these sites with a big visible balloon (reported as being “as big as multiple school buses”), that anyone can see with the naked eye from the ground, to “demonstrate it had the capability”, **despite having a plethora of other more discreet ways to spy like satellites or stealth drones**.

Unclear that anyone doubted China had mastered the technology of *check notes* hot air balloons and why it therefore needed to demonstrate this capability… China chose to do so on **the eve of Secretary of States Blinken’s visit to China, where he was invited**, and hours after signaling Blinken would also be meeting with Xi during his visit, **a high-level meeting not granted to any US Secretary of States in years**.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Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's Remarks on the Unintended Entry of a Chinese Unmanned Airship into US Airspace Due to Force Majeure

2023-02-03 21:32

Q: According to media reports, a Chinese unmanned airship has been spotted in US airspace. Do you have any comment?

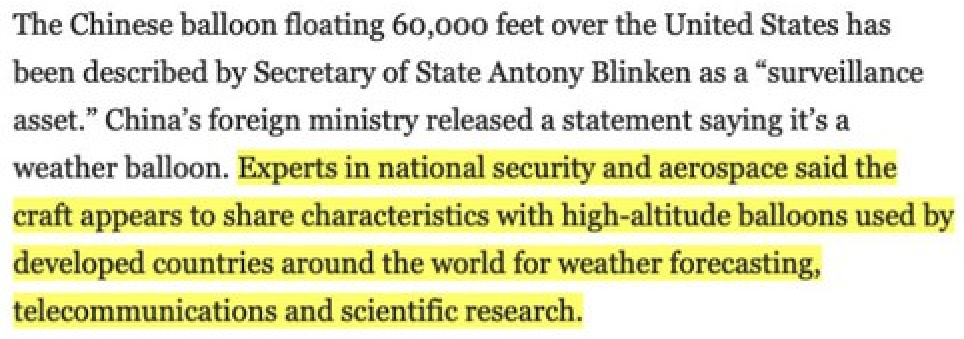
A: The airship is from China. It is a civilian airship used for research, mainly meteorological, purposes. Affected by the Westerlies and with limited self-steering capability, the airship deviated far from its planned course. The Chinese side regrets the unintended entry of the airship into US airspace due to *force majeure*. The Chinese side will continue communicating with the US side and properly handle this unexpected situation caused by *force majeure*.

A piece in WaPo seems to confirm this, quoting “experts in national security and aerospace [who] said the craft appears to share characteristics with high-altitude balloons used by developed countries around the world for weather forecasting.”

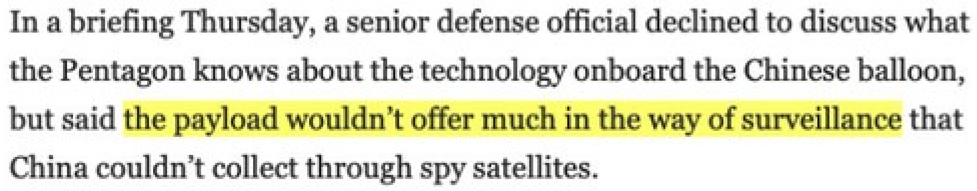
(Source: washingtonpost.com/world/2023/02/…)

A piece in WaPo seems to confirm this, quoting “experts in national security and aerospace [who] said the craft appears to share characteristics with high-altitude balloons used by developed countries around the world for weather forecasting.”

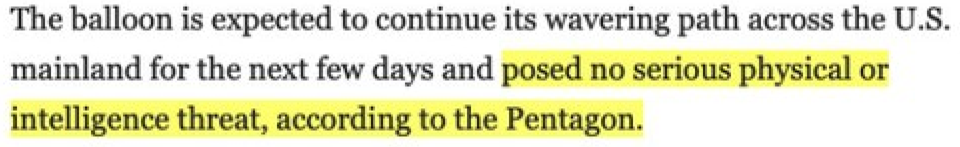
(Source: washingtonpost.com/world/2023/02/…)



The Chinese balloon floating 60,000 feet over the United States has been described by Secretary of State Antony Blinken as a “surveillance asset.” China’s foreign ministry released a statement saying it’s a weather balloon. Experts in national security and aerospace said the craft appears to share characteristics with high-altitude balloons used by developed countries around the world for weather forecasting, telecommunications and scientific research.



In a briefing Thursday, a senior defense official declined to discuss what the Pentagon knows about the technology onboard the Chinese balloon, but said the payload wouldn’t offer much in the way of surveillance that China couldn’t collect through spy satellites.



The balloon is expected to continue its wavering path across the U.S. mainland for the next few days and posed no serious physical or intelligence threat, according to the Pentagon.

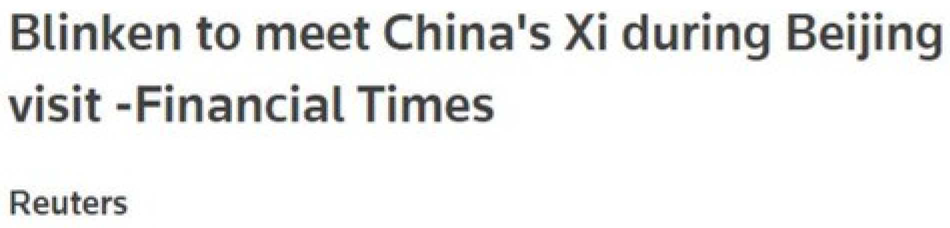
The Pentagon itself said that “the payload wouldn’t offer much in the way of surveillance that China couldn’t collect through spy satellites” and that “the balloon posed no serious physical or intelligence threat”.

I.e. the Pentagon themselves say **it would make zero sense for China to use a balloon like this for intelligence purposes when it has satellites**. Kind of begs the question why they decided to make a big deal out of it in the first place…

I'll let you decide for yourself which story makes more sense… The sheer ridiculousness of this ***Nth “red scare” episode*** is absolutely obvious to anyone with an iota of common sense. Except, sadly, common sense seems to be in critically short supply nowadays.

Also, as often, **the real story is probably why this story became a story in the first place**.

And the important context here is of course Blinken’s visit to China, which could - one can always dream - have been a step towards some form of de-escalation in China-US rapports. **It was quite easily foreseeable that a story like this one on the eve of the trip would have made it politically very difficult for Blinken to go**.



Blinken to meet China's Xi during Beijing visit -Financial Times

Reuters

Secretary Blinken
Secretary of State
of the United States

So a plausible hypothesis is that this whole episode is ***an attempt by internal US forces to prevent any US-China détente***. One alternative hypothesis, much less likely, is that it’s internal Chinese forces trying to do the same thing by sending this big balloon.

Unlikely because:

a) China has time on its side so it gains from reduced tensions with the US and there isn’t any obvious “faction” in China who believe the contrary

b) it’d be immensely risky for anyone in China to do something like this as it’d undoubtedly be seen as an act of high treason with grave consequences for themselves

c) again, balloons like this particular one basically can’t be steered so...

To *plan* sending a balloon like this from China to a place over US land isn’t even doable in the first place. The last hypothesis, which I guess is also somewhat likely, is that this is **a series of unfortunate events without any malice on either side**.

1) Balloon deviates from course and gets in US airspace,

2) people see it and Pentagon feels it has to communicate about it

3) the media, wearing their usual “China bad” hat, decide to go all-in on the scare-mongering,

4) political opposition and China hawks jump on the bandwagon,

5) administration feels it has no other choice than to cancel the trip and doesn’t have the political courage to say “this is just a balloon that drifted off course”.

Well I guess in this scenario there is in fact malice on the media’s part and that of politicians and wider members of the blob but it’s “organic malice”, so to speak, jumping at a golden opportunity to scare-monger.

Conclusion: however you see it, this story is absolutely shameful and a sad reflection of the insane times we live in, when rather than take the time to carefully consider facts, apply reason and common sense, we instead choose as a society to incite fear and hostility.

Stats: feb5 **Australia Becomes 1st Country To Legalize Therapeutic Use Of MDMA & Psilocybin**

Censorship: feb5 DeSantis Admin Revoking Liquor License From Orlando Venue For Allowing Children At 'Drag Queen Christmas'

China, war: feb4 From EMP-Delivery To Nuke-Mapping: Potential Purposes Of China's High-Altitude Invasion

its clear the balloon was trying to figure out what was causing this unusual weather subsequent to what was being touted at one of the worst energy crisis' in a generation due to what a coming sanctions induced 'putins winter' while the world is quickly sliding into world war III

From EMP-Delivery To Nuke-Mapping: Potential Purposes Of China's High-Altitude Invasion

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, FEB 04, 2023 - 02:00 PM

Authored by Brandon Smith via Alt-Market.us

My home state of Montana was recently featured in news feeds this week as the first to observe and identify what the US Air Force says is a Chinese spy balloon. The Chinese claim it is a civilian weather apparatus that was blown off course and they expressed "regret" for the event, but the equipment visible in photographs suggests that this is a lie. Beyond that, another similar balloon has been spotted over Latin America – One wayward high tech Chinese balloon might be believable, but two is not a coincidence.

There are numerous theories as to why such a surveillance platform would be used by the CCP and what it is designed to look for, and I thought I would offer a couple theories based on my years of study into similar projects pursued by the US Department of Defense and DARPA.

First, the immediate question is why the Biden Administration has not destroyed the balloon? Why not shoot first and ask questions later? Well, Biden’s silence on this issue suggests he either has no answers or that the truth will make the American public very angry. The most likely reason it has not been shot down is because it is very difficult to shoot down.

[It appears the balloon has finally been shot down, but only after the device crossed the entire country - Whatever data the platform was meant to collect, China likely has it now].

High altitude balloons travel at 80,000 to 120,000 feet. The average fighter jet can hit altitudes of 65,000 feet and new generation drones can climb to 50,000 feet. These balloons also emit little to no heat signature, which makes them very difficult to target using missiles. If laser technology exists that has such a range, the US military is not talking about it. It might actually be easier to shoot down a Chinese satellite than one of these balloons.

Is there a way? It could be done perhaps with a missile using a large fragmentation-type warhead, but the White House does not seem too interested in exploring options.

Another explanation is that the DoD is waiting to see what these balloons do. This is where I would present a few theories as to their purpose. Here is what I think is most likely given the progress of spy balloon technology right now…

Chinese ALTA Balloon Program

For a few years now DARPA has been playing with a concept for high altitude surveillance balloons using a technology called "Strat-OAWL." Balloons have been fielded for centuries as surveillance weapons, but unpredictable wind and atmospheric changes push the balloons around, making them useless within a coupe of days for any specific region.

To break it down simply, Strat-OAWL is the experimental use of lasers to read wind speed and direction far ahead of a balloon. The balloon then uses that data to increase or decrease altitude to ride airstreams in whatever directing the military wants the balloon to go. **This could allow increased navigational control, but the Holy Grail that DARPA seeks is a high alt balloon that can stay in one place indefinitely.**

I find this idea impractical, like most DARPA projects, if only because wind currents can change faster than any balloon can adjust altitude, but I do see the potential uses here. The Chinese could unleash hundreds of high flying spy balloons with similar capabilities to spy satellites at a fraction of the cost and with less risk of destruction by enemy fire. The CCP may be attempting to test their own version of the DARPA directional balloon tech, while also waiting to see if the US has the means to shoot down the devices.

Lidar Observation From A Balloon Platform

The Chinese have been messing with lidar technology a lot lately. Lidar uses pulsed lasers to measure small variations in terrain to uncover hidden shapes and structures. It also has a knack for cutting through forest canopy and other obstructions. The problem with lidar is that the platforms commonly used to carry the apparatus are faster moving and only capture a snapshot in time. Also, it cannot see through thick clouds, dust, rain, snow or fog.

NASA and DARPA have both been testing lidar from balloons as a means to keep the lasers in the sky longer above a specific area. The Chinese balloon also looks somewhat similar to the equipment used on European lidar balloon experiments.

A lidar based spy balloon would explain Chinese interest in Eastern Montana, where there are **numerous known nuclear missile silos as well as suspected hidden silos.** The Chinese balloon did in fact come near at least one known nuclear missile base near Billings. Lidar could be exploited to find hidden bases in the region.

Multispectral Imaging

Much like Lidar, multispectral imaging tech is highly dependent on the platform that it is mounted on. MI is used to measure wavelengths of light that are not visible to the human eye and it is tested in many scientific applications. However, there are **military applications, including using MI to discover hidden variations in terrain that do not match the surrounding environment. In other words, its meant to sniff out camouflaged buildings, vehicles, fighting positions, etc.**

China launched two satellites for multispectral imaging in 2019 and may now be trying to test the same equipment on balloons. It’s hard to say if they are looking for a unique target, or if they are just establishing baseline image maps to be used in the future for…who knows?

Weapons Delivery Platform

High altitude balloons are cheap and relatively effective surveillance platforms that can be used much like satellites but, with the right equipment, could become far more maneuverable. With the CCP’s limited resources it makes sense that they would be utilizing low-cost and low visibility measures instead of expensive and easier to target long range drones or spy planes.

However, these systems are not just useful for observation – **They can also be used to deliver weapons packages, including EMP weapons, nuclear weapons and biological agents**. The US has been testing balloons for nuclear delivery ever since Operation Yucca in 1956.

In the event of war between China and the US, the CCP may be looking for a way to strike with weapons of mass destruction with a passive delivery system that’s hard to defend against.

The end goal is difficult to figure out. No doubt, the Chinese expect conflict with the US in the near future. The surveillance may be in preparation for an invasion of Taiwan in the near term (next couple years).

Or, the entire circus may just be designed to see how America reacts. So far, the Biden White House has done nothing and has said nothing.

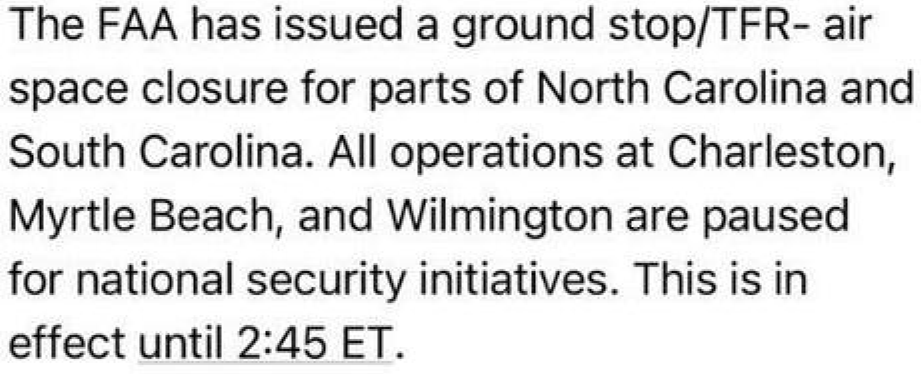
Markets, journal: feb4 **JPMorgan Warning: Israel Poses Higher Investment Risk (well no shit…)**

War: feb4 **US Stealth Jet Shoots Down Chinese Spy Balloon Off Carolinas**

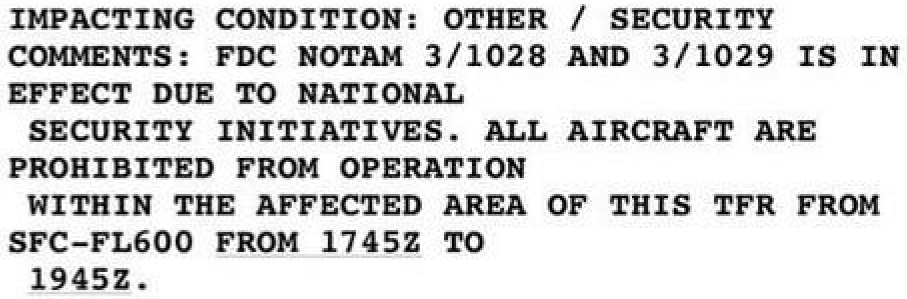
Government, markets, inflation: feb4 **Business insolvencies in the UK surged by 57% in 2022, to 22,109, according to the latest data from the**

Insolvency Service, a UK government agency that deals with bankruptcies and companies in liquidation. It is the highest number of insolvencies registered annually since 2009, at the height of the Global Financial Crisis.

War: feb4 FAA Shuts Down Some East Coast Airspace Due To "National Security Initiatives"



The FAA has issued a ground stop/TFR- air space closure for parts of North Carolina and South Carolina. All operations at Charleston, Myrtle Beach, and Wilmington are paused for national security initiatives. This is in effect until 2:45 ET.



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IMPACTING CONDITION: OTHER / SECURITY
COMMENTS: FDC NOTAM 3/1028 AND 3/1029 IS IN
EFFECT DUE TO NATIONAL
 SECURITY INITIATIVES. ALL AIRCRAFT ARE
PROHIBITED FROM OPERATION
 WITHIN THE AFFECTED AREA OF THIS TFR FROM
SFC-FL600 FROM 1745Z TO
 1945Z.
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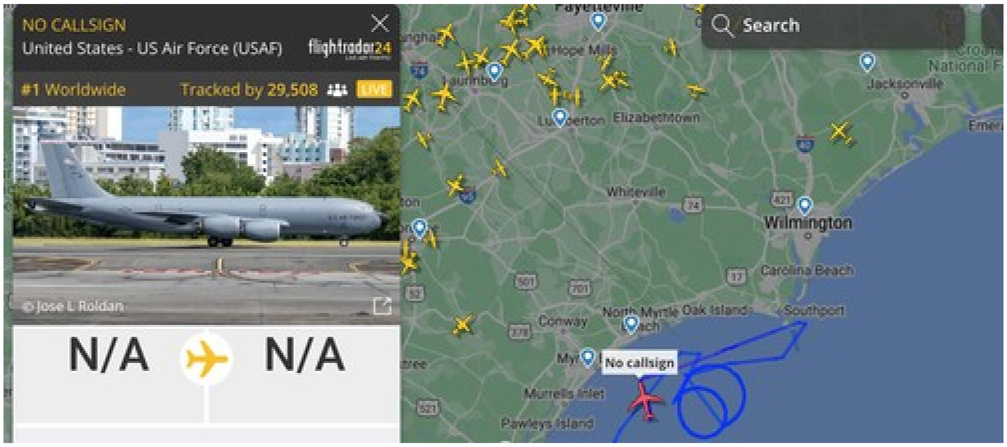
Shortly after President Biden reportedly said, ***"we are going to take care of it,"*** referring to the Chinese spy balloon that is calmly drifting across US airspace, the FAA has shut down three airports and closed airspace in parts of North and South Carolina:

Watch Live: US Restricts Airspace Near Myrtle Beach For "National Defense Airspace" Operation

A US military surveillance plane is circling offshore of North Carolina.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Jacksonville
Whiteville
Wilmington
Carolina Beach
Conway
North Myrtle Beach
Oak Island
Southport
No callsign
Murrells Inlet
Pawleys Island

A vessel with a large crane might be headed to an area where the military might shoot down the balloon.

A suspected Chinese surveillance balloon appears to be heading toward North Carolina, according to ABC News, citing a senior US official familiar with the situation. That official said the US would probably shoot the balloon down over the Atlantic Ocean and retrieve it.

Within the last hour, numerous Twitter users have uploaded footage of what appears to be the Chinese balloon floating above North Carolina.

Local police tell residents don't shoot their guns at the giant balloon.

On Friday, we cited Capital Weather Gang, who accurately predicted the balloon's trajectory while it was floating above the Midwest. Now updated predictions for Saturday morning show the balloon might be headed toward the Atlantic.

The balloon's payload is approximately 90 feet long, or the length of two motorhomes, and the balloon itself is much larger. Here's one of the clearest views of the balloon.

And there might be more balloons. We noted last night:

"We are seeing reports of a balloon transiting Latin America," Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, a Pentagon spokesperson, told Fox News Friday night. "We now assess it is another Chinese surveillance balloon."

US officials have not ruled out shooting the balloon down. That might happen as soon as the balloon moves offshore into the Atlantic. Time for Space Force to shine.

Stats, journal: feb4 **mask-wearing fanaticism**

Vaccine, media, censorship: feb4 Bill Maher Asks Vaccinated Mask-Wearers If They "Keep The Condom On" After Sex

Comedian and talk host Bill Maher has slammed vaccinated people who refuse to stop wearing face masks, asking if they would keep wearing a condom after sex has ended.

Maher raises the issue in a new comedy special on HBO called *Adulting*, in which he asks mask wearers ***“Do you keep the condom on after you f*ck?”***

During the special he also thanks the audience for resolving to living their lives rather than hiding in their houses forever.

Maher previously made the same point during a *Real Time* segment.

“I don’t understand these people,” Maher said, adding “They say they’re going to continue to wear masks even after they sound the all-clear. It’s like having sex with a condom and then saying, ‘You know what? I think I’m going to leave it on for the rest of the night.'”

He went on to explain “you’re never going to have a 100% COVID free atmosphere… there’s always going to be variants, we just have to live again.”

Despite it being an obvious comedy bit, mask zealots on Twitter failed to see the humour:

During an appearance last week on Joe Rogan’s podcast, Maher labeled Democrats the party of “no common sense”, explaining that “When people say to me ‘Don’t you think you’ve gotten more conservative?’ No, I haven’t. The left has gotten goofier. So I seem more conservative, maybe, but it’s not me who’s changed.”

He continued, “I’m always saying to the Democrats ‘just don’t be the party of no common sense.’ And you will be surprised with all the amazing success you will have as opposed to what’s going to happen, which is they’re going to get their ass kicked in November.”

Stats, readlater: feb4 **read this again: "Most of the world holds the US dollar as a big part of its reserve currency stores, and as a result the exchange rate with US dollars is an important measure of the health of any given currency. Exchange rate ought to track closely with the reserve backing it, and in most places in the world it does indeed even out to that."**

Aiming to Harm Iran and Syria, US Federal Reserve Strangles Iraq’s Economy

Iraq's growing currency reserves mostly stuck abroadby Jason Ditz Posted onFebruary 2, 2023CategoriesNewsTagsFederal Reserve, Iraq

Iraq’s foreign exchange rate has steadily declined over recent years, falling to lows which are severely damaging the Iraqi economy. Ironically, this comes at a time when the foreign reserves meant to back the Iraqi dinar’s global position are at a near-term high.

Starting with the 2003 US invasion and occupation, the Central Bank of Iraq has remained closely linked to the US Federal Reserve. This was one of several long-term linkages meant to ensure the US retained strong sway over the future Iraqi economy to react to any tensions, and in the increasingly likely event that the US feels like increased mucking about regionally.

The US regime got it in its head that Syria and Iran were using the relatively free economy of neighboring Iraq for money laundering. That’s not an entirely unreasonable suspicion, as many Iranians are heavily invested in the Iraqi economy after the damage done to Iran’s economy by US sanctions. Trying to rein this in, the US Federal Reserve is keeping a tight grip on the foreign reserves it holds “for” Iraq.

Much of the harm done in Iraq directly appears inadvertent and related to general US policy, as the Central Bank of Iraq’s reserves are not coincidentally mostly US dollars.

Most of the world holds the US dollar as a big part of its reserve currency stores, and as a result the exchange rate with US dollars is an important measure of the health of any given currency. Exchange rate ought to track closely with the reserve backing it, and in most places in the world it does indeed even out to that.

Not so for Iraq. The Federal Reserve’s own data shows Iraq’s reserves surging to a multi-decade high. This is absolutely to be expected, as the Ukraine war is driving up the price of oil, and Iraq’s exports are bringing in a lot of cash, even if that cash ends up in the US and not particularly accessible.

Under ordinary conditions, Iraq’s central bank would strengthen the dinar by selling some of its US dollars to Iraqi financial institutions. Concerns for money laundering make this an exceedingly slow process, and few are willing to exchange their dollars for dinars, knowing how hard it can be to exchange them back. This is making trade with the US difficult, and growing Iraq’s infrastructure all but impossible.

Iraq is sending a team of diplomats to the US to try to negotiate a more open policy. This is no small task, as the US really wants to control the flow of dollars in the region. Leaving the status quo in place, however, seems no solution, as it is undercutting Iraq’s current government, and fueling domestic unrest in a country the US was hoping to keep as a dependable ally whose policy it could drive.

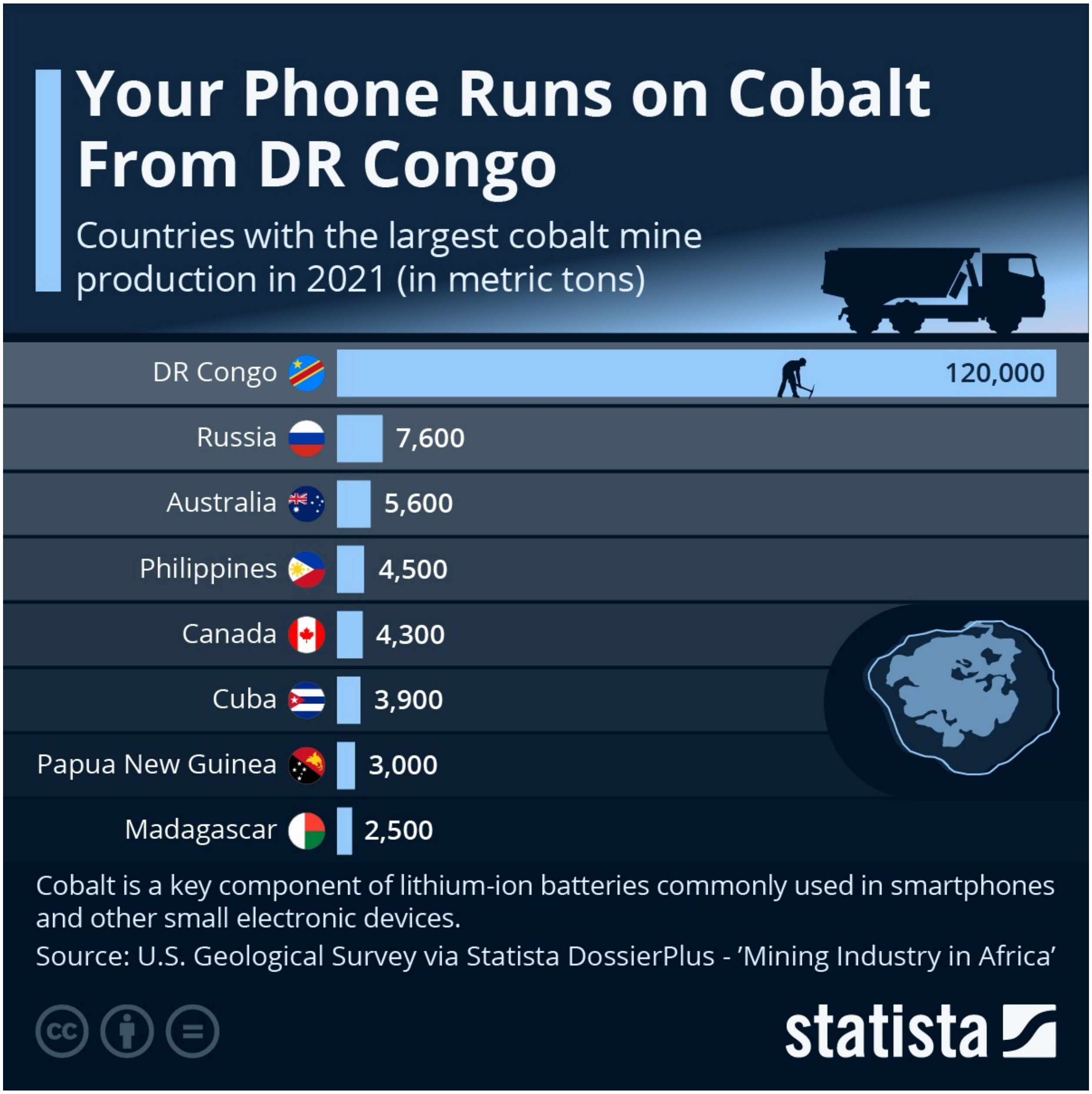
War, sanctions, energy: feb4 **Mount Washington Observatory As Cold As Mars With Record-Breaking Wind Chill**

The polar vortex that moved in yesterday has been nothing short of impressive. Records were broken at the Mount Washington Observatory (MWObs) in New Hampshire's White Mountains.

At 6,288 feet, MWObs is located at the highest peak in the Northeast and has some of the most wicked weather in the world.

The lowest-ever wind chill was recorded early Saturday morning near -109 degrees Fahrenheit, surpassing the previous record of -103 degrees. At the same time, temperatures were around -47 degrees.

Africa, stats, journal, government: feb4 40 000 children work the mines in DRC congo to deliver the essential rare earth minerals needed to build Iphone’s---yes, that thing you’re probably always using, and would feel completely lost without; it’s brought to you by, as of the time of writing: black children working in slave like conditions….



Cobalt is a key component of lithium-ion batteries commonly used in smartphones and other small electronic devices.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey via Statista DossierPlus - 'Mining Industry in Africa'

The use of child labor in the mining of cobalt in DRC is well documented, with the U.S. Department of Labor estimating that 40,000 children, some as young as 6 years old, work in the mines there.

https://borgenproject.org/facts-about-child-miners/

https://www.humanium.org/en/child-labor-in-the-mines-of-the-democratic-republic-of-congo/

Immense and real danger

But far too many children do work in mines in developing countries around the world. I'm not talking about adult children, as my father was, but girls and boys as young as six.

In a report released today, World Vision explores the harsh reality of child labour and children mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Child Miners Speak takes readers to a place in which adults like my dad would shudder to think of their own loved ones working.

Here are six things you need to know about children and mining:

1. Children are miners, too. An estimated 1 million are working in mines worldwide. Most of the time they work as "artisanal miners," meaning there are no powerful machines to help them along. They use sharp tools and even their bare hands to chip away at the rough ore.
2. It's dirty. This kind of mining can endanger a child's health. In World Vision's study, 67 per cent of the children experienced frequent or persistent coughing. Girls who were working waist-deep in acidic water reported experiencing genital infections. Cobalt, mined in the DRC, can damage a child's heart, thyroid and lungs.
3. It's dangerous. Mine sites often have deep holes into which children can fall. Because children are small, they are often chosen to dig in tight tunnels and underground areas where cave-ins can happen. Children can slip down steep slopes at mine sites while carrying heavy loads. They can even drown in bodies of water around the mine sites.
4. It's degrading. Children as young as six years old are forced to work in mines. Their families' survival often depends on it. They are usually paid less than adult workers. Since most artisanal mining is illegal, most have no rights. They work long hours, with few breaks or time to rest and play.
5. It hurts. In addition to the back-breaking work, 19 per cent of the children in our study said they had seen another child die on an artisanal mining site.
6. It's wrong. Poverty, not parents, is forcing children to work in mines. Children should be playing, learning to read and write and experiencing happy, healthy childhoods. But when there's not enough money to put a meal on the table, children have

no choice but to earn their keep. It’s a growing problem, particularly in countries like the DRC that don’t have strong governments, laws and regulations to make sure children are going to school, not down mine shafts.

What can you do?

Your sponsorship means that a family won’t be forced to worry about where their next meal comes from, or how to pay for their child’s schoolbooks. It means that a child can be a child, and not a slave. Sponsor a child and help him build a future filled with hope and success.

Laden, 10, and his friend sieve through dirt to find copper. Poverty, not parents, forces children this young to work in artisanal mining. Photo: World Vision.

https://www.worldvision.ca/stories/child-protection/life-of-child-miner

For anybody not quite caught up on the current state of what can only be described as 'neo-colonialism’ in Africa, watch this old presentation by Keith Harmon Snow. Prepared to be shocked.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqPVRbshssY

Erdogan, middle east, war, stats: feb **66th cabinet of Turkey: Fourth Erdoğan Cabinet is the 66th government of the Republic of Turkey, which was declared on 9 July 2018**

The **Fourth Erdoğan Cabinet** is the 66th government of the Republic of Turkey, which was declared on 9 July 2018.[1] It is the first cabinet after Turkey's transition into a presidential republic.[2] It was also the first cabinet that did not require parliamentary approval to be formed, and thus has a higher number of technocrats than previous Turkish cabinets.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/66th_cabinet_of_Turkey

bunch of turks

Journal, energy, stats: feb3

Spanish natural gas grid operator Enagas has said that the volume of liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessels loaded in Spain and setting sail for Europe doubled in 2022, year-on-year, with a total of 250 ships loading LNG in Spain.

According to Enagas Chief Executive Arturo Gonzalo Aizpiri, "Our plants are contributing very significantly to the energy security of other nations and from the Barcelona plant, especially for Italy," Enagas CEO Arturo Aizpiri told reporters, as cited by Reuters.

The announcement was made on Thursday at the unveiling of a new platform at Enegas' Barcelona port regasification plant, which is expected to lead to an additional uptick in LNG traffic to Europe.

Spain boasts six LNG terminals to supply Europe, with a seventh set to become operational in a matter of weeks.

While Europe LNG loadings soared in 2022, the origins of some of that natural gas remain an issue for Europe.

While Germany is trying to curb imports of Russian LNG, Spanish media reports indicate that while loadings in Spain have doubled year-on-year, the country has also increased its imports of Russian LNG by 45% to offset natural gas shortages from Algeria due to the closure of the Maghreb-Europe gas pipeline in the fall of 2021.

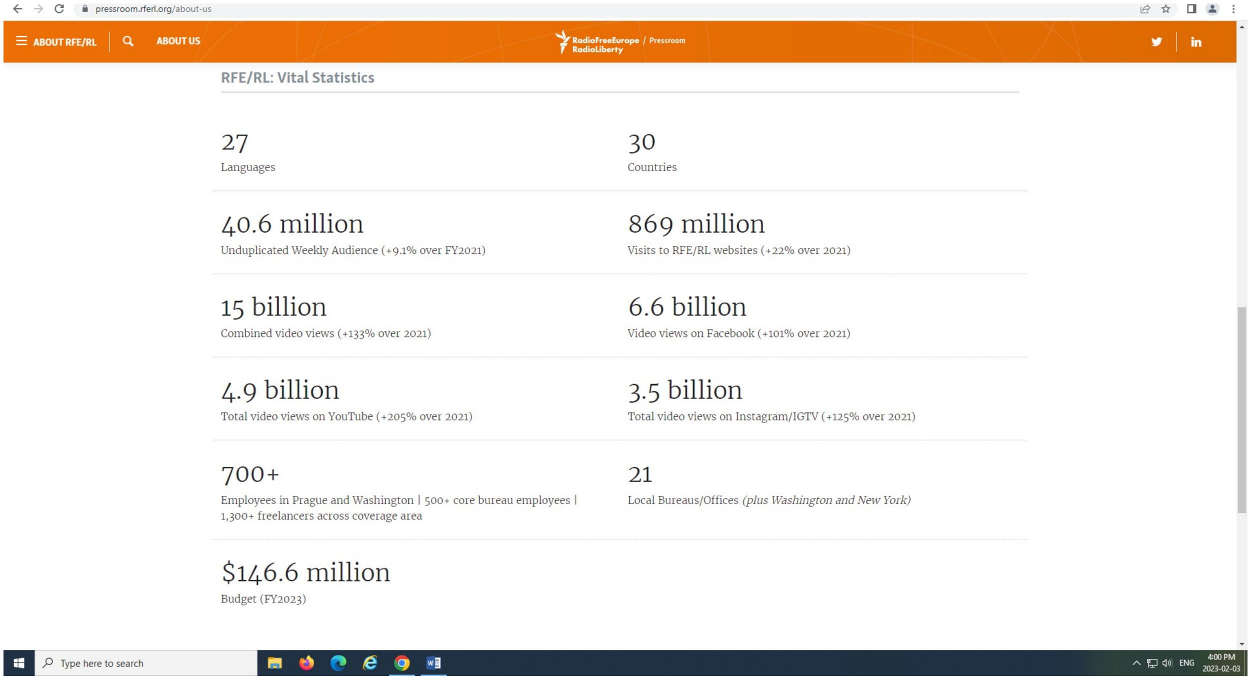
According to El Periódico de la Energía, cited by Spanish news outlets, as of December 2022, Algeria's share of natural gas supply to Spain has declined from 42.7% to 23.8% and both U.S. and Russian LNG have filled in that gap. While the U.S. share of this has been higher, Russia now represents Spain's fourth-largest supplier.

Reuters reported earlier this week that Refinitiv Eikon data now shows that Russia supplied Europe with approximately 17 million tonnes of LNG in 2022–a 20% increase over the previous year and representing a partial offset of the decline in Russian piped gas imports.

The Enagas announcement also comes a day after the European Union's energy regulator (ACER) launched its first assessment of LNG pricing ahead of a planned EU gas market correction mechanism that will include a price cap. On Wednesday, ACER published its first daily MCM reference price. The MCM will launch on February 15 and will be used to determine whether a price cap on Russian LNG is necessary.

Journal, stats, censorship: feb3 **Former USIA Director of TV and Film Service Alvin Snyder recalled in his 1995 memoir that "the U.S. government ran a full-service public relations organization, the largest in the world**

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (**RFE/RL**) is a United States government funded organization that broadcasts and reports news, information, and analysis to countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Caucasus, and the Middle East where it says that "the free flow of information is either banned by government authorities or not fully developed".[6][7] RFE/RL is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation supervised by the U.S. Agency for Global Media, an independent government agency overseeing all U.S. federal government international broadcasting services.[8] Jeremy Bransten is acting editor-in-chief of RFE.[9]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RFE/RL: Vital Statistics

27 Languages	30 Countries
40.6 million Unduplicated Weekly Audience (+9.1% over FY2021)	869 million Visits to RFE/RL websites (+22% over 2021)
15 billion Combined video views (+133% over 2021)	6.6 billion Video views on Facebook (+101% over 2021)
4.9 billion Total video views on YouTube (+205% over 2021)	3.5 billion Total video views on Instagram/IGTV (+125% over 2021)
700+ Employees in Prague and Washington | 500+ core bureau employees | 1,300+ freelancers across coverage area	21 Local Bureaus/Offices *(plus Washington and New York)*
$146.6 million Budget (FY2023)	

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_Free_Europe/Radio_Liberty

War, sanctions: feb3 **EU President Promises 10th Round Of Sanctions On Russia (more good news for everyone, I guess , right...That's about all you can say now)**

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and a team of 15 commissioners arrived in Kyiv on February 2 for the first-ever joint meeting with Ukraine's government, with Russia's invasion, launched on February 24 last year, and Ukraine's bid for membership to the bloc on the agenda. Speaking at a joint news conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy after their meeting, von der Leyen said that sanctions have been exacting a heavy price on Moscow, "throwing it back by a generation," with the EU price cap on oil alone making Russia lose some 160 million euros ($176 million) daily.

oilpricedotcom/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/EU-President-Promises-10th-Round-Of-Sanctions-On-Russia.html

War, Russia: feb3 **Austria Expels Four Russian Diplomats Based in Vienna**

War, sanctions, energy: feb3 **Germany Open To Idea West Behind Nord Stream Sabotage With "Aim Of Blaming It On Russia"**

In surprising bit of candid investigative reporting out of mainstream media, *The Times* asked the question this week: who attacked the Nord Stream pipelines? In an honest and objective fashion, the premier British paper writes, "In this global whodunnit, the **US, Russia and even Britain have all been suspects**."

Naturally, the collective West rushed to blame Russia for sabotaging its own natural gas delivery infrastructure in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 26 blasts underneath the Baltic Sea.

The most important twist to the West's narrative that is featured in the *Times* report concerns Germany. Its officials say they are now **"open to theories" that the sabotage attack was conducted by a Western country** *"with the aim of blaming it on Russia."*

Image: Danish Defense Command/Handout

The key passage comments on the ongoing German investigation, deemed to have made little progress for lack of evidence as to who was behind the three blasts that disabled the pipelines. Germany, writes *The Times*, has "yet to uncover any compelling evidence" pointing to Russia, and it remains that the German investigation is **"open to theories that a Western state carried out the bombing with the aim of blaming it on Russia."**

Additionally, European officials were cited in the report as lamenting that failure to provide transparency in the probes could encourage "dangerous conspiracy theories" and "wild speculations."

One Western analyst was quoted as saying the utter lack of anything definitive is itself suspicious: **"This was a major infrastructure attack. It's strange that we've heard very little,"** the person said.

Russia this week seized on recent comments of the Biden administration's Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland to formally charge Washington with being behind the pipeline sabotage. The US 'directly participated,' he alleged, though without providing new evidence. He referenced Nuland's Senate testimony from last week:

"The other day, speaking in Congress, Ms. Victoria Nuland, the under secretary of state, said openly that like many senators, and she personally, the State Department as an organization is happy that the Nord Stream pipelines have turned into metal junk on the Baltic Sea floor. ***It's an amusing admission****," Lavrov said.*

Below is a clip of the Senate testimony in question...

The new UK *Times* report also makes note of a December report in the Washington Post, which also surprisingly and bluntly admitted that **numerous officials in the West now say the evidence is not pointing to Russia**.

The *Post* had issued the rare about-face of accusations (of Russia being the culprit) after interviewing a total of **23 diplomatic and intelligence officials** in nine countries who have been privy to the international investigation into the sabotage incident which has threatened European energy supplies going into winter. **"There is no evidence at this point that Russia was behind the sabotage,"** one European official is quoted as saying.

Further, the report indicated, "Some went so far as to say they **didn't think Russia was responsible**. Others who still consider Russia a prime suspect said positively attributing the attack — to any country — may be impossible."

Likely, that prior WaPo report, as well as Nuland's bizarre 'confession' of sorts, has allowed the German investigators to be more open in expressing their view that it could have been a Western power behind the sabotage, with the aim of a 'false flag' operation.

Markets, war: feb3 **"Hedge Fund Capitulation": Yesterday's Short Squeeze Was The Biggest In 8 Years, Surpassing Even Jan 2021**

War: feb3 EU Leadership Holds Summit In Kiev Under Air Raid Sirens As Zelensky Urges Fast-Tracked Membership

A handful of top European Union officials gathered in Kiev with Ukraine's leadership on Friday **under the sound of air raid sirens for a risky summit** at a moment Ukraine is pushing to be fast-tracked for entry into the bloc. Though far from the front line fighting in the east and south, the capital has seen sporadic airstrikes over the past months, but none have been recorded thus far Friday while the summit is being held.

"There will be no let up in our resolve. We will also support you every step of the way on your journey to the EU," EU chairman Charles Michel wrote on Twitter Friday, with a photo of him in the capital's iconic central square. But Zelensky does has a specific timeline in mind, which he voiced Thursday after initial talks with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

"I believe that Ukraine deserves to start negotiations on EU membership this year," Zelensky told reporters. "Only together a strong Ukraine and a strong European Union can protect the life we value." EU Foreign Policy chief Josep Borrell was also at the summit.

After Ukraine's candidacy was approved by the EU last June, huge hurdles remain which will without doubt make the process slower that Kiev desires, given any country seeking membership must meet key conditions in areas like corruption, an independent judiciary, media, and rule of law issues.

For this reason, European Commission President von der Leyen acknowledged "no rigid timelines" it is being guided by. **"There are no rigid timelines, but there are goals that you [Ukraine] have to reach,"** she told Zelensky.

She did preview the EU's next sanctions package targeting Russia, which in part will focus on sanctioning makers of drone components the Russian military is using to target Ukraine's energy and civilian infrastructure.

In reality, if Ukraine is let into the EU, it will take not months but years:

"The EU will support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people against Russia's ongoing war of aggression for as long as it takes," the EU leaders were expected to say a joint statement, a draft of which was seen by Reuters in advance.

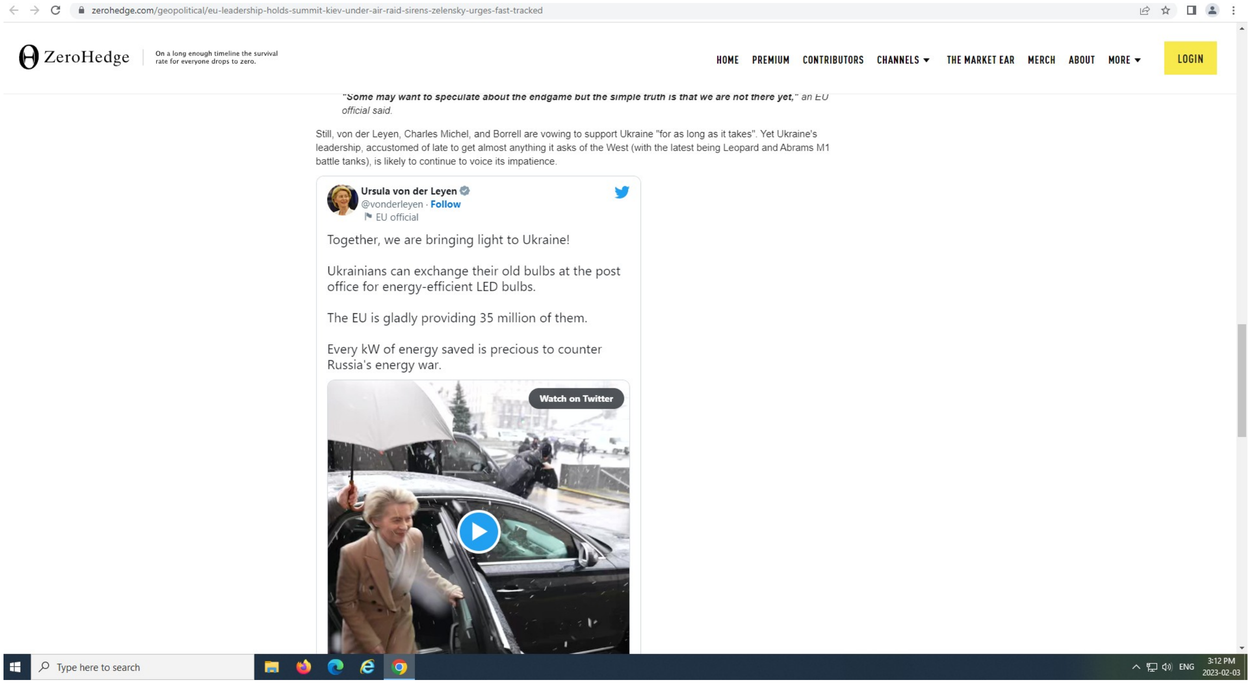
EU officials have listed multiple membership requirements, from political and economic stability to adopting various EU laws. ***The process is likely to take years****.*

"Some may want to speculate about the endgame but the simple truth is that we are not there yet," *an EU official said.*

Still, von der Leyen, Charles Michel, and Borrell are vowing to support Ukraine "for as long as it takes". Yet Ukraine's leadership, accustomed of late to get almost anything it asks of the West (with the latest being Leopard and Abrams M1 battle tanks), is likely to continue to voice its impatience.

Not helping things is Ukraine's **notorious corruption**. Recently, Zelensky has booted well over a dozen top officials from office in an effort to show his Western funders that the government is getting serious about rampant corruption, especially as tens of billions in foreign aid flows through Kiev coffers.

Zelensky on Friday also announced that Ukraine needs **"accelerated" arms supplies** if its forces hope to recapture Donbas, and at a moment Russian troops are poised to encircle the strategic city of Bakhmut.


zerohedge.com/geopolitical/eu-leadership-holds-summit-kiev-under-air-raid-sirens-zelensky-urges-fast-tracked
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Ursula von der Leyen
@vonderleyen · Follow
EU official

Together, we are bringing light to Ukraine!

Ukrainians can exchange their old bulbs at the post office for energy-efficient LED bulbs.

The EU is gladly providing 35 million of them.

Every kW of energy saved is precious to counter Russia's energy war.

Not helping things is Ukraine's **notorious corruption**. Recently, Zelensky has booted well over a dozen top officials from office in an effort to show his Western funders that the government is getting serious about rampant corruption, especially as tens of billions in foreign aid flows through Kiev coffers.

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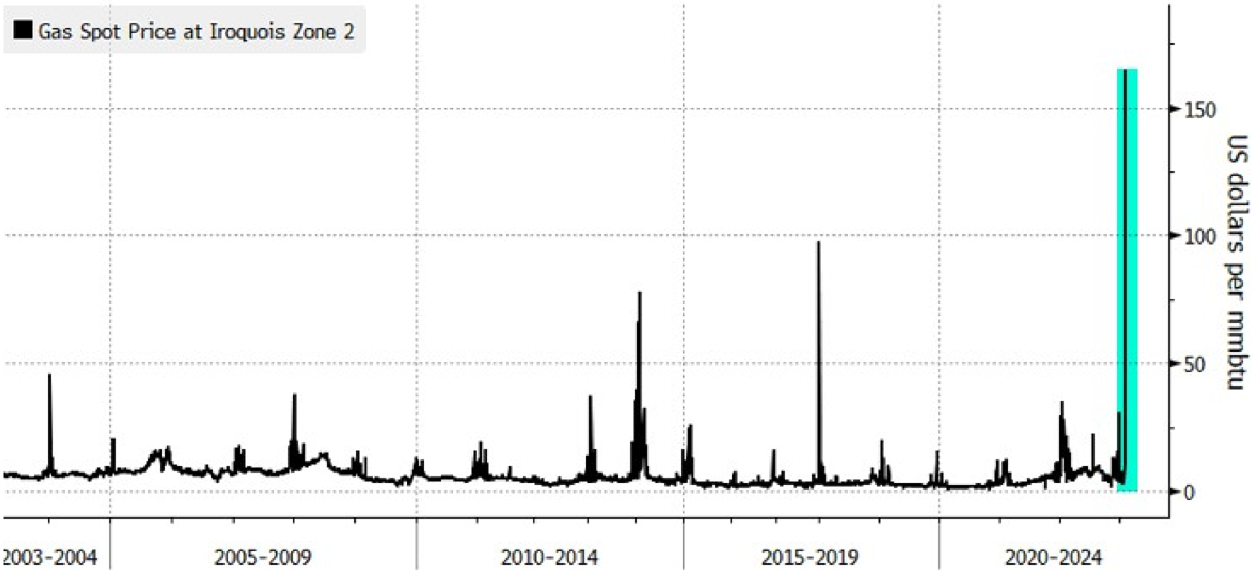
War, journal, readlater: feb3 just saved the whole page. This is a crucible moment in history, right now, as we speak

Turned out that I didn't "save the whole page", as I said above. I'm almost certain that I was referring to atw, so I'm just going to make up for this by going back to the page saved in their archive in upload that instead

War, sanctions, energy: feb3 **New York NatGas Prices Erupt To 20-Year High Ahead Of Polar Vortex**



New Yorkers will feel the wrath of Old Man Winter today as temperatures will plummet into the teens and single digits by this weekend. Heating demand will soar as millions turn up their thermostats to stay warm. The result so far has been the largest spike in New York natural gas prices in two decades.

Bloomberg data shows next-day NatGas deliveries via the Iroquois Gas pipeline that transports Canadian NatGas into New York jumped to $164.80 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), a 14x increase from Wednesday prices. This is the highest print for NatGas at the New York hub dating back to 2003.

Earlier, we quoted Upstate New York meteorologist Ben Frechette who warned, "the coldest airmass on the entire planet will be over New England by Friday night – the only comparable air currently exists over central Siberia."

Heating demand is also expected to surge in Boston. Prices at the Algonquin City Gate NatGas hub traded around $58/MMBtu, up from $12/MMBtu on the previous day.

Despite the increasing heating demand in the Northeast, US NatGas prices slid another 2% to $2.40/MMBtu on Friday as traders overlooked the cold shot in the Northeast as mild winter across the Lower 48 has allowed for increases in NatGas production and storage.

16 minutes ago

-10 outside is bested by my 550° wood stove ▯

play_arrow4play_arrow

in-the-ether
12 minutes ago

yeah, but how many more "election" cycles until they issue you tickets for "polluting" when you do so?

play_arrowplay_arrow

GlassHouse101
8 minutes ago

Piss off the government: be self sufficient and save money at the same time

play_arrow1play_arrow

Proudblacksheep
7 minutes ago

HOW DARE YOU said some ******. But her replacement is fine!

play_arrowplay_arrow1

Endless Chorf

1 minute ago

Didn't New York State recently ban wood burning stoves as a heat source? Seriously.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Java Gold
8 minutes ago

Oh no. It’s going to be Cold for 48 hours in February.

What a Phucking Circus. It never ends !!!!

play_arrow3play_arrow1

SilverNV
14 minutes ago

Soon we can just burn ****lib bodies for warmth.

play_arrow3play_arrow1

OldNewB
10 minutes ago
(Edited)

But don't think of eating them afterwards...you don't want to consume the spike proteins riddling the meat on the carcass.

play_arrow3play_arrow1

dbtunr
9 minutes ago

If you knew all the stuff that cows, chickens, and pigs are stuck with, you'd never eat again.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

Time to get huge'
5 minutes ago

As much as I'm a free market fan, this just seems like price gouging...... As others have said, no pre-planning and storage of gas for this little blip of cold?

play_arrow2play_arrow

Seven_Costanza
4 minutes ago
(Edited)

Small hats gonna get their cut.

play_arrow2play_arrow

Virgil Krenshaw
PREMIUM
8 minutes ago

Winter had gotten too boring.

The Davosians needed to unleash a little weather weapon hell so they could watch the peasants suffer and jerk off.

play_arrow2play_arrow

dbtunr
11 minutes ago

And yet PSEG in NJ notified everyone gas rates went down 23% on our bills going forward. My January bill was less than my same bill last year ($302 vs $320) for gas and electric and is primed to go even lower going forward. What inflation?

play_arrow2play_arrow

Jerome Powell's Missing Nutsack
4 minutes ago

Damn. That's a lot of money to heat a cardboard box.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

dbtunr
2 minutes ago

Yeah, your mom keeps me warm at night.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Jerome Powell's Missing Nutsack
1 minute ago

Oooh. Sick burn, bro. Now get back to wiping windshields on the off-ramp, Hobo Pete.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Known Fact
14 minutes ago

These people need to get a grip -- It's going to be back in the 40s and 50s starting Sunday

play_arrow2play_arrow

ZeeMasterOfPuppets
15 minutes ago

Now that's called PLANNING ON THE FLY!

play_arrow2play_arrow

Jack O'Neill
15 minutes ago

That's called extortion.

play_arrow3play_arrow

ZeeMasterOfPuppets
14 minutes ago

They extort only from people that don't plan ahead ...

play_arrowplay_arrow

AlchemistsEnd
PREMIUM
4 minutes ago

Does this count as inflation?

play_arrow1play_arrow

Big iron
5 minutes ago

Muh.

.....you know what they say....

> Without ***MURDER HORNETS*** *it's just another Weather Story on ZH*

play_arrow1play_arrow

That pod
12 minutes ago

For this fraud to work we all need to believe that demand never varies in the winter, and energy companies never plan for it........with storage.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Ghost
PREMIUM
13 minutes ago
(Edited)

We know now that climate change caused this.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

WutNTarnation
48 seconds ago

I thought energy was in a glut and prices crashing. Aw, I listened to the experts again.

play_arrowplay_arrow

helena_maslach
1 minute ago

choose

play_arrowplay_arrow

Big iron
4 minutes ago

THREE DOG NIGHT

....Coming to New England

play_arrowplay_arrow

J 457
PREMIUM
15 minutes ago

$2.40 and heading down. I thought about UNG at $9 but will now wait until $5.

play_arrowplay_arrow

RagaMuffin
16 minutes ago

Funny how Freeport still isn't pumping LNG ; -)

play_arrowplay_arrow

J 457
PREMIUM
16 minutes ago

And when they do, will the price of NG rise or fall?

play_arrowplay_arrow

dbtunr
11 minutes ago

rise is US but fall in Europe

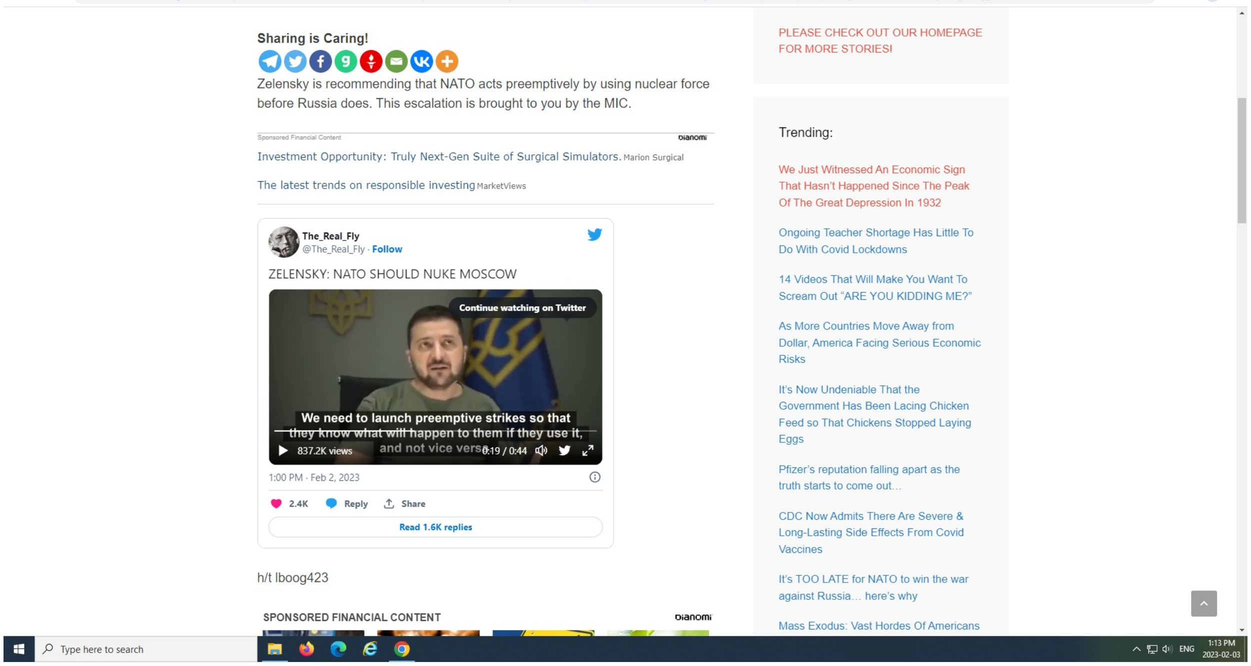
play_arrowplay_arrow

Oligarch 2.0
17 minutes ago

Winter is coming, we told you !

play_arrowplay_arrow

War: feb3 **zelensky uses the n word with clear anguish in his eyes.**



investmentwatchblog.com/zelensky-was-asked-what-nato-should-do-he-said-they-should-preemptively-use-nuclear-weapons-to-stop-them-from-using-nuclear-weapons-they-are-pushing-for-ww3-and-were-getting-dragged-in-it/

Sharing is Caring!

Zelensky is recommending that NATO acts preemptively by using nuclear force before Russia does. This escalation is brought to you by the MIC.

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ZELENSKY: NATO SHOULD NUKE MOSCOW

Continue watching on Twitter
We need to launch preemptive strikes so that they know what will happen to them if they use it, and not vice versa
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1:00 PM · Feb 2, 2023

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It's TOO LATE for NATO to win the war against Russia… here's why

Mass Exodus: Vast Hordes Of Americans

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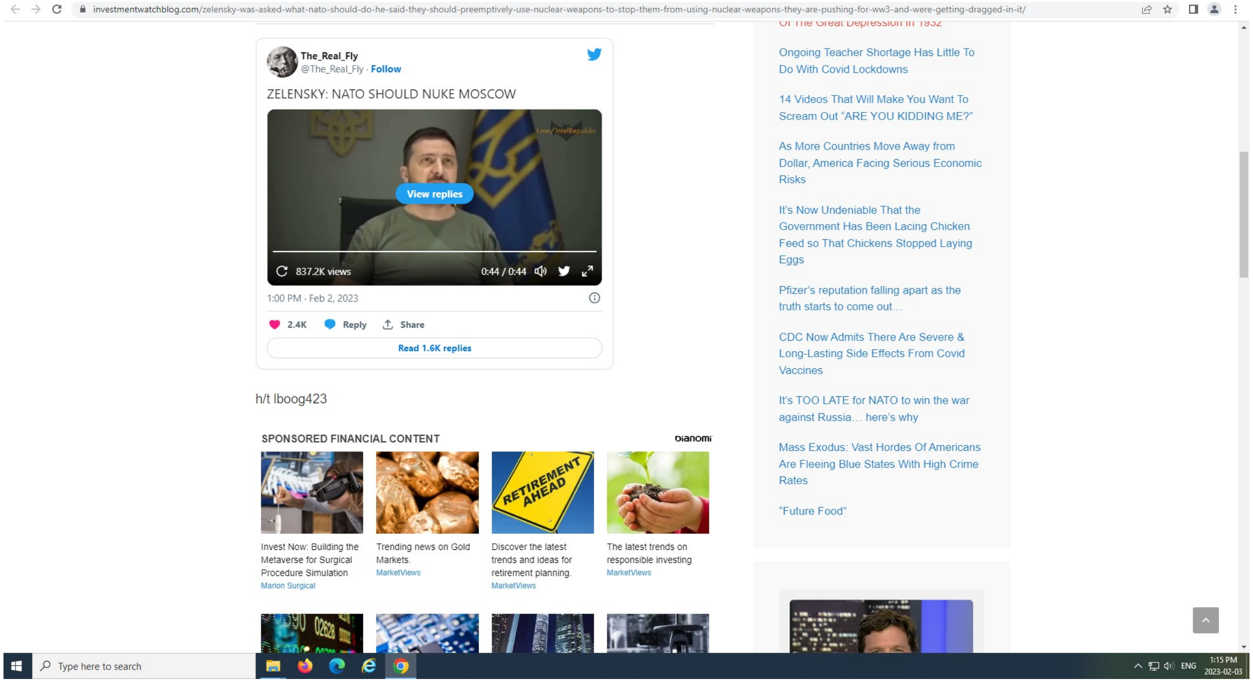
2023-02-03

and to add this: you can just see it his eye-- the anguish, fear, and desperation...

Terrifying..



investmentwatchblog.com/zelensky-was-asked-what-nato-should-do-he-said-they-should-preemptively-use-nuclear-weapons-to-stop-them-from-using-nuclear-weapons-they-are-pushing-for-ww3-and-were-getting-dragged-in-it/

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ZELENSKY: NATO SHOULD NUKE MOSCOW

1:00 PM · Feb 2, 2023

h/t lboog423

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It's TOO LATE for NATO to win the war against Russia… here's why

Mass Exodus: Vast Hordes Of Americans Are Fleeing Blue States With High Crime Rates

"Future Food"

Ai, tech: feb3 **5 bucks for full voice imitation**

The creepy new world of convincing deep fake voices has arrived

What Eleven Labs has achieved in voice synthesis has many productive and positive uses, of course. All sorts of robotic systems or automation systems can benefit from this technology, and content creators who have very limited budgets can use these AI voices to generate narration, audio books, automated news reading utilities and more. It has enormous implications for the visually impaired, too.

At the same time, like any technology, this AI voice synthesis system can also be used with malicious intent. With nothing more than a one-minute sample of a person's voice, almost anyone can use Eleven Labs technology to clone their voice and have it produce convincing audio performances of almost any text block entered into the system.

The tech could be used to make President Trump say he wants to fly to Mars and live there, or to have Joe Biden sound like he's talking in a coherent way that makes sense (which, by itself, might seem creepy). Similarly, the tech could be used to generate faked voice "recordings" of famous people uttering horrific things, such as Tom Brady saying how much he hates football, for example, or Rep. Ilhan Omar talking about how much she hates America. (Or maybe that needs no AI voice at all…)

And this means that from this day forward, **we can no longer trust what we hear to be authentic**. It's sort of fitting, actually, since we already live in a world with fake news, rigged elections, fake vaccine science, fake currency, faked genders, faked history and fake 'bots producing fake likes on Fakebook (er, I mean Facebook). Almost everything that enters our consciousness in society today is altered, rigged or in some way inauthentic, from the CDC paying celebrities to pimp vaccines to Federal Reserve banksters telling us that the dollar is an excellent store of value. (Or the New York Times fabricating stories about "Russia collusion" with Trump, which we now know was complete fiction.)
What the Eleven Labs voice synthesis engine means is that **now we have to be extra careful about what we believe we are hearing**. Just because you hear a voice that sounds like Kim Kardashian touting a fashion hand bag — oh God please turn that noise off! — doesn't mean she actually said that.

Combine AI voices with ChatGPT and half the white collar work force is now obsolete

When you combine AI voice synthesis with the generative capabilities of ChatGPT, the AI knowledge system that generates human-sounding text, you make about half of today’s white collar workers obsolete.

Conventional doctors, for example, that do little more than assess symptoms and push Big Pharma pills on patients, are now obsolete. ChatGPT can do a much better job, and Eleven Labs voices can make ChatGPT sound almost fully human.

Similarly, many attorneys, accountants and government workers are obsolete at this point, since their jobs can be easily replaced with ChatGPT + Eleven Labs AI voice synthesis.

The people who *won’t* be obsolete are those who engage in non-algorithmic professions and creative processes, such as naturopathic physicians, non-scripted content creators, artists, inventors and so on. This brings me to an important realization that needs to be shared, if not shouted: **If you don’t want to be made obsolete by rapidly advancing AI systems, do something that’s fully human**, something that can’t be easily replicated with an algorithm.
Put another way, people who currently carry out simple, repetitive jobs will soon be replaced with AI systems. So-called “journalists” who merely read teleprompters and perform scripted news propaganda for the cameras — i.e. CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, etc. — will soon be replaced by AI systems that render both voices and faces in real time. *Convincingly*.

War: feb3 **pretty serious statements from the leader of an eastern european country: “Today we are witnessing a kind of third world war, which will become larger, wider & more severe**

than today in the coming days, weeks and months. Mark my words”

Russia’s foreign minister Lavrov says: “we will ensure that the events organized by the west for the anniversary of the special operation in Ukraine won’t be the only thing to attract world attention”

Serbia’s President Vucic on Ukraine: “Today we are witnessing a kind of third world war, which will become larger, wider & more severe than today in the coming days, weeks and months. Mark my words”

Media, censorship, war: feb3 **crazy but informed writer notes: "This is the First Clip I’ve Seen of Jordan Peterson Where He Isn’t Crying. So apparently Joprdan Peterson crys all the time: that's his schtick**

Energy, war, journal: feb3 **weird articel thaty I saved from JAN 16, 2023 - 05:15 PM stood out to me at the time because it relaterd to the nusual weather that everybody just witnessed this winter, but added that much of this cold is being directed to small areas of the world, or what they refer to as vortex's. they p;redicted the that the cold would come to the west eventually, but in 2 weeks. Hoiw they were abler to predict this, I have no idea. It just seems suspicious**

US NatGas Prices Rise As Models Suggest 'Polar Vortex To Unload On US'

The price of NatGas tumbled to an 18-month low last week as mild weather boosted injections into storage facilities by slashing demand. Last week, the Energy Information Administration announced a rare rise in inventories of 11 billion cubic feet in stocks.

However, as we've pointed out in recent weeks and even days, first in *"US NatGas Prices Slide To 18-Month Low On Warm Spell; Some Models Forecast Cold Blast In Weeks"* and *"California Pounding Continues, But Upcoming Large-Scale Weather Pattern Change On The Way,"* as well as *"Siberia Records Minus-80 Degrees As Talk Of Polar Vortex Grows,"* long term weather models are showing the increasing possibility for colder weather. The latest run of the Global Forecast System (GFS) shows the possibility of the return of winter by the end of the month.

https://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/US-Gas-Prices-Soar-As-Models-Suggest-Return-Of-Winter.html

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Coldest Airmass On Planet Will Be Over New England On Friday Night

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, FEB 03, 2023 - 11:30 AM

After an unseasonably warm January across the eastern half of the lower 48, some of the coldest air of the season will pour into the Northeast on Friday through Saturday.

This week the polar vortex has weakened and will allow frigid air to escape the Arctic and move southward across North America.

"A ferocious Arctic blast will bring dangerous cold and blowing snow Friday into Saturday," tweeted the National Weather Service in Maine, as it forecasted bone-chilling weather, with "wind chills in the 50s below across the north."

Upstate New York meteorologist Ben Frechette tweeted, "the coldest airmass on the entire planet will be over New England by Friday night – the only comparable air currently exists over central Siberia."

The fast-moving polar vortex will be in and out by the latter parts of the weekend. But during the dip of the polar vortex, wind chills between 40 and 60 below zero are expected across the New England region.

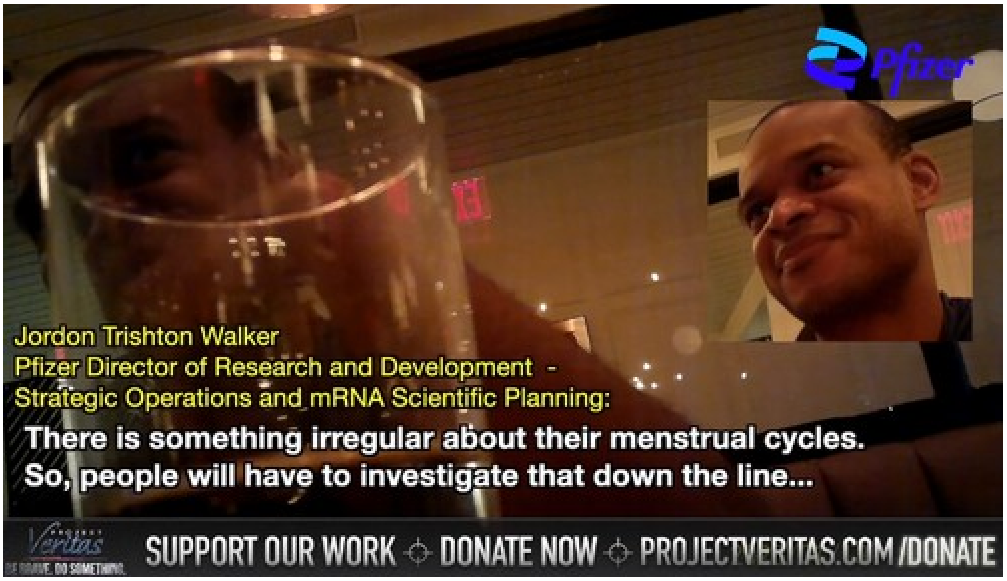
By Sunday and into Monday, the cold will retreat. However, legendary Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Thursday, which means the possibility of six more weeks of winter.

Vaccine, journal, government, war, censorship: feb3 so basically what he's telling us is that they didn't do enoug hstudy's on the thing....

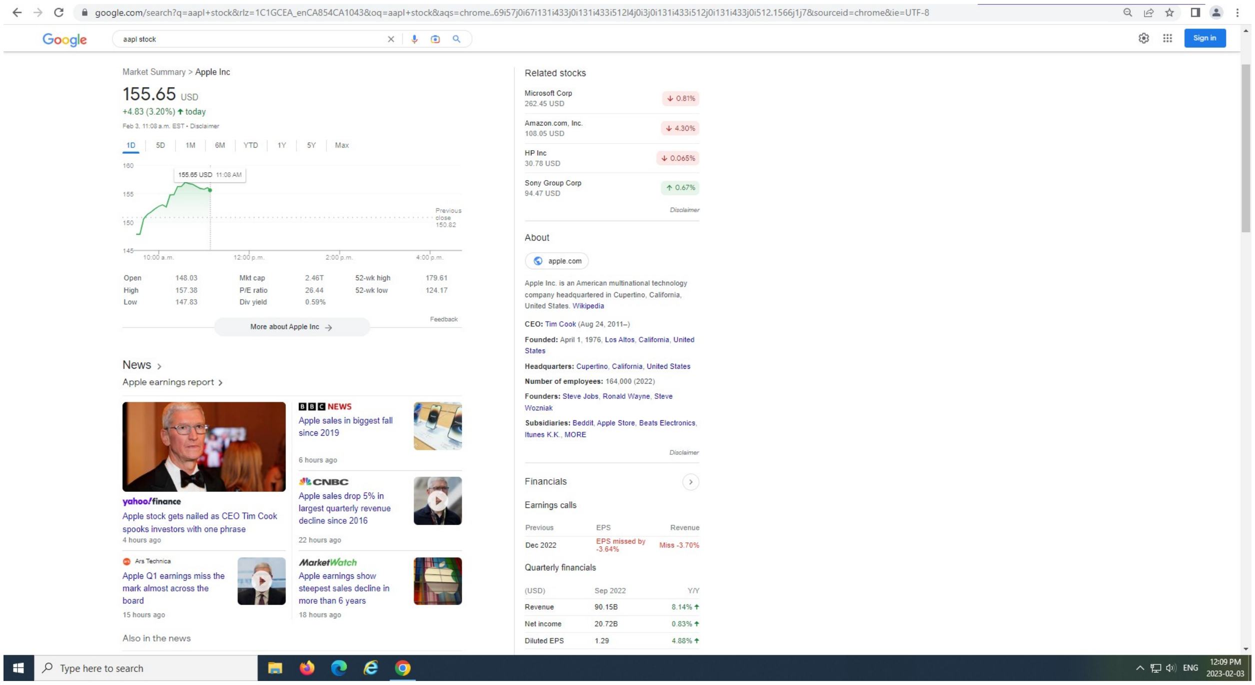
"**There is something irregular about the menstrual cycles. So, people will have to investigate that down the line**," Walker told an undercover journalist he thought he was on a date with.

"The [COVID] vaccine shouldn’t be interfering with that [menstrual cycles]. So, we don’t really know," he added.

Walker also hopes we don't discover that "somehow this mRNA lingers in the body and like -- because it has to be affecting something hormonal to impact menstrual cycles," adding "I hope we don’t discover something really bad down the line…If something were to happen downstream and it was, like, really bad? I mean, **the scale of that scandal would be enormous**."


Pfizer
Jordon Trishton Walker
Pfizer Director of Research and Development -
Strategic Operations and mRNA Scientific Planning:
There is something irregular about their menstrual cycles.
So, people will have to investigate that down the line...
Veritas
BE BRAVE. DO SOMETHING.
SUPPORT OUR WORK ⌖ DONATE NOW ⌖ PROJECTVERITAS.COM/DONATE

Government, inflation, sanctions, war: feb3 **why is it up right now then. Didn't it tank yesterday due to bad earnings? Considering the conditions, you'd think it would've been the catalyst for some kind of short to medium term downtrend, but, instead, it is back up, and for what seems to be no reason whatsoever..**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Market Summary > Apple Inc

155.65 USD

+4.83 (3.20%) ↑ today

Feb 3, 11:08 a.m. EST · Disclaimer

1D
5D
1M
6M
YTD
1Y
5Y
Max
160
155
150
145
155.65 USD 11:08 AM
Previous close 150.82
10:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m.

Open	148.03	Mkt cap	2.46T	52-wk high	179.61
High	157.38	P/E ratio	26.44	52-wk low	124.17
Low	147.83	Div yield	0.59%		

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apple.com

Apple Inc. is an American multinational technology company headquartered in Cupertino, California, United States. Wikipedia

CEO: Tim Cook (Aug 24, 2011–)

Founded: April 1, 1976, Los Altos, California, United States

Headquarters: Cupertino, California, United States

Number of employees: 164,000 (2022)

Founders: Steve Jobs, Ronald Wayne, Steve Wozniak

Subsidiaries: Beddit, Apple Store, Beats Electronics, Itunes K.K., MORE

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Financials >

Earnings calls

Previous	EPS	Revenue
Dec 2022	EPS missed by -3.64%	Miss -3.70%

Quarterly financials

(USD)	Sep 2022	Y/Y
Revenue	90.15B	8.14% ↑
Net income	20.72B	0.83% ↑
Diluted EPS	1.29	4.88% ↑

Type here to search
ENG
12:09 PM
2023-02-03

stats, government: **what is new england?: New England is a region comprising six states in the Northeastern United States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. It is bordered by the state of New York to the west and by the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick to the northeast and Quebec to the north. The Atlantic Ocean is to the east and southeast, and Long Island Sound is to the southwest. Boston is New England's largest city, as well as the capital of Massachusetts. Greater Boston is the largest metropolitan area, with nearly a third of New England's population; this area includes Worcester, Massachusetts (the second-largest city in New England), Manchester, New Hampshire (the largest city in New Hampshire), and Providence, Rhode Island (the capital of and largest city in Rhode Island). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_England**

War, china, Erdogan: feb3 Blinken Postpones China Trip Amid Spy Balloon Allegations Over Montana

In response to some US officials accusing China of sending a spy balloon near ICBM fields in Montana, the Chinese foreign ministry said the balloon was for monitoring the 'weather' and veered off course and entered into US airspace due to force majeure.

The ministry "regrets the unintended entry" and said Chinese officials would continue communicating with the US about the balloon. They added the balloon is for meteorological and 'other scientific research.'

Earlier, foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning urged the US to act "calmly and prudently" after some US officials accused China of sending a spy balloon.

"I want to emphasize that before the facts are clear, any speculation and hype are not conducive to the solution of the problem," Ning said.

So China states the balloon is for weather purposes only, while some US officials declare it a spy balloon. One thing is certain. The balloon mysteriously ended up near a highly sensitive area in Montana that is home to ICBM fields.

*   *   *

US military commanders have advised President Biden against shooting down a Chinese spy balloon flying over the US.

Reuters said the US military took "custody" of the "high-altitude surveillance balloon" and deployed military aircraft, including stealth fighter jets, to observe it.

Such balloons operate at an altitude of 15-22 miles, well above commercial air traffic. The balloon's size is estimated to be equivalent to three buses.

History, rome, journal: feb3 Africa (Roman province), Carthage

Africa Proconsularis was a Roman province on the northern African coast that was established in 146 BC following the defeat of Carthage in the Third Punic War. It roughly comprised the territory of present-day Tunisia, the northeast of Algeria, and the coast of western Libya along the Gulf of Sirte. The territory was originally inhabited by Berber people, known in Latin as *Mauri* indigenous to all of North Africa west of Egypt; in the 9th century BC, Phoenicians built settlements along the Mediterranean Sea to facilitate shipping, of which Carthage rose to dominance in the 8th century BC until its conquest by the Roman Republic.

It was one of the wealthiest provinces in the western part of the Roman Empire, second only to Italy. Apart from the city of Carthage, other large settlements in the province were Hadrumetum (modern Sousse, Tunisia), capital of Byzacena, and Hippo Regius (modern Annaba, Algeria).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa_(Roman_province)

History, holy roman empire: Duchy of Normandy

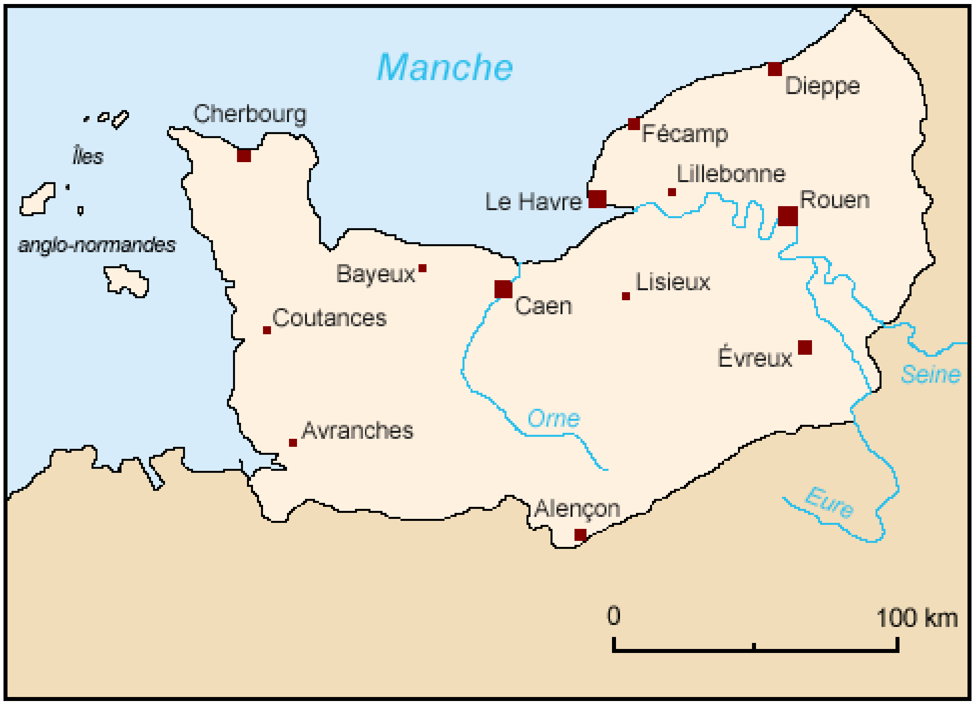
The **Duchy of Normandy** grew out of the 911 Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte between King Charles III of West Francia and the Viking leader Rollo. The duchy was named for its inhabitants, the Normans.

From 1066 until 1204, as a result of the Norman conquest of England, the dukes of Normandy were usually also kings of England, the only exceptions being Dukes Robert Curthose (1087–1106), Geoffrey Plantagenet (1144–1150) and Henry II (1150-1152), who became king of England in 1152.

In 1202, Philip II of France declared Normandy forfeit to him and seized it by force of arms in 1204. It remained disputed territory until the Treaty of Paris of 1259, when the English sovereign ceded his claim except for the Channel Islands; i.e., the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey, and their dependencies (including Sark).

In the Kingdom of France, the duchy was occasionally set apart as an appanage to be ruled by a member of the royal family. After 1469, however, it was permanently united to the royal domain, although the title was occasionally conferred as an honorific upon junior members of the royal family. The last French duke of Normandy in this sense was Louis-Charles, duke from 1785 to 1789.

The Monarch of England currently claims the title "Duke of Normandy" (even when the monarch is a female). This is a historical title but still includes the Channel Islands which are administered by the United Kingdom.


Manche
Cherbourg
Îles
anglo-normandes
Dieppe
Fécamp
Lillebonne
Le Havre
Rouen
Bayeux
Caen
Lisieux
Coutances
Évreux
Seine
Orne
Avranches
Eure
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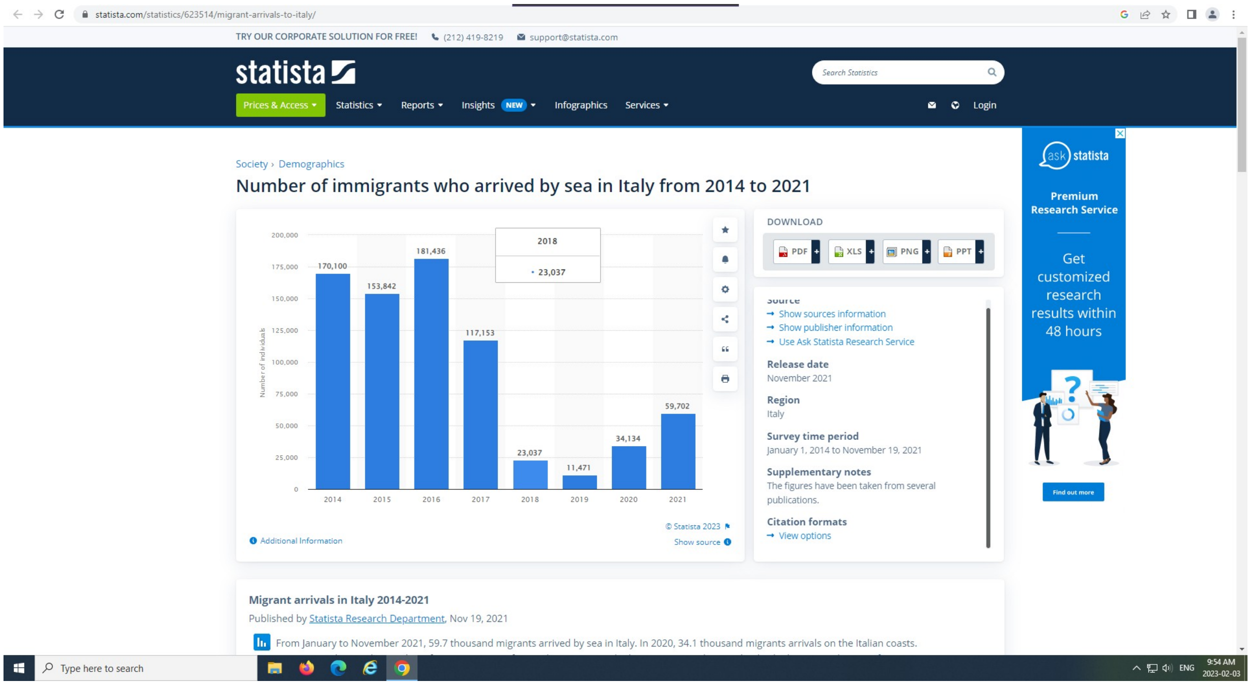
Erdogan, middle east, energy: feb3 the chart looks like its showing a trend of migration corrated to wars/attacks


statista.com/statistics/623514/migrant-arrivals-to-italy/
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Society › Demographics
200,000
175,000
150,000
125,000
100,000
75,000
50,000
25,000
0
Number of individuals
170,100
153,842
181,436
117,153
23,037
11,471
34,134
59,702
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2018
23,037
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2023-02-03

Number of immigrants who arrived by sea in Italy from 2014 to 2021

Source
Show sources information
Show publisher information
Use Ask Statista Research Service

Release date
November 2021

Region
Italy

Survey time period
January 1, 2014 to November 19, 2021

Supplementary notes
The figures have been taken from several publications.

Citation formats
View options

Migrant arrivals in Italy 2014-2021

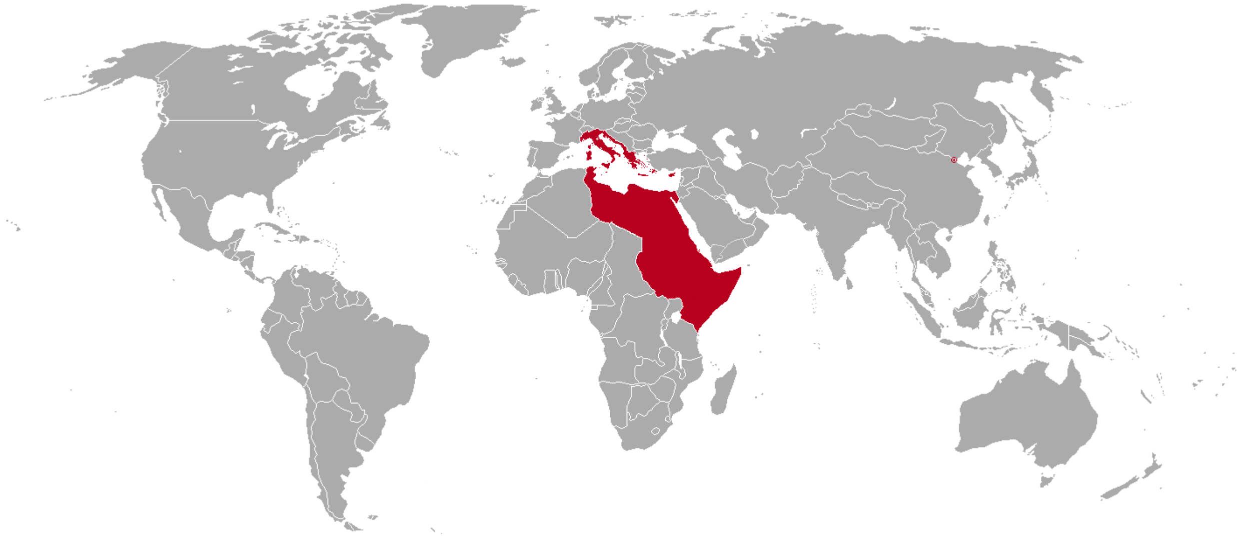
Published by Statista Research Department, Nov 19, 2021

From January to November 2021, 59.7 thousand migrants arrived by sea in Italy. In 2020, 34.1 thousand migrants arrivals on the Italian coasts.

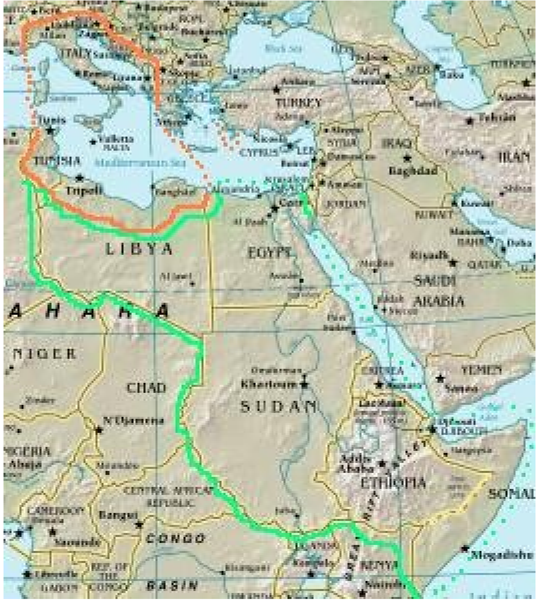
https://www.statista.com/statistics/623514/migrant-arrivals-to-italy/

70,000 illegal migrants reached Italy in 2022, Police magazine

Stats, history, rome: imperial italy if it would have won ww2 encompassed most of north eastern africa

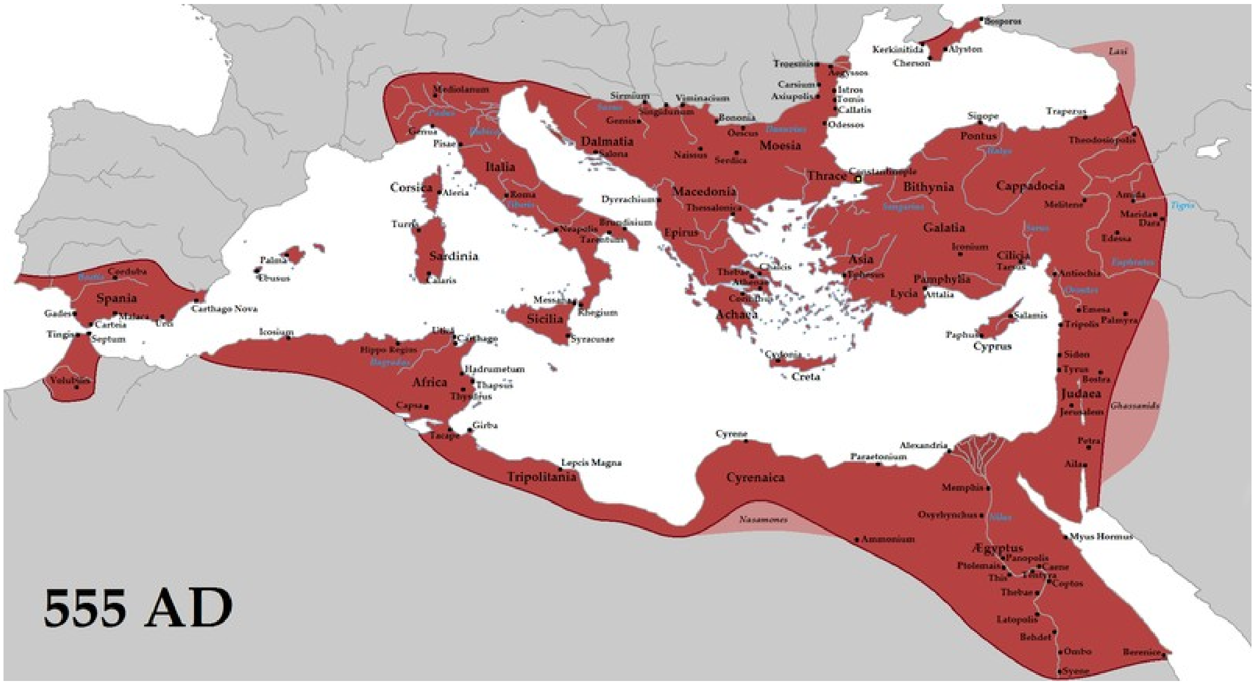


and this is what was considered, or would have been considered, "metroplitan italy". What drew me to look into this was researching into the crazy amount migratiobn italy has been recieving as of late, especially in the media. It must be a mjor issue to local citizens, and almost certainly a main conversation point among average people in the country. 70 000 non-citizens from completely different ethnic and cultural backgrounds arriving all in one year would be hard to ignore for most normal people...


ITALY
Rome
Black Sea
TURKEY
Ankara
Tunis
Valletta
MALTA
TUNISIA
Mediterranean Sea
Tripoli
Banghazi
CYPRUS
Nicosia
SYRIA
IRAQ
Baghdad
IRAN
Tehran
JORDAN
KUWAIT
Riyadh
QATAR
Doha
SAUDI
ARABIA
LIBYA
EGYPT
Cairo
SAHARA
NIGER
CHAD
N'Djamena
Khartoum
SUDAN
YEMEN
Sanaa
ERITREA
DJIBOUTI
Addis Ababa
ETHIOPIA
SOMALIA
Mogadishu
NIGERIA
Abuja
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Bangui
CAMEROON
Yaounde
CONGO
BASIN
GABON
KENYA
Nairobi
UGANDA
Kampala

you can see that it includes tripoli as well. While looking into thism, I also noticed some thing that stood out to me that I hadn't noticed before, but aught to have. There are many large islands between the country of italy and the northern africa. Malta, for instance, almost similar in size to cape breton.

this was the italian empire, or the roman empire, in 555.


555 AD
Mediolanum
Italia
Roma
Corsica
Sardinia
Sicilia
Dalmatia
Moesia
Macedonia
Thessalonica
Epirus
Achaea
Thrace
Constantinople
Bithynia
Cappadocia
Pontus
Galatia
Asia
Pamphylia
Lycia
Cilicia
Antiochia
Cyprus
Creta
Judaea
Jerusalem
Alexandria
Cyrenaica
Tripolitania
Leptis Magna
Africa
Carthago
Spania
Carthago Nova
Septum
Aegyptus
Memphis
Trapezus
Sinope
Cherson
Bosporus

The lands which comprise modern-day Malta, were a part of the Byzantine Empire (The empire in 555 under Justinian the Great, at its greatest extent since the fall of the Western Roman Empire

The lands which comprise modern-day Malta, were a part of the Byzantine Empire (The empire in 555 under Justinian the Great, at its greatest extent since the fall of the Western Roman Empire (its vassals in pink))

kingdom of africa https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Africa

stats, government, war: feb3 migrants, italy..

70 000 african migrants have entered not just europe, but italy alone, and just this year...WTF!

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11448161/Italian-PM-Giorgia-Meloni-slams-France-forcing-Burkina-Faso-hand-50-imports.html

Italy ‘complicit’ in crimes for renewing pact with Libya: NGOs

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/2/italy-complicit-in-crimes-for-renewing-pact-with-libya-ngos

weak leadership forced to include amendment that could institutionalize censorship on social media by holding senior execs personally liable for the distribution of harmful content. Article said amendment could result in situations where it would be considered 'harmful' to distribute videos of migrants crossing into the country, and thus the video would be throttled or removed. This example shocked me, confirming my prior suspicions that they would use the public will to protect children online as a means to censor infomationb online that threatens the status quo.

It's the latest change to a key piece of legislation that has been a long time in the making. As the bill has evolved, it's provoked debate on the best way to keep people – especially children – safe online. There are many critics of the bill – both those who think it is draconian and poses a risk to cybersecurity and freedom of speech, and those who believe it isn't far-reaching enough when it comes to cracking down on content that could pose harm to internet users. It also opens the door to real-world consequences beyond monetary fines.

Social media platforms will be required by law to vet the ages of users and publish risk assessments about the threats their services pose to younger users. How they will verify the ages of users will be a challenge that tech platforms have to figure out an answer to.

A number of new criminal offenses will be introduced under the bill, including the sharing of pornographic deepfakes (digitally generated images of real people), cyberflashing (sending pornographic images without consent) and downblousing (taking and sharing images down women's tops).

The draft text of the bill names UK media watchdog Ofcom as the regulator in charge of holding tech companies accountable.

The bill will give Ofcom the power to fine tech companies £18 million ($22.2 million) or 10% of their annual revenue, whichever is higher, if they fail to remove illegal content. It will also have the power to block sites and services.

According to January's amendment, managers at tech companies will also be liable for failing to protect children from exposure to harmful content. This could lead to prosecution and jail sentences of up to two years.

One major criticism of the Online Safety Bill is that it poses a threat to freedom of expression due to its potential for censoring legal content.

Rights organizations strongly opposed the requirement for tech companies to crack down on content that was harmful but not illegal. An amendment in November 2022 removed mention of "lawful but harmful" content from the text, instead obliging tech companies to introduce more sophisticated filter systems to protect people from exposure to content that could be deemed harmful. Ofcom will ensure platforms are upholding their terms of service.

Meanwhile, concerns over censorship continue. An amendment to the bill introduced this week would make sharing videos that showed migrants crossing the channel between France and the UK in "a positive light" illegal. Tech companies would be required to proactively prevent users from seeing this content.

There has also been tension between digital rights groups and child safety groups over the topic of encryption. In a letter to the government in November, over 70 organizations, including cybersecurity experts, presented their concerns over the wording of the bill. They were worried that it posed a threat to end-to-end encryption, forcing tech companies to create backdoors that could be exploited by criminals.

Representatives for Meta, Twitter, Google and Pinterest didn't respond to individual requests for comment about their positions on the bill.

War, iran: feb3 Iran Formally Blames Israel for Drone Attack in Isfahan

US Says F-16 Deal Contingent on Turkey's Support for NATO Expansion

Markets, government, energy: feb3 Shell announced a $4 billion share buyback program

- Shell announced a $4 billion share buyback program, which is expected to be completed by its first-quarter 2023 results, and a 15% dividend per share increase for the fourth quarter

British oil giant Shell on Thursday posted its highest-ever annual profit, bolstered by soaring fossil fuel prices and robust demand since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year.

Shell reported adjusted earnings of $39.9 billion for the full-year 2022. This comfortably surpasses the $28.4 billion in 2008 which Shell said was the firm’s previous annual record and is more than double the firm’s full-year 2021 profit of $19.29 billion.

War, middle east, energy: feb3 Italy ‘complicit’ in crimes for renewing pact with Libya: NGOs

Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Wednesday warned that “assisting Libya’s coast guard, knowing that it will facilitate the return of thousands of people to serious human rights violations, makes Italy and the European Union complicit in such crimes”.

A June 2022 report by the United Nations Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya found that migrants faced “murder, enforced disappearance, torture, enslavement, sexual violence, rape, and other inhumane acts … in connection with their arbitrary detention”.

War, Erdogan: feb3 Police Ban Planned Quran Burning Protest in Norway

“The police emphasise that burning the Quran is a legal political statement in Norway, but this event can’t go ahead due to security concerns,” Oslo police Inspector Martin Strand said in a statement on Thursday.

Stats, rome, readlater, journal: feb2 non-land owners, or tenants, weren't allowed to leave their territories..

It henceforth became illegal for a peasant — the rule applied only toTHe'TuHPp
7)pulation, since they alone were registered in the’'” census and paid the poll tax—
to. .leave his registered domicile. How ffifcMotmcile was defined depended on the form
of the census records. In Egypt the rural population was registered by villages, and a
man’s legal origo was therefore his village. Elsewhere also freeholders were normally
registered in their villages, but, tenants
THE CLASSES 69
in many provinces by their farms under the heading of the land- Jwnerrthisis the system
Found in the epigraphic census records of Asia Minor. T his me ant jn effect that the
tenant was bound to his .particular farm a nd thus, to . his landlord . The tie was
hereditary, ifdr orlgo h.^ always been determined by paternity and not by I residence:
in the census records children, even infants, are regis-j tiered, although they paid no
poll tax, with the evident implication j that they belonged to their parent’s place of
registration and would inrdue course pay their poll tax there. 59

https://archive.org/details/JonesLaterRomanEmpire01/page/n1/mode/1up?view=theater

Stats, rome, history, church, journal: roman religion exemplifid hilariously by a 14 year old sun worshiper who reigned for only 4 years before being assassinated. He looks so young...

Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (born **Sextus Varius Avitus Bassianus**, c. 204 – 11/12 March 222), better known by his nicknames "**Elagabalus**" (/ˌɛləˈɡæbələs/, *EL-ə-GAB-ə-ləs*) and **Heliogabalus** (/ˌhiːliə-, -lioʊ-/ *HEE-lee-ə-, -lee-oh-*[3]), was Roman emperor from 218 to 222, while he was still a teenager. His short reign was conspicuous for sex scandals and religious controversy. A close relative to the Severan dynasty, he came from a prominent Arab family in Emesa (Homs), Syria, where since his early youth he served as head priest of the sun god Elagabal. After the death of his cousin, the emperor Caracalla, Elagabalus was raised to the principate at 14 years of age in an army revolt instigated by his grandmother Julia Maesa against Caracalla's short-lived successor, Macrinus. He only posthumously became known by the Latinised name of his god.[a]

Later historians suggest Elagabalus showed a disregard for Roman religious traditions and sexual taboos. He replaced the traditional head of the Roman pantheon, Jupiter, with the deity Elagabal, of whom he had been high priest. He forced leading members of Rome's government to participate in religious rites celebrating this deity, presiding over them in person. He married four women, including a Vestal Virgin, in addition to lavishing favours on male courtiers thought to have been his lovers.[5][6] He was also reported to have prostituted himself.[7] His behavior estranged the Praetorian Guard, the Senate and the common people alike. Amidst growing opposition, at just 18 years of age he was assassinated and replaced by his cousin Severus Alexander in March 222. The assassination plot against Elagabalus was devised by Julia Maesa and carried out by disaffected members of the Praetorian Guard.

Elagabalus developed a reputation among his contemporaries for extreme eccentricity, decadence, zealotry and sexual promiscuity. (not surprising for his age considering his age and that he wasn't even supposed to rule)

. Edward Gibbon, notably, wrote that Elagabalus "abandoned himself to the grossest pleasures with ungoverned fury".[8] According to Barthold Georg Niebuhr, "the name Elagabalus is branded in history above all others" because of his "unspeakably disgusting life".[9] An example of a modern historian's assessment is Adrian Goldsworthy's: "Elagabalus was not a tyrant, but he was an incompetent, probably the least able emperor Rome had ever had."[10] Despite near-universal condemnation of his reign, some scholars write warmly about him.

Elagabalus's family held hereditary rights to the priesthood of the sun god Elagabal, of whom Elagabalus was the high priest at Emesa (modern Homs) in Roman Syria as part of the Arab Emesene dynasty

Since the reign of Septimius Severus, sun worship had increased throughout the Empire.[64] At the end of 220, Elagabalus instated Elagabal as the chief deity of the Roman pantheon, possibly on the date of the winter solstice.[45] In his official titulature, Elagabalus was then entitled in Latin: *sacerdos amplissimus dei invicti Soli Elagabali, pontifex maximus*, lit. 'highest priest of the unconquered god, the Sun Elgabal, supreme pontiff'.[45] That a foreign god should be honored above Jupiter, with Elagabalus himself as chief priest, shocked many Romans.[65]

As a token of respect for Roman religion, however, Elagabalus joined either Astarte, Minerva, Urania, or some combination of the three to Elagabal as consort.[66] A union between Elagabal and a traditional goddess would have served to strengthen ties between the new religion and the imperial cult. There may have been an effort to introduce Elagabal, Urania, and Athena as the new Capitoline Triad of Rome—replacing Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva.[67]

He aroused further discontent when he married the Vestal Virgin Aquilia Severa, Vesta's high priestess, claiming the marriage would produce "godlike children".[68] This was a flagrant breach of Roman law and tradition, which held that any Vestal found to have engaged in sexual intercourse was to be buried alive.[69]

A lavish temple called the Elagabalium was built on the east face of the Palatine Hill to house Elagabal,[70] who was represented by a black conical meteorite from Emesa.[44] This was a *baetylus*. Herodian wrote "this stone is worshipped as though it were sent from heaven; on it there are some small projecting pieces and markings that are pointed out, which the people would like to believe are a rough picture of the sun, because this is how they see them".[71]

Dio writes that in order to increase his piety as high priest of Elagabal atop a new Roman pantheon, Elagabalus had himself circumcised and swore to abstain from swine.[70] He forced senators to watch while he danced circling the altar of Elagabal to the accompaniment of drums and cymbals.[71] Each summer solstice he held a festival dedicated to the god, which became popular with the masses because of the free food distributed on these occasions.[72] During this festival, Elagabalus placed the black stone on a chariot adorned with gold and jewels, which he paraded through the city:[73]

A six horse chariot carried the divinity, the horses huge and flawlessly white, with expensive gold fittings and rich ornaments. No one held the reins, and no one rode in the chariot; the vehicle was escorted as if the god himself were the charioteer. Elagabalus ran backward in front of the chariot, facing the god and holding the horses' reins. He made the whole journey in this reverse fashion, looking up into the face of his god.[74]

The most sacred relics from the Roman religion were transferred from their respective shrines to the Elagabalium, including the emblem of the Great Mother, the fire of Vesta, the Shields of the Salii, and the Palladium, so that no other god could be worshipped except in association with Elagabal.[75] Although his native cult was widely ridiculed by contemporaries, sun-worship was popular among the soldiers and would be promoted by several later emperors.[76]

more on roman religion

It is perhaps Diocletian’s greatest achievement that he reigned twenty-one years and then abdicated voluntarily, and spent the remaining years of his life in peaceful retirement. How he achieved this remarkable result it is more difficult to divine. It is easy to say that the empire was weary of civil war. It had long been weary of civil wars, but they had continued unabated, and Diocletian himself had to deal with two serious

rebellions, that of Carausius and Allectus in Britain and that of Domitius Domitianus in Egypt. Stress has been laid on Diocletian’s introduction of oriental court ceremonial and his claim, in the assumption of the title lovius, to Vguasi-divinity. He was, according to Aurelius Victor and Eutropius, ,~theffirst'Romanxmpero.rto ^ likea god ora'Persian' king,, from those who approached him, instead of the customary ' saiutatio, and he probably introduced the practice, castigated by one - offthe authors of the Historia Augusta, of living in seclusion and
only rarely appearing to the public, vested in the gorgeous robe

page 70 seems to give a lot of info on roman religion before the dominance of christianity

Galerius’ dominions the persecution, which was doubtless as rigorous, was abruptly called off on 30 April 311, when the emperor, who had contracted a painful disease which he apparently attributed to the vengeance of the Christian God, issued an edict explicitly granting toleration to the Christians. He died a few days later, but his edict was observed both by Licinius in the European provinces which he occupied, and by Maximin in Asia Minor; the latter extended its application to his own original dominions, the Oriental diocese. The convicts were released and the churches reopened, and the Christians joyfully celebrated their victory. 70

They were, however, premature in their rejoicings, for before six months were out Maximin, who had evidently accepted Galerius’ edict of toleration with reluctance, was reopening hostilities. This time the campaign was more subtle. In the autumn of 311 the authorities of Nicomedia, the imperial residence, petitioned the emperor that no Christian might be allowed to live in their territory. Maximin graciously acceded to their request, and other cities fol- lowed suit, including Antioch and Tyre. Soon whole provinces were making similar petitions ; we possess a copy of that drawn up by the provincial council of Lycia and Pamphylia. Maximin also waged a vigorous propaganda campaign against Christianity, posting up in public places the spurious Acts of Pilate, and in- structing that they be taught in all schools, and publishing the confessions of formerly Christian women that they had taken part in incestuous orgies. He furthermore endeavoured to revivify paganism by appointing a high priest for each city to supervise the other priests and see that sacrifices were daily offered to the gods, and in each province a superior high priest to supervise those of the cities. These official priests had authority to ban Christian worship, public or private, and to arrest Christians and hand them over to the provincial governor if they refused to sacrifice. Maximin at first enforced these measures by hard labour in the mines, but later re- introduced the death penalty. This persecution was relaxed by an edict issued in the winter of 312-13, and finally called off in the spring of 313, immediately before Maximin’s defeat and death.
71

There is no reason to doubt that the motive of the persecution was, as Galerius and Maximin state in several edicts, religious. Both these two emperors, who were the prime movers of the policy, were by all accounts convinced and fanatical pagans, and no doubt sincerely wished to restore the traditional worship of the gods in accordance with ‘the ancient laws and public discipline of the Romans’. They do not seem, however, to have had much popular

or the first fourteen years of his reign Diocletian maintained the tacit toleration of Christianity which Galhenus had inaugurated. As the memories of persecution faded, the Christians gained self- confidence, and ventured to build fine churches in conspicuous positions : the church at Nicomedia faced the imperial palace, and was an edifice of some architectural pretensions. Many Christians served in the army and in the civil service, and some reached positions of importance, such as provincial governorships : we hear of one Adauctus who was magister rei privatae and rationalis sum- marum. The membership of the church increased, and more persons of the upper classes joined; a Christian council in Spain had to rule how far a Christian might conform to pagan usage, if he became duumvir of his city, or was elected to the high-priesthood of the provincial imperial cult. 65

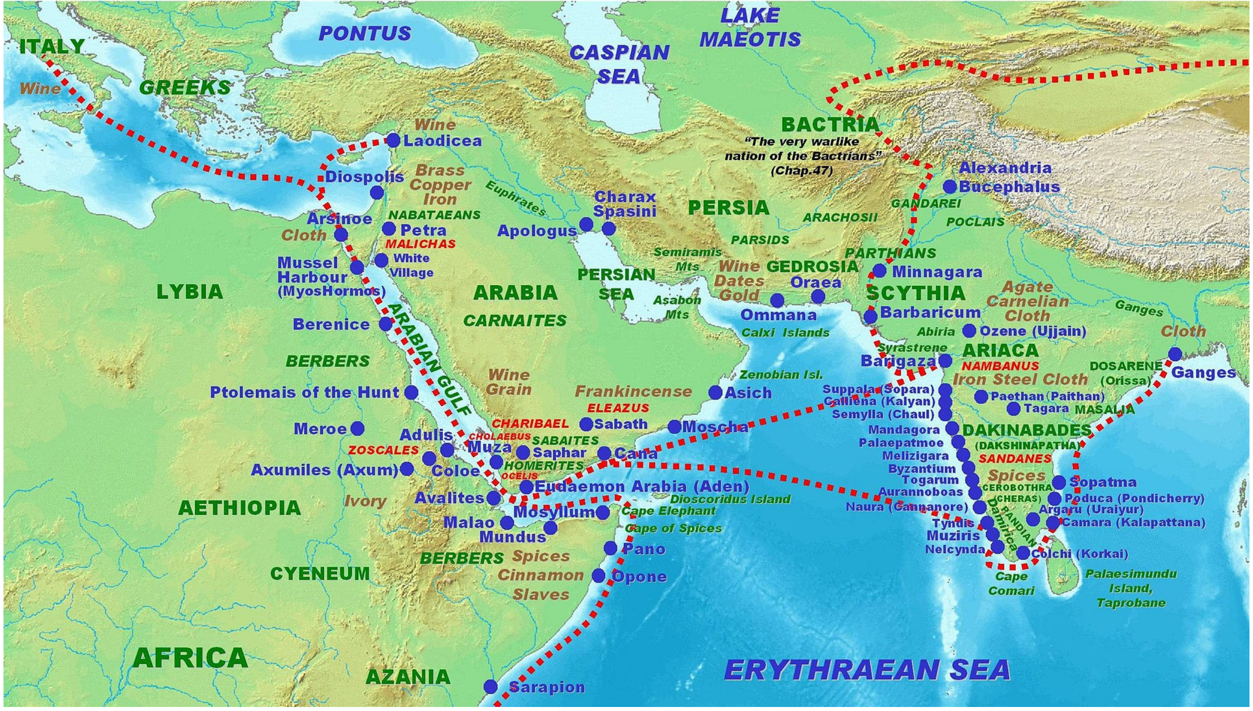
It was probably in 298 that an incident occurred which broke the peace. At a sacrifice held in the presence of Diocletian and his Caesar Galerius the haruspices were unable to obtain the desired omens, and attributed their failure to Christians present, who were averting the power of the demons by making the sign of the Cross. Diocletian, who seems to have been a man of rather old-fashioned piety — he had adopted the old Roman god Jupiter Optimus Maximus as his patron — was naturally infuriated by this insolent interruption of the traditional rites of the Roman state, and issued an order that all soldiers must sacrifice to the gods or be discharged. This order created little stir — the numbers involved were probably relatively small — and nothing further happened for five years . Then in 303 the storm broke. It is somewhat mysterious why action should have been so long postponed, or why such strong measures should have been taken after the long delay. Lactantius is probably right in regarding the Caesar Galerius, who was a rabid pagan, as the prime mover in the affair, and it would seem that he had some difficulty in inducing Diocletian to take action. 66

On 23 February 303 an edict was published at Nicomedia ordering all copies of the Scriptures to be surrendered and burnt, all churches to be demolished or dismantled, and forbidding meetings for Christian worship. The church at Nicomedia was promptly demolished by a squad of troops. Next day a supple- mentary edict was posted depriving all Christians who failed to conform of any rank that they might hold (thus making them liable to torture and summary execution), and debarring all Christian from bringing actions in the courts; imperial freedmen who remained Christian were reduced to slavery. These edicts were promulgated in the West also, and were strictly enforced by, page 71

https://archive.org/details/JonesLaterRomanEmpire01/page/n41/mode/2up?q=god

History, rome, stats: trade route between Rome and India: Roman trade in the subcontinent according to the Periplus Maris Erythraei 1st

century CE


ITALY
Wine
GREEKS
PONTUS
CASPIAN SEA
LAKE MAEOTIS
BACTRIA
"The very warlike nation of the Bactrians" (Chap.47)
Wine
Laodicea
Brass
Copper
Iron
Diospolis
Euphrates
Alexandria
Bucephalus
Arsinoe
Cloth
NABATAEANS
Petra
MALICHAS
Charax Spasini
PERSIA
GANDAREI
ARACHOSII
POCLAIS
Apologus
PARSIDS
Mussel Harbour (MyosHormos)
White Village
LYBIA
Semiramis Mts
PARTHIANS
Wine
Dates
Gold
GEDROSIA
Oraea
Minnagara
ARABIA
PERSIAN SEA
Asabon Mts
SCYTHIA
Agate
Carnelian
Cloth
Ganges
Berenice
CARNAITES
Ommana
Calxi Islands
Barbaricum
Abiria
Ozene (Ujjain)
Cloth
ARABIAN GULF
BERBERS
Syrastrene
ARIACA
Barigaza
NAMBANUS
DOSARENE (Orissa)
Ganges
Wine
Grain
Frankincense
ELEAZUS
Zenobian Isl.
Asich
Iron Steel Cloth
Ptolemais of the Hunt
Suppala (Sopara)
Calliena (Kalyan)
Semylla (Chaul)
Paethan (Paithan)
Tagara
MASALIA
Meroe
CHARIBAEL
Sabath
Moscha
Mandagora
DAKINABADES
Adulis
CHOLAEBUS
SABAITES
Palaepatmoe
(DAKSHINAPATHA)
ZOSCALES
Muza
Saphar
Cana
Melizigara
SANDANES
Axumiles (Axum)
Coloe
HOMERITES
Byzantium
Spices
OCELIS
Togarum
Eudaemon Arabia (Aden)
Aurannoboas
CEROBOTHRA
Sopatma
AETHIOPIA
Ivory
Avalites
Dioscoridus Island
(CHERAS)
Poduca (Pondicherry)
Mosyllum
Naura (Cannanore)
Argaru (Uraiyur)
Malao
Cape Elephant
Tyndis
PANDIAN
Camara (Kalapattana)
Mundus
Cape of Spices
Muziris
Damirica
BERBERS
Spices
Pano
Nelcynda
Colchi (Korkai)
CYENEUM
Cinnamon
Opone
Cape Comari
Palaesimundu Island, Taprobane
Slaves
AFRICA
AZANIA
ERYTHRAEAN SEA
Sarapion

Roman imperial cult: read later, roman religion. said something that stood out in the short time reading: that romans believed some humans could ascend to god status in the afterlife

Roman Egypt: was a subdivision of the Roman Empire from Rome's invasion of the Ptolemaic Egyptian Kingdom after the battle of Alexandria in 30 BC to its loss by the Byzantine Empire to the Islamic conquests in AD 641

Egypt came to serve as a major producer of grain for the empire and had a highly developed urban economy. Aegyptus was by far the wealthiest Eastern Roman province,[2][3] and by far the wealthiest Roman province outside of Italy.[4] The population of Roman Egypt is unknown, although estimates vary from 4 to 8 million.[1] Alexandria, its capital, was the largest port and second largest city of the Roman Empire. [5][6]

After the Assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC, the Ptolemaic Kingdom (r. 305–30 BC), which had ruled Egypt since the Wars of Alexander the Great brought an end to Achaemenid Egypt (the Thirty-first Dynasty), took the side of Mark Antony in the last war of the Roman Republic, against the eventual victor Octavian, who as Augustus became the first Roman emperor in 27 BC, having defeated Mark Antony and the pharaoh, Cleopatra VII, at the naval Battle of Actium.[7] After the deaths of Antony and Cleopatra, the Roman Republic annexed the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt.[7] Augustus and many subsequent emperors ruled Egypt as the Roman pharaohs.[7] The Ptolemaic institutions were dismantled, and though some bureaucratic elements were maintained the government administration was wholly reformed along with the social structure.[7] The Graeco-Egyptian legal system of the Hellenistic period continued in use, but within the bounds of Roman law.[7] The tetradrachm coinage minted at the Ptolemaic capital of Alexandria continued to be the currency of an increasingly monetized economy, but its value was made equal to the Roman *denarius*.[7] The priesthoods of the Ancient Egyptian deities and Hellenistic religions of Egypt kept most of their temples and privileges, and in turn the priests also served the Roman imperial cult of the deified emperors and their families.[7]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Egypt

Stats, journal, war: feb2 Edward Nicolae Luttwak, cool guy who writes cool stuff about geopolitics https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvjhzrf5

Tech, china, ai, stats: feb2 In a first, China knocks U.S. from top spot in global patent race, 2020

According to the WIPO data, China’s Huawei Technologies [HWT.UL], the world’s biggest maker of telecoms equipment, was the top corporate patent filer for the third consecutive year.

The United States has called on countries to ban Huawei equipment from new mobile phone networks, arguing that its technology could be used by China for spying. Huawei denies that its technology poses a security risk.

Asked to what extent China’s lead was due to state subsidies, Gurry said: “It’s a model which does use state subsidies to a greater extent perhaps than Western economies might typically use state subsidies. So yes it certainly plays role.

Tech, ai: feb2 chatgpt offering free trial membership to all now. The last time that I actually looked into it, I don't think it was open to everyone as they were recieving too many request at once. Great to see that this has changED, but as is always, I'm late because I'm lazing and stuck in a bubble.

We are excited to introduce ChatGPT to get users' feedback and learn about its strengths and weaknesses. During the research preview, usage of ChatGPT is free. Try it now at chat.openai.com.

https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/

started doing the $42 monthly membership on jan22 https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/chatgpt-premium-rolls-out

History, church: The Portadown massacre took place in November 1641 at Portadown, County Armagh, during the Irish Rebellion of 1641. Irish Catholic rebels, likely under the command of Toole McCann, killed about 100 British Protestant settlers by forcing them off the

bridge into the River Bann, and shooting those who tried to swim to safety.

The **Portadown massacre** took place in November 1641 at Portadown, County Armagh, during the Irish Rebellion of 1641. Irish Catholic rebels, likely under the command of Toole McCann, killed about 100 British Protestant settlers by forcing them off the bridge into the River Bann, and shooting those who tried to swim to safety.

The Irish rebellion had broken out in Ulster on 23 October 1641. It began as an attempted *coup d'état* by Catholic gentry and military officers, who tried to seize control of the English administration in Ireland. They wanted to force King Charles I to negotiate an end to anti-Catholic discrimination, greater Irish self-governance, and to partially or fully reverse the plantations of Ireland. Many of those involved in the rebellion had lost their ancestral lands over the past thirty years in the plantation of Ulster.

Most of the land at Portadown had belonged to the McCanns (*Mac Cana*), a Gaelic clan. As part of the plantation, this land was confiscated by the English Crown and colonized by English and Scottish Protestant settlers.[1] Rebels, including the McCanns,[1] captured Portadown on the first day of the rebellion along with nearby settlements such as Tandragee and Charlemont.[2]

Twenty-eight people made statements about the incident, but only one of them witnessed it. The others related what they had heard about it, including possibly from some of the rebels themselves.[4]

William Clarke, the only survivor, stated that he had been held in a prison camp at Loughgall, where many of the prisoners were mistreated and some subjected to half-hangings.[4] The rebels in the Loughgall area were commanded by Manus O'Cane.[5] Clarke states that he and about 100 other prisoners were marched six miles to the bridge over the River Bann at Portadown.[4] The wooden bridge had been broken in the middle. Threatened with swords and pikes, Clarke states the prisoners were stripped, then forced off the bridge and into the cold river below. Those who tried to swim to safety were shot with muskets. Clarke claimed he was able to escape by bribing the rebels.[4][5]

Cromwell in the Battle of Naseby in 1645 as depicted in a portrait by Charles Landseer

In ancient times, Yemen was the home of the Sabaeans,[10][11][12] a trading state that included parts of modern-day Ethiopia and Eritrea. Later in 275 AD, the Himyarite Kingdom was influenced by Judaism.[13] Christianity arrived in the fourth century. Islam spread quickly in the seventh century and Yemenite troops were crucial in the early Islamic conquests.[14] Several dynasties emerged in the 9th to 16th centuries, such as the Rasulid dynasty.[15] The country was divided between the Ottoman and British empires in the 1800s. The Zaydi Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen was established after World War I before the creation of the Yemen Arab Republic in 1962. South Yemen remained a British protectorate as the Aden Protectorate until 1967 when it became an independent state and later, a Marxist-Leninist state. The two Yemeni states united to form the modern Republic of Yemen (*al-*

Jumhūrīyah al-Yamanīyah) in 1990. President Ali Abdullah Saleh was the first president of the new republic until his resignation in 2012 in the wake of the Arab Spring.[16][17]

Since 2011, Yemen has been in a state of political crisis starting with street protests against poverty, unemployment, corruption, and president Saleh's plan to amend Yemen's constitution and eliminate the presidential term limit.[18] President Saleh stepped down and the powers of the presidency were transferred to Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. Since then, the country has been in a civil war (alongside the Saudi Arabian-led military intervention aimed at restoring Hadi's government against Iran-backed Houthi rebels) with several proto-state entities claiming to govern Yemen: the Cabinet of Yemen/Presidential Leadership Council, Supreme Political Council, and the Southern Transitional Council.[19][20][21][22][23]

At least 56,000 civilians and combatants have been killed in armed violence in Yemen since January 2016.[24] The war has resulted in a famine affecting 17 million people.[25] The lack of safe drinking water, caused by depleted aquifers and the destruction of the country's water infrastructure, has also caused the largest, fastest-spreading cholera outbreak in modern history, with the number of suspected cases exceeding 994,751.[26][27] Over 2,226 people have died since the outbreak began to spread rapidly at the end of April 2017.[27][28] The ongoing humanitarian crisis and conflict has received widespread criticism for having a dramatic worsening effect on Yemen's humanitarian situation, that some say has reached the level of a "humanitarian disaster"[29] and some have even labelled it as a genocide.[30][31][32] It has worsened the country's already-poor human rights situation.

127,000 non-combat English and Welsh deaths (including some 40,000 civilians)[a]

Total: 500,000+ dead

War, Erdogan: feb2 Several European Consulates Shut Down Over Istanbul Terror Threats

The governments of Germany, the UK, and the Netherlands closed down their consulates in Istanbul, Turkiye, this week after the US State Department issued an “immediate” terror threat on 30 January.

The warnings were issued in response to recent Quran burnings in Sweden, the Netherlands, and Denmark.

“The German Consulate General will remain closed today, February 1, for security reasons,” the German consulate posted on its Instagram page.

Meanwhile, the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office updated the terror alert on its page, saying, “There is a potential that citizens from Western countries may be targets or caught up in attacks, particularly in the major cities.”

On Monday, the US State Department warned of an “imminent” terror threat targeting western states’ synagogues, churches, and diplomatic missions.

The US mission in Turkiye warned its citizen to avoid the Beyoglu, Galata, Taksim, and Istiklal areas of Istanbul.

In response to the Quran burning in Sweden on 21 January, the Turkish government canceled a planned visit by the Swedish Minister of Defense’s visit to Ankara.

“Defense Minister Jonson’s visit to Turkiye on January 27 is neither important nor meaningful. That is why we canceled the visit,” Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said.

Germany, UK, Follow Netherlands in Closing Istanbul Consulates Over Terror Threat

https://balkaninsight.com/2023/02/01/germany-uk-follow-netherlands-in-closing-istanbul-consulates-over-terror-threat/

War, sanctions, crypto: feb2 Crypto Community Mocks Charlie Munger Over Obsession With China's Bitcoin Ban

The online community has expressed bewilderment over how China's crypto ban aligns with the United States' proclaimed principles of freedom...

The cryptocurrency community has ridiculed well-known Bitcoin critic Charlie Munger, vice chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, for calling the United States to follow in the footsteps of China and ban crypto.

In an op-ed article in The Wall Street Journal, the 99-year-old investment veteran has once again slammed crypto, calling a cryptocurrency a "gambling contract with a nearly 100% edge for the house."

Munger also said that a cryptocurrency is "not a currency, not a commodity, and not a security," adding that "obviously" the U.S. should enact a new federal law that would ban crypto.

According to Munger, the best way to approach crypto is to follow the example of China, which put a blanket ban on crypto in September 2021.

The Berkshire Hathaway vice chairman stated:

"What should the U.S. do after a ban of cryptocurrencies is in place? Well, one more action might make sense: **Thank the Chinese communist leader for his splendid example of uncommon sense.**"

The community was quick to react to Munger's latest anti-crypto arguments, with many expressing bewilderment about how measures like China's crypto ban stack up with the United States' proclamations that it supports freedom.

"The battle lines are being drawn. Freedom or tyranny. Non-custodial wallets are the hill we can't surrender," *NFT APE* author Adam McBride wrote on Twitter.

Others also mocked Munger for not understanding that crypto is virtually unbannable.

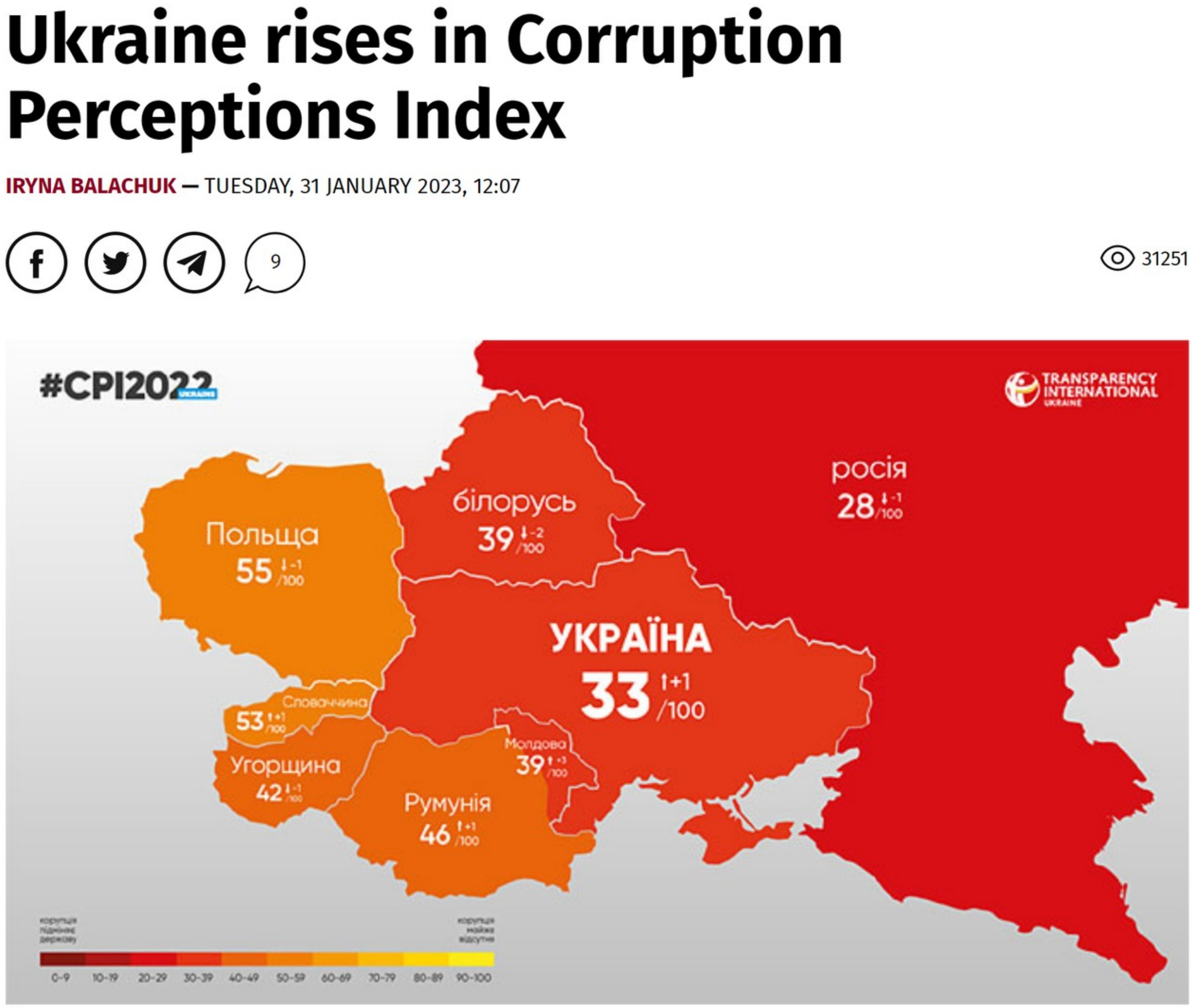
Indeed, even after “banning” crypto in 2021, China has continued to be the second-largest Bitcoin miner in the world, and possessing crypto is apparently still legal.

Moreover, the idea of lifting the crypto ban has been floating around in China for a while.

Vaccine, censorship: feb2 MSNBC Anchor Hospitalized With Severe Myocarditis, Pericarditis

Yasmin Vossoughian said that the health scare started on Dec. 20 when she started to experience chest pains that “waxed and waned over a period of 10 days.” Those pains “continued to get worse” over the coming days, she added.

War: feb2 NOW THEY'RE SAYING THEY FOUND NO MISUSE OF FUNDS AFTER VIRTUALLY WEEKS OF HEADLINES COMPLAINING ABOUT UKRAINIAN CORRUPTION AHEAD OF AND DURING THE MOST RECENT ROUND OF FUNDING FROM THE UNITED STATES TO UKRAINE



Ukraine rises in Corruption Perceptions Index

IRYNA BALACHUK — TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2023, 12:07

9
31251
#CPI2022
UKRAINE
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
UKRAINE
росія
28 ↓-1 /100
білорусь
39 ↓-2 /100
Польща
55 ↓-1 /100
УКРАЇНА
33 ↑+1 /100
Словаччина
53 ↑+1 /100
Угорщина
42 ↓-1 /100
Молдова
39 ↑+3 /100
Румунія
46 ↑+1 /100
корупція підминає державу
корупція майже відсутня
0-9
10-19
20-29
30-39
40-49
50-59
60-69
70-79
80-89
90-100

Stats, middle east: feb2 Between 2015 and 2021, the United States sent 54.2 billion dollars in weapons and services to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, according to data acquired from the Defense Security Cooperation Agency. In addition, the Department of Defense provided 644 million dollars for military training to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, almost entirely through the Foreign Military Sales program. The DoD uses acquisition and cross-servicing agreements to

bill nations for logistical support and items ranging from flying hours, fuel, and bombs. Saudi Arabia paid the United States 157 million dollars in flying hours

Houthis still control Sanaa and AQAP is still active in Yemen. The UN Security Council approved a resolution to blockade Yemen every year since 2015 to prevent arms from flooding the conflict; however, the embargo has only succeeded in starving the Yemenis into famine.

stats, war, middle east: feb2 WikiLeaks Yemen Files

War: feb2 **Ex-UK Minister: NATO Should Consider Ground Troops in Ukraine**

“I think that is something we now have to consider, certainly if you were to put a NATO force in there,” Gerald Howarth told Sky News when asked if he was suggesting NATO boots on the ground in Ukraine.

War, stats: feb2 Yemen is of significant strategic interest as Yemen controls a narrow choke-point to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal through which 11% of the world's petroleum passes each day

In addition, Yemen borders Saudi Arabia (to the north) and Oman (to the east) and has access to the Arabian Sea, through which another 20% of the world's petroleum passes from the Strait of Hormuz (including the oil of Saudi Arabia and Iran). Saudi Arabia seeks to control a port in Yemen to avoid the potential constriction of its oil shipments by by Iran along the Strait of Hormuz or by countries which can control its other oil shipment path along the Red Sea.

The Yemen Files offer documentary evidence of the US arming, training and funding of Yemeni forces in the years building up to the war. The documents reveal, among other things, procurement of many different weapon types:

aircraft, vessels, vehicles, proposals for maritime border security control and Yemeni procurement of US biometric systems.

A US presence remained in the country until February 2015, when the US closed its embassy due to the continuing unrest between different factions in the country. The war broke out a month later.

read later: rome, history, fall of rome: Diocletian's reign stabilized the empire and ended the Crisis of the Third Century

appointed fellow officer Maximian as *Augustus*, co-emperor, in 286. Diocletian reigned in the Eastern Empire, and Maximian reigned in the Western Empire. Diocletian delegated further on 1 March 293, appointing Galerius and Constantius as junior colleagues (each with the title *Caesar*), under himself and Maximian respectively. Under the Tetrarchy, or "rule of four", each tetrarch would rule over a quarter-division of the empire. Diocletian secured the empire's borders and purged it of all threats to his power. He defeated the Sarmatians and Carpi during several campaigns between 285 and 299, the Alamanni in 288, and usurpers in Egypt between 297 and 298. Galerius, aided by Diocletian, campaigned successfully against Sassanid Persia, the empire's traditional enemy. In 299, he sacked their capital, Ctesiphon. Diocletian led the subsequent negotiations and achieved a lasting and favorable peace.

The Diocletianic Persecution (303–312), the empire's last, largest, and bloodiest official persecution of Christianity, failed to eliminate Christianity in the empire. After 324, Christianity became the empire's preferred religion under Constantine. Despite these failures and challenges, Diocletian's reforms fundamentally changed the structure of the Roman imperial government and helped stabilize the empire economically and militarily, enabling the empire to remain essentially intact for another 150 years despite being near the brink of collapse in Diocletian's youth. Weakened by illness, Diocletian left the imperial office on 1 May 305, becoming the first Roman emperor to abdicate the position voluntarily. He lived out his retirement in his palace on the Dalmatian coast, tending to his vegetable gardens. His palace eventually became the core of the modern-day city of Split in Croatia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletian

read this later: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_diocese#:~:text=In%20the%20Late%20Roman%20Empire,dioceses%20they%20were%20resident%20in).

Markets: feb2 Orange Juice Futures Hit New Record High Amid Supply Squeeze

"I almost put the Orange Juice back at Walmart today. **These prices are out of hand**."

Markets, government: feb2 **Meta Explodes 18% Higher On Solid Beat, Massive $40 Billion Buyback Boost**

tech, ai: Generative AI Explained... By AI

After years of research, it appears that artificial intelligence (AI) is reaching a sort of tipping point, capturing the imaginations of everyone from students saving time on their essay writing to leaders at the world's largest tech companies. Excitement is building around the possibilities that AI tools unlock, but what exactly these tools are capable of and how they work is still not widely understood.

We *could* write about this in detail, but given how advanced tools like ChatGPT have become, it only seems right to see what generative AI has to say about itself.

As Visual Capitalist's Nick Routley explains, **everything in the infographic above – from illustrations and icons to the text descriptions—was created using generative AI tools such as Midjourney.**

Everything that follows in this article was generated using ChatGPT based on specific prompts.

Without further ado, generative AI as explained by generative AI.

WHAT IS
GENERATIVE AI?

VISUALLY EXPLAINED... BY GENERATIVE AI

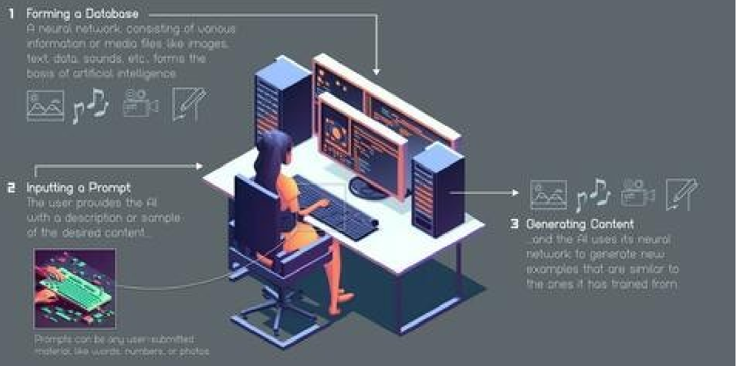
ChatGPT, DALL-E, MidJourney, DeepMind—generative AI technologies have exploded into mainstream consciousness. With access to these technologies increasing day-by-day, we asked AI to help demonstrate the power and influence of this new tech trend.

This robot—and all the visuals in this infographic, including icons—were generated using AI software like MidJourney and DALL-E.

The text captions were also generated using AI (ChatGPT).

This image was created on MidJourney using the following text prompt:
a robot head, portrait, no background, artificial intelligence, minimalist and white aesthetic, futuristic, digital, realistic, 4K

Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) that uses machine learning algorithms to create new and original content like images, videos, text, and audio.



1 **Forming a Database**
A neural network, consisting of various information or media files like images, text data, sounds, etc., forms the basis of artificial intelligence

2 **Inputting a Prompt**
The user provides the AI with a description or sample of the desired content...

Prompts can be any user-submitted material, like words, numbers, or photos

3 **Generating Content**
...and the AI uses its neural network to generate new examples that are similar to the ones it has trained from

This image was created on MidJourney using the following text prompt:
a technical illustration of a woman sitting behind a desktop computer on a long table, isometric view, 3D rendering, realistic, 4K

Examples of Generative AI Technology

ChatGPT
text generation AI

INPUT PROMPTS

"Write a limerick about data taking over the world include the word 'egg'"

OUTPUT

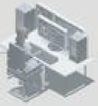
"Data taking over the world, it's true
It's growing like an egg that's due
It's everywhere we go
It's taking over slow
But it's the future, there's nothing we can do."

Real-Life Applications of this Platform
- communications, journalism, publishing, creative writing, writing assistance

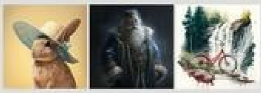
MidJourney
image generation AI

INPUT PROMPTS

- a rabbit wearing a sunhat
- Santa Claus in a blue outfit
- a watercolor of a red bicycle in front of a waterfall



OUTPUT

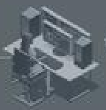


Real-Life Applications of this Platform
- advertisements, published illustrations, corporate visuals, novel image generation

Codex
computer coding generation AI

INPUT PROMPTS

"Write script to change a website's background color in Python"



OUTPUT

Here is an example script that uses the requests and BeautifulSoup libraries in Python to change the background color of a website

```
import requests
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup

# send a GET request to the website
response = requests.get('https://yourwebsite.com')

# parse the HTML content
soup = BeautifulSoup(response.content, 'html.parser')

# locate the element you want to change the
background color of
element = soup.find('body')

# add a new style attribute to the element
element['style'] = 'background-color: pink'

# print the modified HTML
print(soup.prettify())
```

Real-Life Applications of this Platform
- web design, software development, coding/scripting, technology

VISUAL CAPITALIST
RESEARCH, WRITING AND DESIGN Mark Belan
/visualcapitalist @visualcap visualcapitalist.com

Generative AI: An Introduction

Generative AI refers to a category of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms that generate new outputs based on the data they have been trained on. Unlike traditional AI systems that are designed to recognize patterns and make predictions, generative AI creates new content in the form of images, text, audio, and more.

Generative AI uses a type of deep learning called generative adversarial networks (GANs) to create new content. A GAN consists of two neural networks: a generator that creates new data and a discriminator that evaluates the data. The generator and discriminator work together, with the generator improving its outputs based on the feedback it receives from the discriminator until it generates content that is indistinguishable from real data.

Generative AI has a wide range of applications, including:

- **Images:** Generative AI can create new images based on existing ones, such as creating a new portrait based on a person’s face or a new landscape based on existing scenery
- **Text:** Generative AI can be used to write news articles, poetry, and even scripts. It can also be used to translate text from one language to another
- **Audio:** Generative AI can generate new music tracks, sound effects, and even voice acting

Disrupting Industries

People have concerns that generative AI and automation will lead to job displacement and unemployment, as machines become capable of performing tasks that were previously done by humans. They worry that the increasing use of AI will lead to a shrinking job market, particularly in industries such as manufacturing, customer service, and data entry.

Generative AI has the potential to disrupt several industries, including:

- **Advertising:** Generative AI can create new advertisements based on existing ones, making it easier for companies to reach new audiences
- **Art and Design:** Generative AI can help artists and designers create new works by generating new ideas and concepts
- **Entertainment:** Generative AI can create new video games, movies, and TV shows, making it easier for content creators to reach new audiences

Overall, while there are valid concerns about the impact of AI on the job market, there are also many potential benefits that could positively impact workers and the economy.

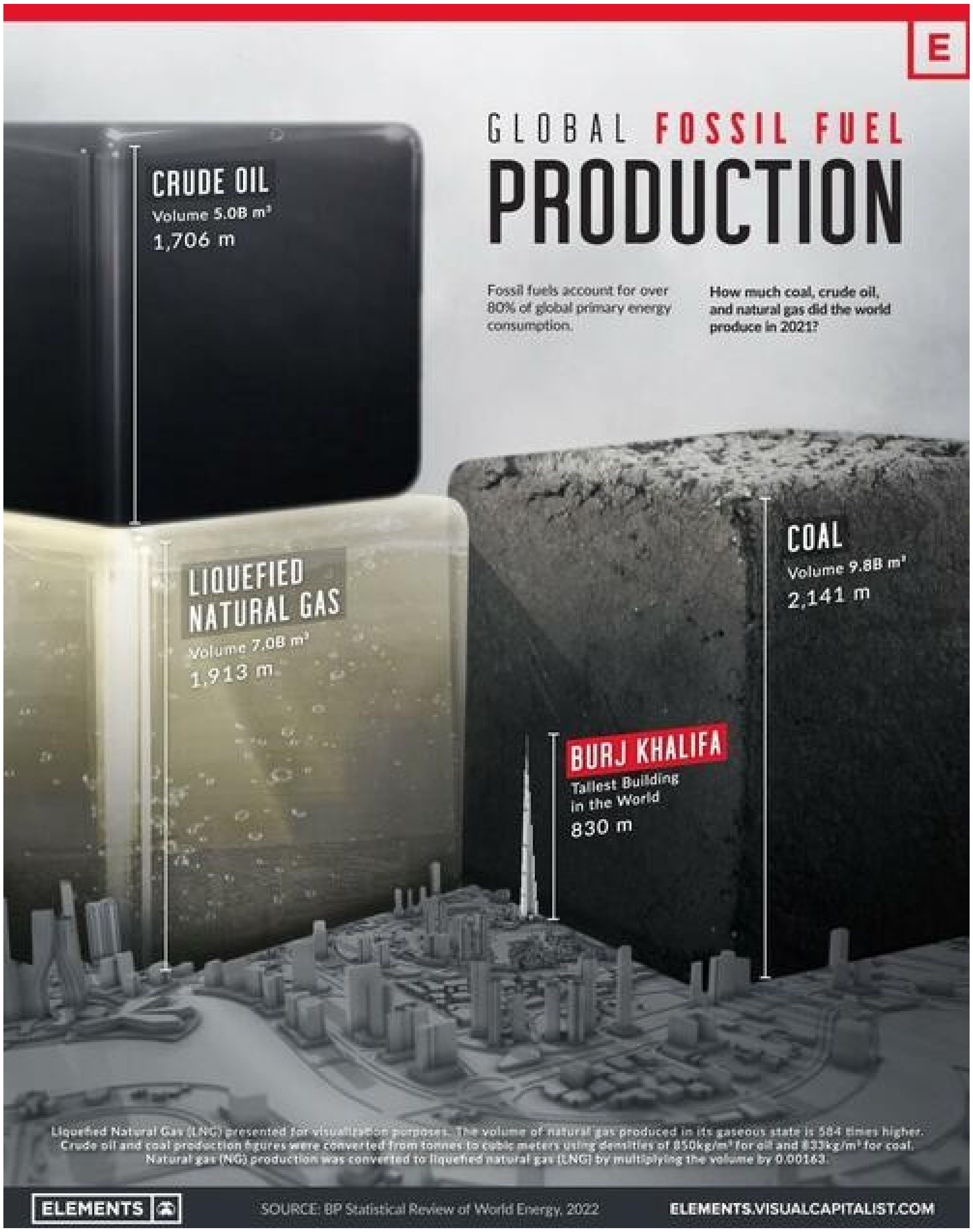
In the short term, generative AI tools can have positive impacts on the job market as well. For example, AI can automate repetitive and time-consuming tasks, and help humans make faster and more informed decisions by processing and analyzing large amounts of data. AI tools can free up time for humans to focus on more creative and value-adding work.

How This Article Was Created

This article was created using a language model AI trained by OpenAI. The AI was trained on a large dataset of text and was able to generate a new article based on the prompt given. In simple terms, the AI was fed information about what to write about and then generated the article based on that information.

In conclusion, generative AI is a powerful tool that has the potential to revolutionize several industries. With its ability to create new content based on existing data, generative AI has the potential to change the way we create and consume content in the future.

Government, china: feb2 **"Worst Payouts Since The Financial Crisis": Asia's Investment Bankers See Pay Cuts Up To 70%**



Vaccine, health, censorship: feb2 **vaccine, censorship: Why Is There A COVID Vaccine Mandate For Students? "I can’t figure out why Stanford is mandating the COVID vaccine for students."**
https://margaretannaalice.substack.com/p/letter-to-the-stanford-daily

Censorship, vaccine, health: feb2 **UN Initiative Targets And Doxxes Doctors And Nurses Who Don't Follow COVID-19 Narrative**

The Nevada State Board of Nursing was inundated with calls for Sirotek’s professional demise and flooded with anonymous complaints.

These complaints trace back to Team Halo, a social media influencer campaign formed as part of the United Nations Verified initiative and the Vaccine Confidence Project.

In response, Sirotek filed a police report. Her lawyer sent a cease-and-desist letter. The Epoch Times reviewed the documents.

The reply from the cease-and-desist letter? The client was acting within his First Amendment rights.

The Harassment Begins

In February 2022, Sirotek, as the face of AFLN, a patient advocacy network that boasts 22,000 nurses, appeared before Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and testified about the harm patients were experiencing when they sought treatment for COVID-19.

She said she didn’t witness patients dying from the novel virus when she volunteered to work the front lines in New York at the start of the pandemic.

Instead, in her opinion, as a medical professional with multiple master’s degrees, patients were dying from “negligence” and “medical malfeasance.”

Sirotek detailed the withholding by higher-ups of steroids and Ibuprofen and the prescribing of remdesivir. Additionally, there was zero willingness to consider possible early intervention treatments like ivermectin.

As the pandemic continued, such practices only escalated, Sirotek said.

Sirotek’s testimony resulted in cheers, widespread attention, and a target on her back.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) (C) speaks during a panel discussion titled COVID-19: A Second Opinion in Washington DC Jan. 24, 2022. (Drew Angerer/Getty Images)

“**[The harassment] all started the day we got back from DC**,” Sirotek said.

At first, the attacks started with the typical “you’re transphobic, you’re anti-LGBTQ. I mean, they even called me racist,” Sirotek, who is Hispanic, recalled.

And as more patients sought AFLN’s help, the attacks increased in frequency and force.

At first, Sirotek said the attacks appeared to come from random people. But as the attacks continued, the terms “Project Halo,” “Team Halo,” and “#TeamHalo” continually cropped up. Especially on TikTok and from two accounts, “@jesss2019” and “@thatsassynp.”

“[@thatsassynp] just kept on saying how I was spreading misinformation, [that] ivermectin doesn’t work,” Sirotek said. “He kept targeting the Nevada State Board of Nursing because I was on the Practice Act Committee, and he did not feel like that was acceptable.”

Craig Perry, a lawyer representing nurses, including Sirotek, before the Nevada State Board of Nursing, confirmed Sirotek’s account. The executive director of the Nevada State Board of Nursing, Cathy Dinauer, declined to provide details on complaints or investigations, stating to The Epoch Times via email that they are “confidential.”

Sirotek said the complaints overwhelmed her ability to defend her nursing license.

"Untimely, they were filing so many complaints against me that [the Nevada State Board of Nursing] had to start filtering them as to what was applicable and not applicable. And [the complaints] just buried my nursing license to the point that we couldn't even defend it," Sirotek said.

Attacks Transition to Threats

Whenever Sirotek, or AFLN, tried to set up a community outreach webinar, hateful comments flooded their videos.

Julia McCabe, a registered nurse and the director of advocacy services for AFLN, told The Epoch Times that initially, they tried kicking the trolls out of the outreach videos. But they couldn't keep up with the overwhelming numbers and had to shut the videos down, usually after only 10 minutes, she said.

To address the swarms, as McCabe labeled them, AFLN started charging an entrance fee for their webinars. But, McCabe said, they'd send out an email with a free access code to all of their subscribers before the webinar started. It helped, but not enough. The swarms kept coming. And the attacks escalated.

On June 5, 2022, @thatsassynp posted a video on TikTok calling for a "serious public uprising," because the Nevada State Board of Nursing and other regulatory agencies weren't disciplining nurses for spreading "disinformation."

It became one of many such videos in the ensuing days. In the comments of one, he stated, "Also, stay tuned as [@jesss2019] will be addressing this as well. We are teaming up (as per usual) to raise awareness and demand action on this issue." @jesss2019 responded, "Yes!!!! We will get this taken care of."

Jess and Tyler Kuhk of @thatsassynp have "teamed up" on several occasions, targeting healthcare workers who question the COVID-19 narrative. Team Halo doesn't officially list Kuhk on its site, but Kuhk posts with the #teamhalo.

In another video, he states, "If you're new to this series, PLEASE watch the videos in my playlist 'Nevada board of nursing.' This started in Feb of this year." His video has almost 35,000 "loves."

On June 7, 2022, @jesss2019 posted a video on TikTok accusing Sirotek of spreading misinformation. It included a link to @thatsassynp, and his complaints about Sirotek to the Nevada State Board of Nursing and calls to remove her from the Practice Act Committee. She implored TikTok to boost the message. It, too, became one of many videos attacking Sirotek.

Specifically, @jesss2019 and @thatsassynp took issue with videos and posts from Sirotek, and AFLN, advocating for ivermectin and highlighting possible issues with remdesivir and the COVID-19 vaccines.

@jess2019 removed all of the above videos after The Epoch Times sought comment. The Epoch Times retains copies.

Sirotek says she received the first death threat against herself and her children around the same time, in June 2022.

"They cut off the pictures of my children's faces from our family photos, where we take them every year on our front porch—we've got 11 years of those photos—and they cut them out and put them on the bodies of those little boys that have been sexually abused. And that's what would get sent to my house. And I gave the police that," Sirotek said.

In response to a request for comment from The Epoch Times, Sen. Johnson defended Sirotek.

"The COVID Cartel continues to frighten and silence those who tell the truth and challenge their failed response to COVID," Johnson said. "It is simply wrong for Ms. Sirotek to be smeared and attacked like so many others who have had the courage and compassion to successfully treat COVID patients."

As the threats continued and escalated, Sirotek also asked Perry to send a cease-and-desist letter to Tyler Kuhk on Aug. 1, 2022.

Kuhk, a nurse practitioner, is the person posting on TikTok under the pseudonym @thatsassynp.

The TikTok logo is pictured outside the company's U.S. head office in Culver City, California, on Sept. 15, 2020. (Mike Blake/Reuters)

The letter sent to Kuhk alleges that on at least 10 different occasions, @thatsassynp encouraged a "public uprising" against Sirotek. It also details that his videos attacking Sirotek garnered over 400,000 views.

In response, McLetchie Law, a "boutique law firm serving prominent and emerging … media entities" responded to Perry by stating in a letter dated Aug. 16, 2022, "Both Nevada law and the First Amendment provide robust protections for our client's (and others') rights to criticize Ms. Sirotek's dangerous views and practices—and to advocate for her removal from the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee of the Nevada State Board of Nursing."

It also warned that any attempt to deter Kuhk from his chosen path would "backfire" and could result in a "negative financial impact." Neither Kuhk nor McLetchie Law responded to The Epoch Times' request for comment.

Unable to confirm the real name behind the TikTok account @jesss2019, and thus, unable to send her a legal letter, Sirotek posted some of the threats she'd received on Facebook, pleading for @jesss2019 to cease targeting her, and recognize the possible real-world harm.

In desperation, Sirotek asked Perry to file a legal name change, which he did on Sep. 15, 2022, hoping that would thwart people's ability to look up Sirotek's information. Perry told The Epoch Times, "Usually, when you do a name change, it's a public record. But under extenuating circumstances, you can have that sealed."

In Sirotek's case, the court recognized the threat to her and her family's safety, waived the publication requirement, granted the change, and sealed her record on Oct. 4, 2022.

Sirotek, at the behest of Perry, filed a police report detailing the harassment on Oct. 17, 2022.

In December 2022, @jesss2019 posted a video to TikTok doxing Sirotek by revealing her name change. The Epoch Times sought comment from @jesss2019 but has not received a response. After the request for comment, the user removed the video.

Team Halo and Social Media

On Dec. 17, 2020, Theo Bertram, a director at TikTok; Iain Bundred, the head of public policy at YouTube; and Rebecca Stimson, the UK head of public policy for Facebook, appeared before the UK's House of Commons to explain what their social media sites were doing to combat "anti-vaccination disinformation."

All three stated their companies employed a "two-pronged approach." Specifically, "tackle disinformation and promote trusted content."

Bundred stated that from the beginning of the year to November 2020, YouTube had removed 750,000 videos that promoted "Covid disinformation."

The logos of Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, and Snapchat on mobile devices in a combination of 2017–2022 photos. (AP Photo)

Stimson stated that between March and October 2020, “12 million pieces of content were removed from [Facebook],” and it had labeled 167 million pieces with a warning.

Bertram stated that for the first six months of 2020, TikTok removed 1,500 accounts for “Covid violation” and had recently increased that activity. “In the last two months, we took action against 1,380 accounts, so you can see the level of action is increasing,” Bertram said.

“In October, we began work with Team Halo,” Bertram added. “I do not know if you are familiar with Team Halo. It is run by the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and is about getting reliable, trusted scientists and doctors on to social media to spread trusted information.”

Team Halo’s Origins

On Sep. 20, 2022, Melissa Fleming, the under-secretary-general for global communications at the United Nations, appeared at the World Economic Forum to discuss how the United Nations was “Tackling Disinformation” regarding “health guidance” as well as the “safety and efficacy of the vaccine” for COVID-19.

“**A key strategy that we had was to deploy influencers**,” Fleming stated. “Influencers who were really keen, who had huge followings, but really keen to help carry messages that were going to serve their communities.”

Fleming also explained that the United Nations knew its messaging wouldn’t resonate as well as influencers, so they developed Team Halo.

“We had another trusted messenger project, which was called Team Halo, where we trained scientists around the world, and some doctors, on TikTok. We had

TikTok working with us," Fleming said. "It was a layered deployment of ideas and tactics."

Read more [***here…***]

War, sanctions: feb2 read later: escobar says something unbelievable: Realizing NATO's war with Russia will likely end unfavorably, the US is test-driving an exit offer. But why should Moscow take indirect proposals seriously, especially on the eve of its new military advance and while it is in the winning seat?

Those behind the Throne are never more dangerous than when they have their backs against the wall.

Their power is slipping away, fast: Militarily, via NATO's progressive humiliation in Ukraine; Financially, sooner rather than later, most of the Global South will want nothing to do with the currency of a bankrupt rogue giant; Politically, the global majority is taking decisive steps to stop obeying a rapacious, discredited, de facto minority.

So now those behind the Throne are plotting to at least try to stall the incoming disaster on the military front.

As confirmed by a high-level US establishment source, a new directive on NATO vs. Russia in Ukraine was relayed to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Blinken, in terms of actual power, is nothing but a messenger boy for the Straussian neocons and neoliberals who actually run US foreign policy.

The secretary of state was instructed to relay the new directive – a sort of message to the Kremlin – via mainstream print media, which was promptly published by the *Washington Post*.

In the elite US mainstream media division of labor, the *New York Times* is very close to the State Department. and the *Washington Post* to the CIA. In this case though the directive was too important, and needed to be relayed by the paper of record in the imperial capital. It was published as an Op-Ed (behind paywall).

The novelty here is that for the first time since the start of Russia's February 2022 Special Military Operation (SMO) in Ukraine, the Americans are actually proposing a variation of the "offer you can't refuse" classic, including some concessions which may satisfy Russia's security imperatives.

Crucially, the US offer totally bypasses Kiev, once again certifying that this is a war against Russia conducted by Empire and its NATO minions – with the Ukrainians as mere expandable proxies.

‘Please don’t go on the offensive’

The *Washington Post’s* old school Moscow-based correspondent John Helmer has provided an important service, offering the full text of Blinken’s offer, of course extensively edited to include fantasist notions such as “US weapons help pulverize Putin’s invasion force” and a cringe-worthy explanation: “In other words, Russia should not be ready to rest, regroup and attack.”

The message from Washington may, at first glance, give the impression that the US would admit Russian control over Crimea, Donbass, Zaporozhye, and Kherson – “the land bridge that connects Crimea and Russia” – as a fait accompli.

Ukraine would have a demilitarized status, and the deployment of HIMARS missiles and Leopard and Abrams tanks would be confined to western Ukraine, kept as a “deterrent against further Russian attacks.”

What may have been offered, in quite hazy terms, is in fact a partition of Ukraine, demilitarized zone included, in exchange for the Russian General Staff cancelling its yet-unknown 2023 offensive, which may be as devastating as cutting off Kiev’s access to the Black Sea and/or cutting off the supply of NATO weapons across the Polish border.

The US offer defines itself as the path towards a “just and durable peace that upholds Ukraine’s territorial integrity.” Well, not really. It just won’t be a rump Ukraine, and Kiev might even retain those western lands that Poland is dying to gobble up.

The possibility of a direct Washington-Moscow deal on “an eventual postwar military balance” is also evoked, including no Ukraine membership of NATO. As for Ukraine itself, the Americans seem to believe it will be a “strong, non-corrupt economy with membership in the European Union.”

Whatever remains of value in Ukraine has already been swallowed not only by its monumentally corrupt oligarchy, but most of all, investors and speculators of the BlackRock variety. Assorted corporate vultures simply cannot afford to lose Ukraine’s grain export ports, as well as the trade deal terms agreed with the EU before the war. And they’re terrified that the Russian offensive may capture Odessa, the major seaport and transportation hub on the Black Sea – which would leave Ukraine landlocked.

There’s no evidence whatsoever that Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the entire Russian Security Council – including its Secretary Nikolai Patrushev and Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev – have reason to believe anything coming from the US establishment, especially via mere minions such as Blinken and the *Washington Post*. After all the *stavka* – a moniker for the high command of the Russian armed forces – regard the Americans as “non-agreement capable,” even when an offer is in writing.

This walks and talks like a desperate US gambit to stall and present some carrots to Moscow in the hope of delaying or even cancelling the planned offensive of the next few months.

Even old school, dissident Washington operatives – not beholden to the Straussian neocon galaxy – bet that the gambit will be a nothing burger: in classic “strategic ambiguity” mode, the Russians will continue on their stated drive of demilitarization, denazification and de-electrification, and will “stop” anytime and anywhere they see fit east of the Dnieper. Or beyond.

What the Deep State really wants

Washington’s ambitions in this essentially NATO vs. Russia war go well beyond Ukraine. And we’re not even talking about preventing a Russia-China-Germany Eurasian union or a peer competitor nightmare; let’s stick with prosaic issues on the Ukrainian battleground.

The key “recommendations” – military, economic, political, diplomatic – were detailed in an Atlantic Council strategy paper late last year.

And in another one, under “War scenario 1: The war continues in its current tempo,” we find the Straussian neocon policy fully spelled out.

It’s all here: from “marshaling support and military-assistance transfers to Kyiv sufficient to enable it to win” to “increase the lethality of military assistance transferred to include fighter aircraft that would enable Ukraine to control its airspace and attack Russian forces therein; and missile technology with range sufficient to reach into Russian territory.”

From training the Ukrainian military “to use Western weapons, electronic warfare, and offensive and defensive cyber capabilities, and to seamlessly integrate new recruits in the service” to buttressing “defenses on the front lines, near the Donbass region,” including “combat training focusing on irregular warfare.”

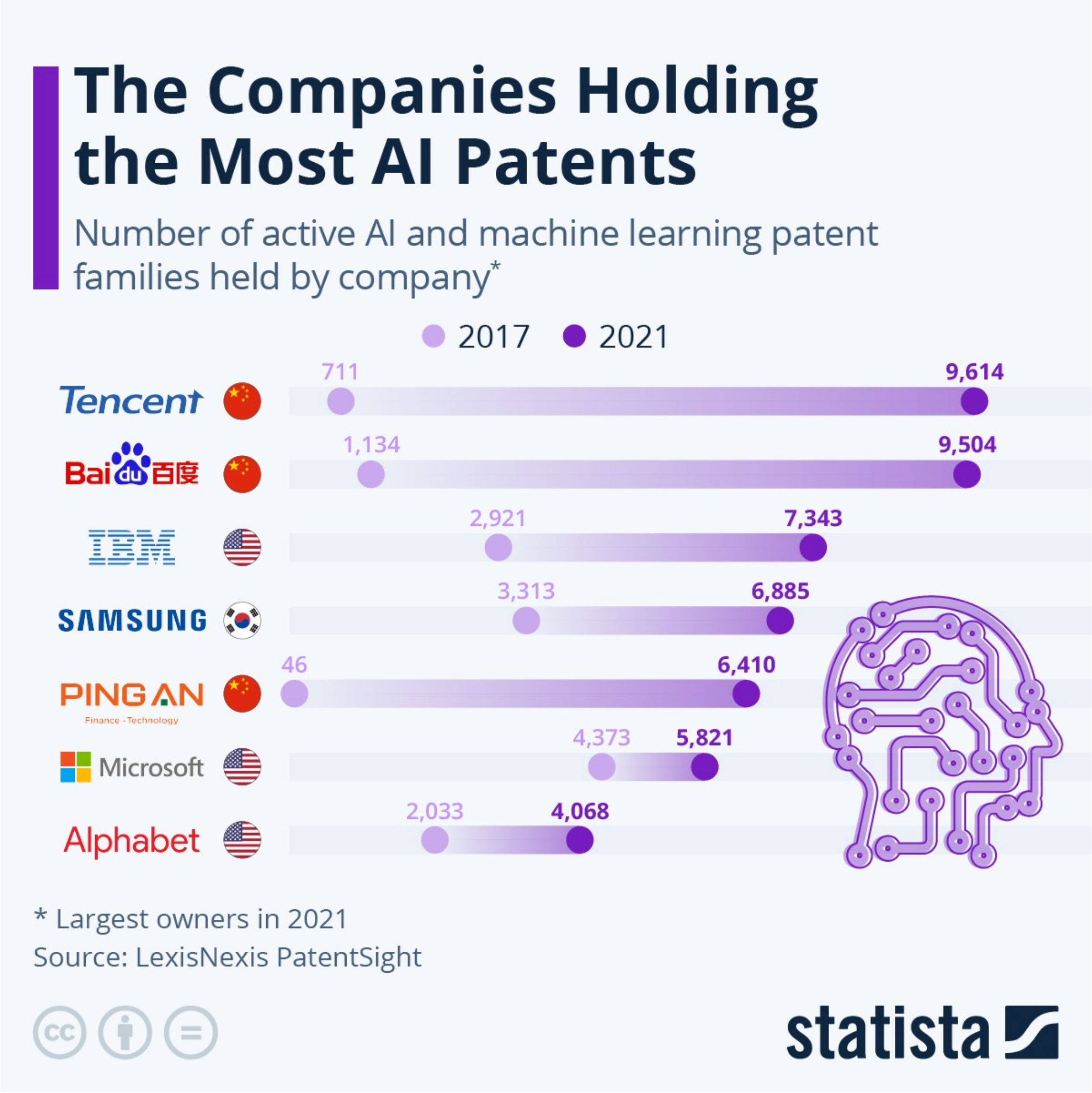
Added to “imposing secondary sanctions on all entities doing business with the Kremlin,” we reach of course the Mother of All Plunders: “Confiscate the $300 billion that the Russian state holds in overseas accounts in the United States and EU and use seized monies to fund reconstruction.”

The reorganization of the SMO, with Putin, Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov, and General Armageddon in their new, enhanced roles is derailing all these elaborate plans.

The Straussians are now in deep panic. Even Blinken’s number two, Russophobic warmonger Victoria “F**k the EU” Nuland, has admitted to the US Senate there will be no Abrams tanks on the battlefield before Spring (realistically, only in 2024). She also promised to “ease sanctions” if Moscow “returns to negotiations." Those negotiations were scotched by the Americans themselves in Istanbul in the Spring of 2022.

Nuland also called the Russians to "withdraw their troops." Well, that at least offers some comic relief compared with the panic oozing from Blinken's "offer you can't refuse." Stay tuned for Russia's non-response response.

Stats, ai, tech, government: companies holding the most active AI and machine learning patent families are now tech giant Tencent and search engine provider Baidu, ahead of U.S. firm IBM, South Korea's Samsung, Chinese insurance provider Ping An and former AI patent leader Microsoft.



Censorship, government, sanctions: feb2 **EU Corruption Scandal: Socialist MEP Lived "Lifestyle Of A Movie Star"**

Via Remix News,

The Qatargate corruption scandal that has sent shockwaves through Brussels has also revealed that **the key suspect, a “socialist” politician, enjoyed the “lifestyle of a movie star,”** according to Hungarian newspaper Origo.

Vaccine, health, censorship: feb2 **Massive Peer-Reviewed Mask Study Shows 'Little To No Difference' In Preventing COVID, Flu Infection; strongest science to date refuting the basis for mask mandates worldwide.**

zerohedgedotcom/political/massive-mask-study-shows-little-no-difference-preventing-covid-flu-infection

Government, planet, stats: feb2 **ECB Hikes 50bps As Expected, Issues Dovish Forward Guidance, Unveils Climate QE**

And while it is of secondary important, the most hilarious part in the statement was the ECB's disclosure of what can only be dubbed Climate QE, to wit:

For the Eurosystem's corporate bond purchases, the remaining reinvestments will be tilted more strongly towards issuers with a **better climate performance**. Without prejudice to the ECB's price stability objective, this approach will support the gradual decarbonisation of the Eurosystem's corporate bond holdings, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Yup: just when you thought the idiots in charge of the ECB couldn't shock us any more, they go ahead and totally redeem themselves.

War, Russia: **Pentagon In Classified Briefing: Ukraine Retaking Crimea 'Unlikely' feb2**

During a meeting with Ukrainian defense officials on Jan. 20, chairman of the Join Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley didn't make his counterparts too happy when he said, "I still maintain that for this year it would be very, very difficult to militarily eject the Russian forces from all –– every inch of Ukraine and occupied –– or Russian-occupied Ukraine,." He added at the time: "That doesn't mean it can't happen. Doesn't mean it won't happen, but it'd be very, very difficult."

The Pentagon has backed Milley's assessment in a new classified briefing issued to lawmakers, and reported in *Politico*. "Ukrainian forces are **unlikely to be able to recapture Crimea from Russian troops in the near future**, four senior Defense Department officials told House Armed Services Committee lawmakers in a classified briefing."

Rome: **Year of the Five Emperors last for 18 years, from 193-211, following Commodus's assassination**

Commodus (/ˈkɒmədəs/;[4] 31 August 161 – 31 December 192) was a Roman emperor who ruled from 177 to 192. He served jointly with his father Marcus Aurelius from 177 until the latter's death in 180, and thereafter he reigned alone until his assassination. His reign is commonly thought of as marking the end of a golden period of peace in the history of the Roman Empire, known as the Pax Romana.

Commodus accompanied his father during the Marcomannic Wars in 172, and on a tour of the Eastern provinces in 176. The following year he became the youngest emperor and consul up to that point, at the age of 16. During his solo reign, the Roman Empire enjoyed reduced military conflict compared with the reign of Marcus Aurelius. Intrigues and conspiracies abounded, leading Commodus to revert to an increasingly dictatorial style of leadership, culminating in his creating a deific personality cult, with his performing as a gladiator in the Colosseum. Throughout his reign, Commodus entrusted the management of affairs to his palace chamberlain and praetorian prefects, named Saoterus, Perennis and Cleander.

Commodus's assassination in 192, by a wrestler in the bath, marked the end of the Nerva–Antonine dynasty. He was succeeded by Pertinax, the first emperor in the tumultuous Year of the Five Emperors.

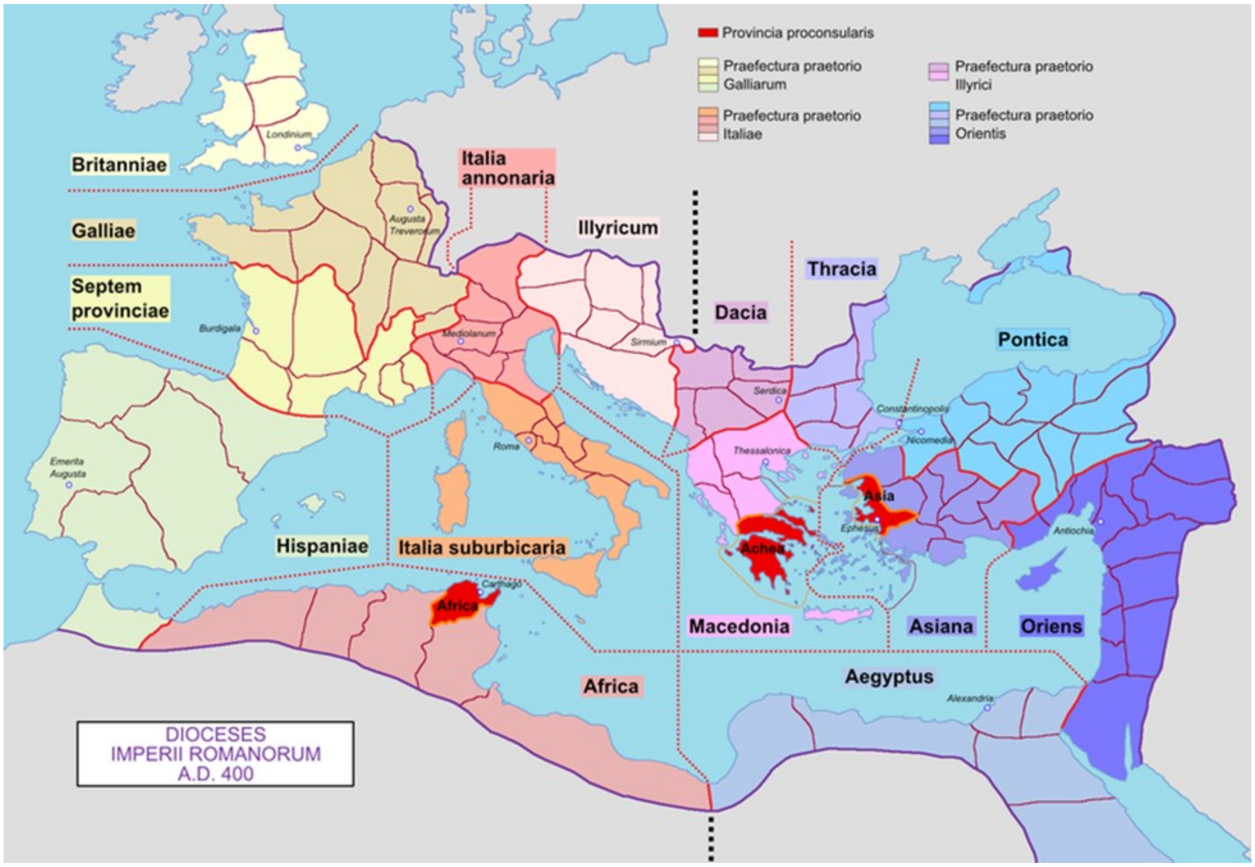
With the accession of Commodus we enter upon one of the better illuminated tracts of Roman history. The narrative of Cassius Dio is still much abbreviated and in parts fragmentary, but substantial sections are preserved, and are all the more valuable in that Dio, who entered the senate in Commodus’ reign, now speaks as a con- temporary witness of events, carrying down his story to his own second consulship in 229. In addition to Dio we have another contemporary historian, Herodian, who covers the period from the death of Marcus to the fall of Maximinus in 23 8 ; his work is rather jejune and rhetorical, but he like Dio was well placed to view events, having occupied, as he tells us, official positions during most of the period. We are therefore much less dependent on the Historia Augusta, which is, however, for some of the earlier reigns, based on good material. In addition to the historians, we possess, preserved in the Digest, extensive extracts from the writings of the great Severan jurists, Papinian, Paulus and Ulpian, to name the three most illustrious only, which throw much light on the social conditions of the age.
Commodus was, according to Dio, a simple harmless youth when he came to the throne at the age of nineteen, but he was supremely unfitted for imperial responsibilities, being stupid and obstinate and taking no interest in public affairs; his one passion was

gladiatorial shows, and he fancied himself as a gladiator. He alienated the senate at once by flouting the advice of his father's counsellors and patching up peace on the Danube instead of fighting the war to a finish. On his return to Rome a senator attempted to assassinate him, declaring as he brandished his dagger, 'Look, this is what the senate has sent you!' It is not surprising that Com- modus thereafter waged ruthless war on the senate, and entrusted the government to his praetorian prefects or less worthy favourites. After a twelve years' reign he was at length assassinated in 192.
The assassins selected as his successor a very elderly senator,. Helvius Pertinax. He was of humble origins, but had had a very distinguished military career, and had held the senior senatorial, office of prefect of the city. It was apparently hoped that his. military reputation would commend him to the armies, while his, high offices, his respectable character, and above all his advanced age would in the eyes of senators compensate for his lowly birth : it is noticeable that the senate, whenever it had any choice, normally

elected an octogenarian, but preferably one of noble birth. Pertinax reigned less than three months before he was lynched by the praetorians. There ensued an informal auction of the empire by the praetorians, the two bidders being the prefect of the city and another immensely wealthy senator, Didius Julianus, who secured the prize by the promise of a fabulous donative.

It was unlikely that other ambitious senators, who commanded tiie major provincial armies, would acquiesce in this choice, and now that the line of the Antonines had been broken, the armies had no focus for their loyalty and could be induced to back their own generals against the candidate of the praetorians. Three men were in the running, Clodius Albinus, legate of Britain, a man of family and the senatorial favourite, Pescennius Niger, legate of Syria, a new man, but popular with the humbler classes at Rome, and Septimius Severus, legate of the Pannonias, another new man, little liked in the senate. Niger was proclaimed at Antioch, but while, over-confident of success, he remained inactive, Severus struck. Proclaiming himself the avenger of Pertinax, whose name he adopted, and thereby cultivating the goodwill both of the Danube armies, whose popular commander Pertinax had been, and of the senate, he marched rapidly on Rome, which he captured without a struggle. The senate duly elected him, and he announced that, following the example of Marcus, he would respect its prerogatives. Having appointed Albinus Caesar, with the prospect of succeeding him, he marched east to deal with Niger, and defeated him after a severe struggle. Returning west again he picked a quarrel with Albinus, and after another severe struggle conquered him also. Severus found that a number of prominent senators had been intriguing with Albinus against him, and on his second appearance at Rome he abruptly changed his tone to the senate, executing twenty-nine of its leading members for treason, and confiscating their property. He now moreover, to the senate's horror, pro- claimed himself not only son of Marcus but brother of Commodus, and honoured the latter's memory.
https://archive.org/details/JonesLaterRomanEmpire01/page/n13/mode/2up?q=prefects
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_of_the_Five_Emperors

Roman Empire with dioceses in 400 AD


Provincia proconsularis
Praefectura praetorio Galliarum
Praefectura praetorio Illyrici
Praefectura praetorio Italiae
Praefectura praetorio Orientis
Britanniae
Londinium
Italia annonaria
Galliae
Augusta Treverorum
Illyricum
Thracia
Septem provinciae
Burdigala
Mediolanum
Sirmium
Dacia
Pontica
Serdica
Constantinopolis
Nicomedia
Thessalonica
Roma
Emerita Augusta
Asia
Ephesus
Antiochia
Achea
Hispaniae
Italia suburbicaria
Carthago
Africa
Macedonia
Asiana
Oriens
Aegyptus
Africa
Alexandria
DIOCESES
IMPERII ROMANORUM
A.D. 400

history, church: From a Catholic viewpoint, the primacy of the bishop of Rome is largely derived from his role as the apostolic successor to Saint Peter, to whom primacy was conferred by Jesus, who gave Peter the Keys of Heaven and the powers of "binding and loosing", naming him as the "rock" upon which the Church would be built. The current pope is Francis, who was elected on 13 March 2013.[7]

According to Catholic tradition, the apostolic see of Rome was founded by Saint Peter and Saint Paul in the first century. The papacy is one of the most enduring institutions in the world and has had a prominent part in human history.[9] In ancient times, the popes helped spread Christianity and intervened to find resolutions in various doctrinal disputes.[10] In the Middle Ages, they played a role of secular importance in Western Europe, often acting as arbitrators between Christian monarchs.[11][12][a] In addition to the expansion of Christian faith and doctrine, modern popes are involved in ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, charitable work, and the defense of human rights.[13]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope

the pope: Over time, the papacy accrued broad secular and political influence, eventually rivaling those of territorial rulers. In recent centuries, the temporal authority of the papacy has declined and the office is now largely focused on religious matters.[10] By contrast, papal claims of spiritual authority have been increasingly firmly expressed over time, culminating in 1870 with the proclamation of the dogma of papal infallibility for rare occasions when the pope speaks ex cathedra—literally "from the chair (of Saint Peter)"—to issue a formal definition of faith or morals.[10] The pope is considered one of the world's most powerful people due to the extensive diplomatic, cultural, and spiritual influence of his position on both 1.3 billion Catholics and those outside the Catholic faith,[14][15][16] and because he heads the world's largest non-government provider of education and health care,[17] with a vast network of charities.

Christianity as the Roman state religion

Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire when Emperor Theodosius I issued the Edict of Thessalonica in 380,[1] which recognized the catholic orthodoxy[a] of Nicene Christians in the Great Church as the Roman Empire's state religion.[3][4][5][6] Most historians refer to the Nicene church associated with emperors in a variety of ways: as the **catholic church**, the **orthodox church**, the **imperial church**, the **imperial Roman church**, or the **Byzantine church**, although some of those terms are also used for wider communions extending outside the Roman Empire.[7] The Eastern Orthodox Church, Oriental Orthodoxy, and the Catholic Church all claim to stand in continuity from the Nicene church to which Theodosius granted recognition.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_as_the_Roman_state_religion

read later: papal arbitration

Energy, sanctions: feb1 Russia's Pipeline Gas Exports To Europe Slump To Record Low

By Tsvetana Paraskova of OilPrice.com,

Russia’s pipeline gas exports to Europe slumped to a new monthly record-low in January, falling by nearly 30% from December due to lower prices on the spot market, according to Reuters calculations.

Russia’s gas giant Gazprom has seen exports to Europe decline since the Russian invasion of Ukraine last year as Russia cut off gas supplies to a number of countries in Europe. Russia cut off supply to Poland, Bulgaria, and Finland in April and May, slashed gas deliveries via Nord Stream to Germany in June, then off Nord Stream supply in early September.

Russia still sends some gas via pipelines to Europe via one transit route through Ukraine, and via TurkStream.

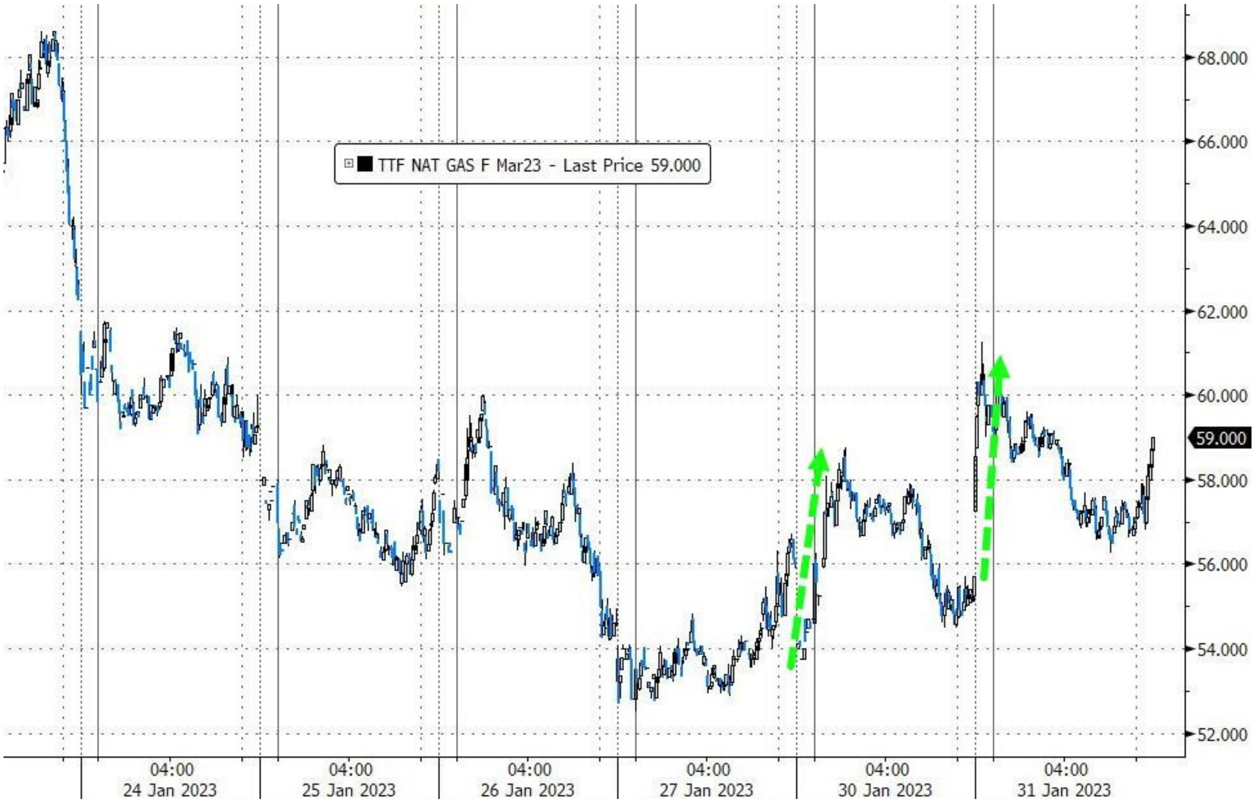
This month, Gazprom has reduced pipeline gas transit flows to Europe via Ukraine on some days. **Analysts have said that the lower pipeline flows were the result of lower demand for gas under long-term contracts, considering the milder weather in parts of Europe earlier in January and the fact that spot supply is currently cheaper.**

Per Reuters calculations, which are based on daily data of flows from Russia via the transit route through Ukraine and via TurkStream, pipeline gas exports from Russia to Europe dropped to around some 1.8 billion cubic meters (bcm) in January, down from 2.5 bcm in December.

Gazprom hasn’t released January export data yet, but its **exports to Europe via pipelines plunged to a post-Soviet low in 2022,** according to data from the Russian firm calculated by Reuters. Last year’s Russian gas exports slumped by 45% year on year to reach 100.9 bcm in 2022.

Germany, Russia’s biggest customer of gas before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, doesn’t import any Russian gas via pipeline now. **Norway became Germany’s single-largest natural gas supplier in 2022, overtaking Russia, as total German gas imports dropped by 12.3% compared to 2021.**

Markets, sanctions, energy: feb1 European Natural Gas Prices Surge Ahead Of Cold Spell



War, middle east, markets, inflation: feb1

Hyperinflationary Hell: Lebanese Central Bank Devalues 'Lira' By 90%

Hyperinflationary Hell: Lebanese Central Bank Devalues 'Lira' By 90%

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 01, 2023 - 05:15 AM

Cash is now king in Lebanon, where a three-year economic meltdown has led the country's once-lauded financial sector to atrophy and turned the country into a Venezuelan-esque hyperinflationary hell. The country has been hit hard by events over the past few years, starting with COVID.

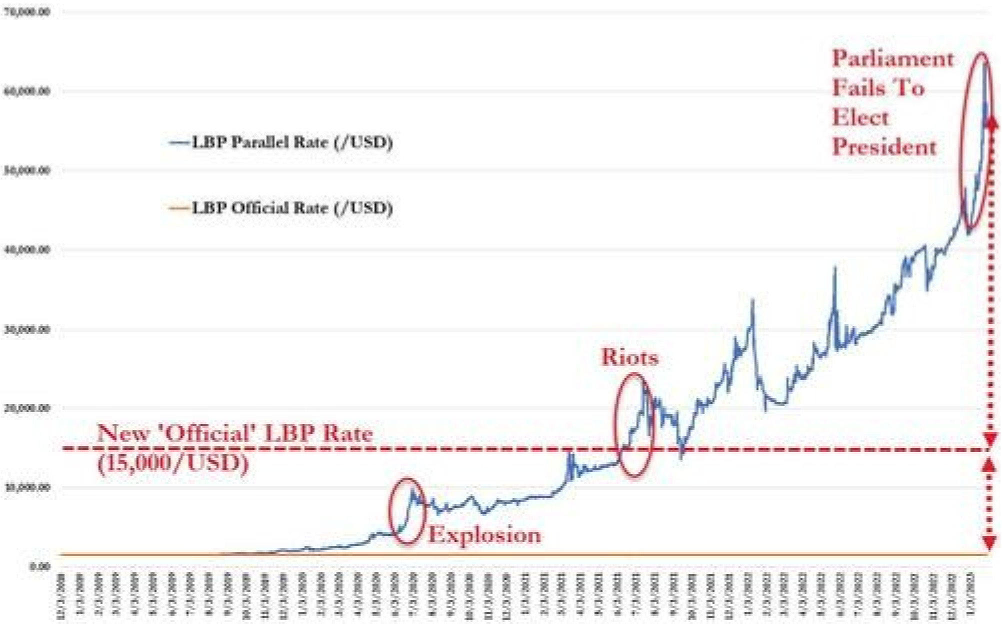
In August 2020, the city of Beiruit was practically destroyed by a **massive blast which killed at least 200 people and triggered as much as $15 billion in damage**...

In March 2021, violent protests erupted across Lebanon as the currency collapse accelerated and with it the economy and people's living standards.

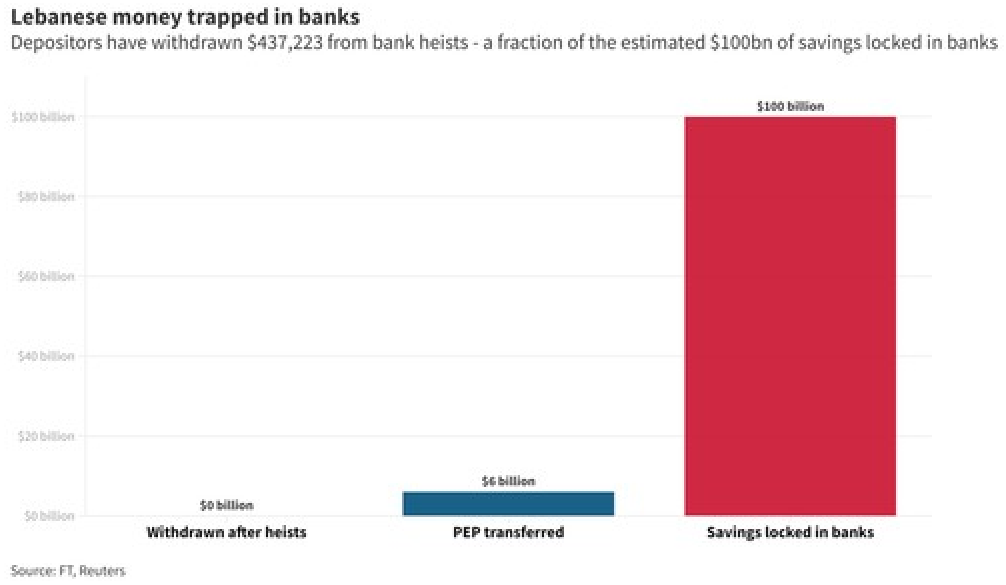
And most recently, In December 2022, the **Lebanese parliament failed for the eighth consecutive time to elect a new president**, as a majority of lawmakers opposed the options laid on the table.

The prolonged power vacuum only exacerbates the situation, as Beirut is currently unable to enact sweeping reforms demanded by international lenders as a condition for releasing billions of dollars in loans.

All of which has sent the 'parallel' FX rate to a stunning 60,000/USD (compared to the official Pound - often nicknamed 'Lira' - rate of 1500/USD)...



As Reuters reports, **Zombie banks have frozen depositors out of tens of billions of dollars in their accounts,** halting basic services and even prompting some customers to hold up tellers at gunpoint to access their money.



Lebanese money trapped in banks

Depositors have withdrawn $437,223 from bank heists - a fraction of the estimated $100bn of savings locked in banks

Source: FT, Reuters

This has prompted bank runs...

Not a week goes by without Lebanese depositors storming their own banks in a desperate attempt to access savings frozen after the country's economy collapsed.

Banks began imposing draconian limits on withdrawals and transfers in 2019, leaving depositors able to access only a fraction of their savings in dollars and Lebanese pounds.

and heists...

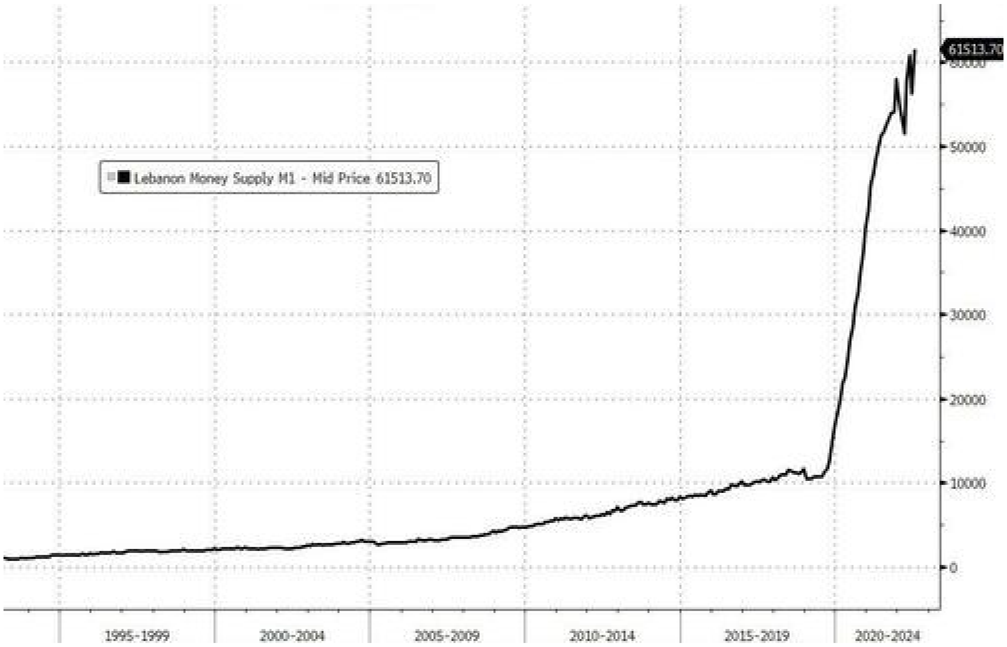
The National has recorded 27 depositor bank “heists” since the start of the year, including armed and unarmed hold-ups and sit-ins.

*Former director-general of the Ministry of Finance Alain Bifani estimated that **$6 billion was “smuggled” by bankers outside Lebanon for the political and economic elites while they were blocking transfers abroad for ordinary people.***

“These forced withdrawals — we do not call them heists, because this would imply that these depositors are stealing other people's money — are a solution of last-resort after the exhaustion of all possible ways for depositors to recover their money,” said lawyer Fouad Debs, co-founder of Lebanese Depositors Union.

People and businesses now operate almost exclusively in cash.

The local currency in circulation ballooned 12-fold between Sept. 2019 and Nov. 2022, according to banking documents seen by Reuters.



With more bank notes in circulation, crime has risen. Elie Anatian, CEO of security firm Salvado, said yearly sales of safes had grown steadily, with a 15% increase in 2022.

And that has seemingly forced officials' hands as Reuters reports that **Lebanon will adopt a new official exchange rate of 15,000 pounds per U.S. dollar on Feb. 1, central bank governor Riad Salameh said, marking a 90% devaluation** from its current official rate that has remained unchanged for 25 years.

The shift from the old rate of 1,507 to 15,000 is still far off the parallel market rate of around 60,000.

Salameh said the change to 15,000 was a step towards unifying multiple exchange rates, in line with a draft agreement Lebanon reached with the International Monetary Fund last year that set out conditions to unlock a $3 billion bailout.

Nassib Ghobril, chief economist at Lebanon's Byblos Bank, said **the pound's continuing decline meant the cash economy was now also dollarised, "with dollars accounting for approximately 70-80% of operations".**

"The transformation to a cash economy means the collapse of the economy," said Mohammad Chamseddine, an economic expert at Lebanese research group Information International.

The IMF deal is widely seen as the only way for Lebanon to begin restoring confidence in its financial system and recover from the collapse.

However, as we previously noted, **there have also been fights in supermarkets as people try to buy bread, sugar, oil, and other goods before they run out**, with inflation 400 percent, the report said.

Murder rates and other crimes are also rapidly rising.

The economic collapse could reduce the country into a failed state, experts have warned.

“Not only do we have an absence of government and a political vacuum, but we’re going to have a severe problem with the function of the state of Lebanon,” Lebanese American University political scientist Imad Salamey told The Wall Street Journal. ***“We are heading toward the unknown.”***

stats, censorship: nearly all nonprofit journalism organizations are 501(c)3 nonprofits) and refusal to disclose its donors

Stats, media, planet, history: jan31 **that vsauce video i was thinking about…shows a thematic timeline nicely illustrating how short what we know as ‘civilized society” has lasted compared to how long we lived as cave people. The video shows us walking through caves and the forest for about 30 seconds, then suddenly switches to a video of a city from birds eye view that only lasts for an instant, meaning to convey how new we are as a species to technology, advanced medicine, etc.**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNLdblFQqsw

War: jan31 **atw full page. Just saving the full page now**

News

Updated January 31, 2023 - 9:10 AM EST

Poland Ready to Send F-16s to Ukraine With

Croatia's President: Western Arms Supplies to Ukraine Prolong War

RAND Corp: Long Ukraine War Against US Interests

Western Officials Believe Russia Will 'Gain Upper Hand' in Ukraine

More Airstrikes Reported in Syria Near Iraq Border

Iran Summons Ukraine Envoy Over Israeli Drone Attack Comments

Russia and Iran Launch Payment System as an Alternative to Swift

Finland Says It Will Stick With Sweden in NATO Bid

Taiwan Warnings Show US Military Is Preparing for War

Suicide Bomber Kills 59, Wounds 150 at Pakistan Mosque

Viewpoints

The Real Disinformation Was the 'Russia Disinformation' Hoax **by Ron Paul**

WikiLeaks Has Been Persecuted Mercilessly for Revealing the Secrets of US Empire **by Chip Gibbons**

Tanks a Lot, Joe!
by Bradley Devlin

First Artillery, Then Tanks, Then Warplanes, Then What? **by Anatol Lieven**

More Viewpoints

Spotlight

NATO's 'War Against Russia' Inches 'Closer to Direct Conflict'

by Aaron Maté

Frontline

UK Faces Lawsuit Over Saudi Arms Sales Contributing to Yemen Abuses

Blinken Lands in Israel, Calls for 'Steps to Calm Tensions'

Jenin's Bereaved Residents Left in a 'War Zone' Following Israeli Raid

Russia

Palestine/Israel

Euro-Med Monitor Report Reveals Surge in Israeli Violence Against Palestinians

Israeli Settlers Attack Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem

US Not Interested in Pressing Israel Amid Violence: Experts

Hamas Shoots Down Israeli UAV Drone Over Gaza Strip

Dozens of Israeli Settlers Storm Al-Aqsa Mosque

Settlers, Army Go on Revenge Rampage in West Bank

Jenin Refugee Camp Residents Defiant After Deadly Israeli Assault

Can Israel Legally Deport Families of Palestinian Terrorists?

Israeli Forces Shoot Palestinian Man Dead in Central Hebron

Rights Group Files Objection Against US Embassy Plans on Stolen Land in Jerusalem

Israel's Shekel and Stock Market Tumble in Response to Political Turmoil

Nearly 80 US Legal Scholars 'Strongly Oppose' Israel's Judicial Reforms

Syria

Flights, Cross-Border Trade to Resume Between Syria and Iraq

Syria Bus Bombing Wounds 15 Police in Restive South

Israeli Troops Shoot Dead Syrian Hunter in Occupied Golan

Iraq

Iraq Daily Roundup: Five Killed

Morocco Reopens Embassy in Iraq After 18 Years

Iraq Denies Pompeo Visited

Baghdad in 2017

Turkey

Turkey's Opposition Vows More Democracy if It Wins Election

Turkey Signs $200 Million Deal With South Korean Firm for Altay Tank Parts

Egypt

Three Tiktok Influencers Arrested in Egypt After Parody Video of Jail Visit

Explosion Kills Three Children in Egypt's North Sinai

DR Congo

Islamist Rebels Kill at Least 15 in Eastern DR Congo

Conflict Survivors to Meet Pope Francis on His DR Congo Trip

Africa

Berlin Skeptical About Troops Staying in Mali Until 2024

Morocco Remains Silent Amid Reports of Weapons to Ukraine

Tunisia Opposition Urges Unity After Low Election Turnout

Wife of ISIS Leader Jailed for Eight Years in Somalia

The War at Home

More Cite Government as Top US Problem; Inflation Ranks Second

Ex-Twitter Execs to Testify on Block of Hunter Biden Story

US House Republican to Pursue Safeguards on Classified Documents

Biden Administration Plans to End Covid Public Health Emergency on May 11

US Air Force Awards Boeing $2.3 Billion Contract for 15 More KC-46s

Aerospace Company Lockheed Martin Confirms Successful Hypersonic Missile Test

Peru

[Dems Urge Biden to Halt Aid to Peru Over Protest Crackdown]

[Peru Protests Fire Up a Divided Nation]

Censorship, government: jan31 **London Police Recruiting Illiterate Officers Who Can Barely Write English To Meet Diversity Quotas**

London Police Recruiting Illiterate Officers Who Can Barely Write English To Meet Diversity Quotas

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, JAN 31, 2023 - 04:30 AM

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News,

The Metropolitan Police in London is recruiting officers who are illiterate, can barely write English, and may have a criminal record in order to meet diversity quotas, it has been revealed.

Yes, really.

A 2014 promise to have 40% of the force be represented by ethnic minorities by 2023 has fallen well short, with just 17% of officers being from ‘diverse’ backgrounds.

Matt Parr, the head of the organization responsible for inspecting British police forces, told the Telegraph that London, “which will likely be a minority white city in the next decade or so, should not be policed by an overwhelmingly white police force.”

In addition to the optics of a largely white police force being wrong, Parr said it was also, “operationally wrong, because it means that the Met does not get insight into some of the communities it polices and that has caused problems in the past. So we completely support the drive to make the Met much more representative of the community it serves than it is at the moment.”

That drive has however led to officers being hired who struggle to even write up basic crime reports.

“They are taking in significant numbers of people who are, on paper at least, functionally illiterate in English,” said Parr, adding that the Met was “recruiting the wrong people” and that the diversity push had “lowered standards.”

However, Parr also noted that it was a good thing that the Met was “taking a risk” by hiring young black men who may have criminal records.

David Spencer, the head of the think tank Policy Exchange and a former Metropolitan Police officer, said that the diversity drive had lowered standards.

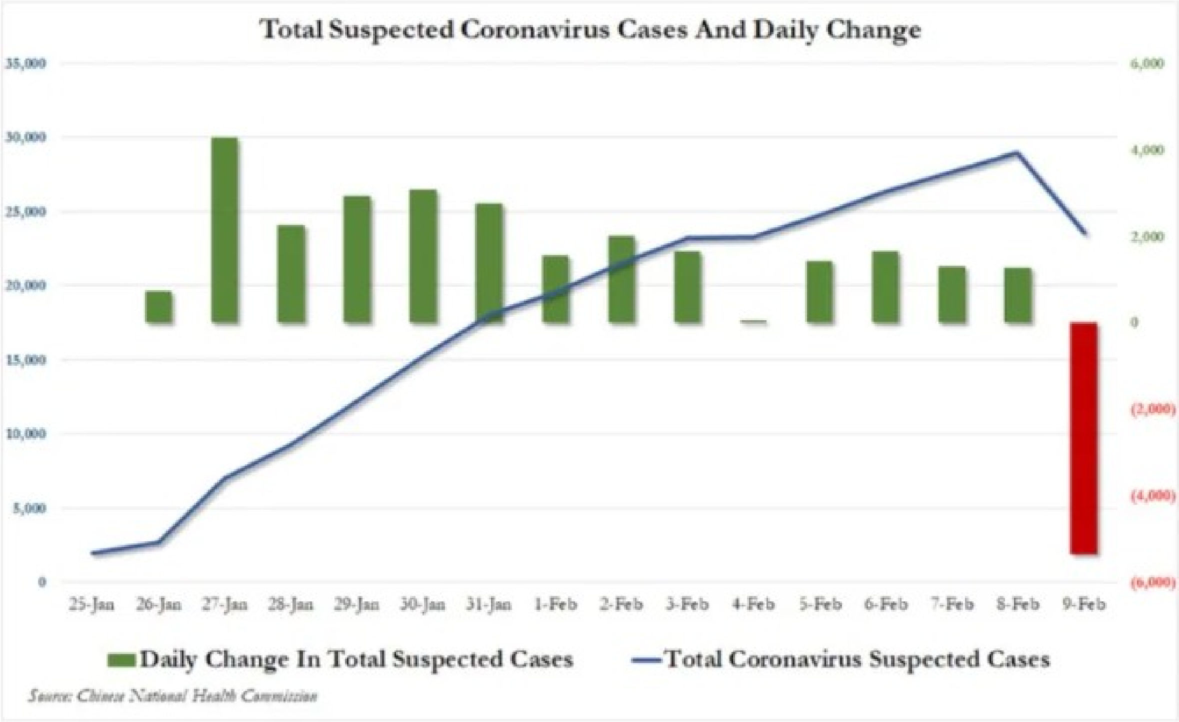
“There is a tension between volume, quality and diversity and something has to give,” Spencer explained. “Someone has to ask what is the most important of those three things and you have to be really careful because once you have recruited someone they are possibly going to be there for the next 30 years.”

As we previously highlighted, police resources in London are so stretched that major department stores have given up on calling them to catch shoplifters.

Car theft in London has effectively been decriminalized, with just 277 out of 55,000 offences being solved by Scotland Yard, a 0.5% success rate.

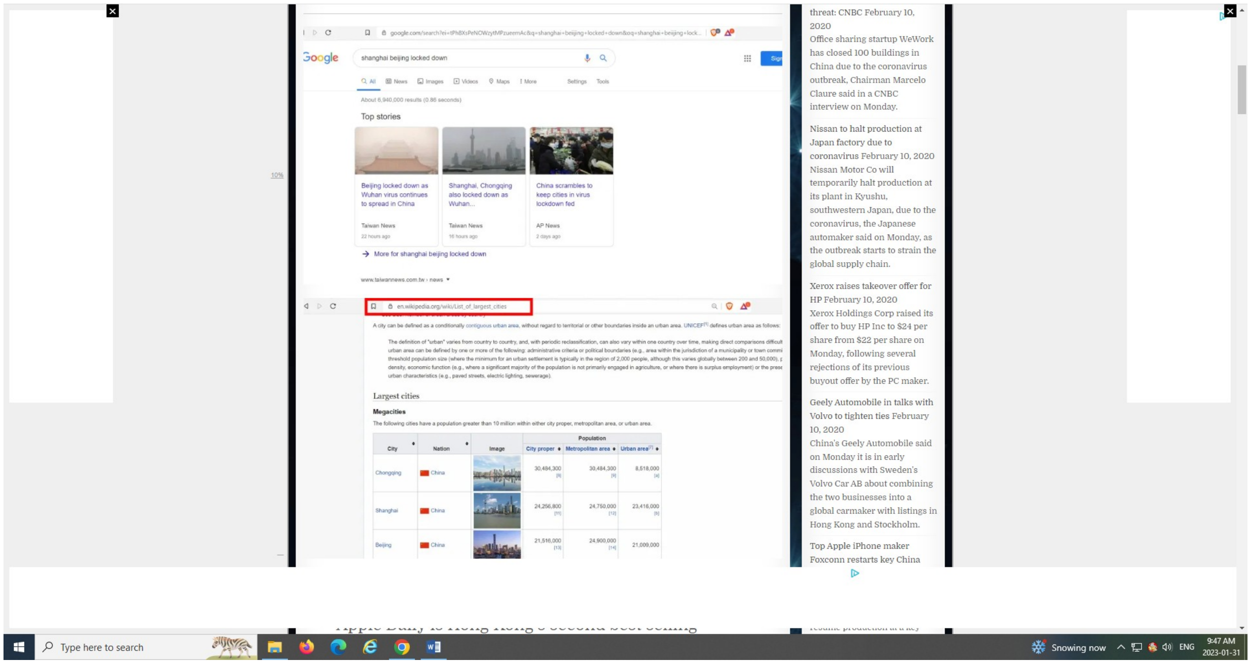
However, there still appears to be plenty of resources available to interrogate people for posting offensive social media posts.

Vaccine, health, china, censorship: jan31 **[FULL REVIEW]China Changes 'Confirmed Case' Methodology: Infected Without Symptoms (Asymptomatic) Now Does NOT Constitute a 'CONFIRMED CASE' According to Alex Lam of AppleDaily.HK**



Source: Chinese National Health Commission

Beijing and Shanghai Now Locked Down — Two Both 2nd and 3rd Most Populated Cities in the World


google.com/search?ei=tPhBXsPeNOWzytMPzueemAc&q=shanghai+beijing+locked+down&oq=shanghai+beijing+lock...
Google
shanghai beijing locked down
All
News
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More
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Tools
10%
Type here to search
Snowing now
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2023-01-31

About 6,940,000 results (0.86 seconds)

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www.taiwannews.com.tw › news

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_cities

A city can be defined as a conditionally contiguous urban area, without regard to territorial or other boundaries inside an urban area. UNICEF[1] defines urban area as follows:

> The definition of "urban" varies from country to country, and, with periodic reclassification, can also vary within one country over time, making direct comparisons difficult urban area can be defined by one or more of the following: administrative criteria or political boundaries (e.g., area within the jurisdiction of a municipality or town commi threshold population size (where the minimum for an urban settlement is typically in the region of 2,000 people, although this varies globally between 200 and 50,000), p density, economic function (e.g., where a significant majority of the population is not primarily engaged in agriculture, or where there is surplus employment) or the prese urban characteristics (e.g., paved streets, electric lighting, sewerage).

Largest cities

Megacities

The following cities have a population greater than 10 million within either city proper, metropolitan area, or urban area.

City	Nation	Image	Population		
			City proper	Metropolitan area	Urban area[7]
Chongqing	China		30,484,300 [8]	30,484,300 [9]	8,518,000 [a]
Shanghai	China		24,256,800 [11]	24,750,000 [12]	23,416,000 [b]
Beijing	China		21,516,000 [13]	24,900,000 [14]	21,009,000

threat: CNBC February 10, 2020
Office sharing startup WeWork has closed 100 buildings in China due to the coronavirus outbreak, Chairman Marcelo Claure said in a CNBC interview on Monday.

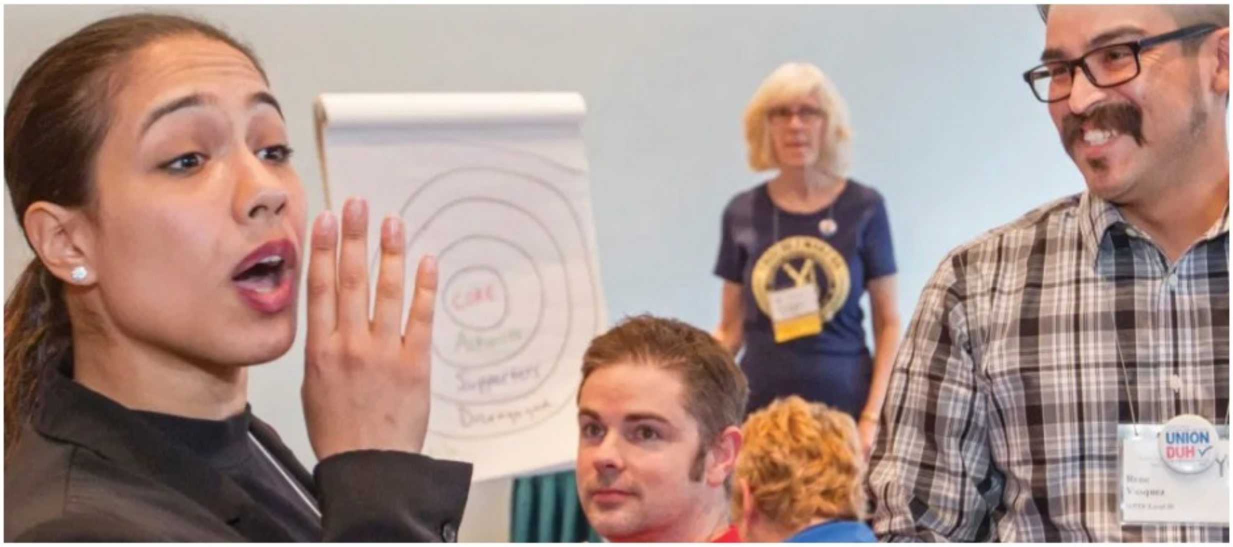
Nissan to halt production at Japan factory due to coronavirus February 10, 2020
Nissan Motor Co will temporarily halt production at its plant in Kyushu, southwestern Japan, due to the coronavirus, the Japanese automaker said on Monday, as the outbreak starts to strain the global supply chain.

Xerox raises takeover offer for HP February 10, 2020
Xerox Holdings Corp raised its offer to buy HP Inc to $24 per share from $22 per share on Monday, following several rejections of its previous buyout offer by the PC maker.

Geely Automobile in talks with Volvo to tighten ties February 10, 2020
China's Geely Automobile said on Monday it is in early discussions with Sweden's Volvo Car AB about combining the two businesses into a global carmaker with listings in Hong Kong and Stockholm.

Top Apple iPhone maker Foxconn restarts key China

Stats, media: jan31 **Subliminal Messaging: How Advertisers Use Sex to Seduce You Into Buying Their Products**

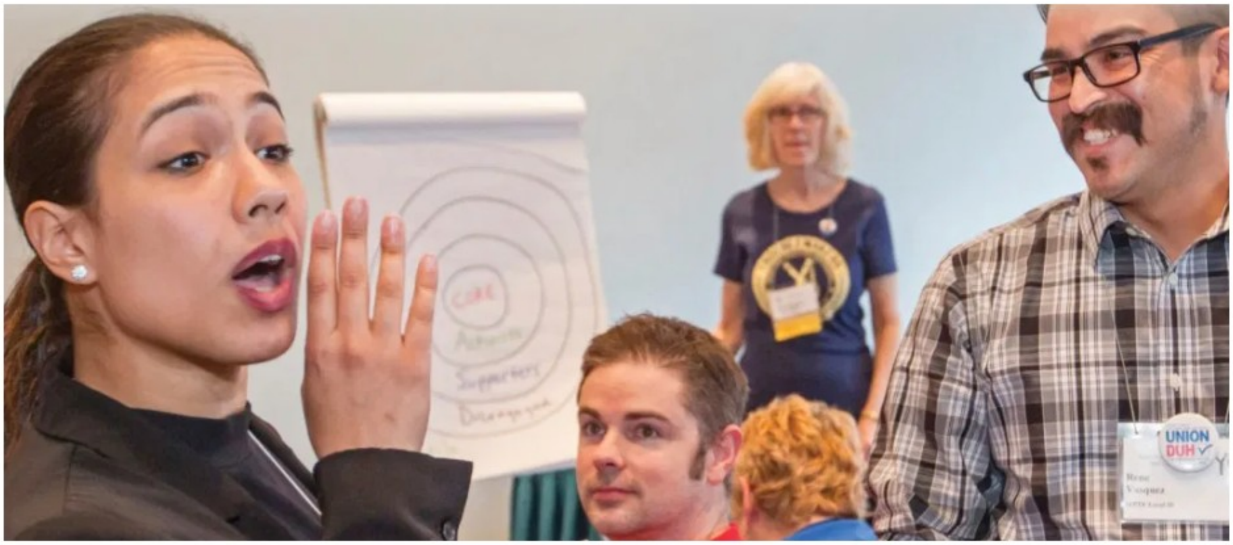


Notice something just a little bit odd about that picture; something that just kinda, sticks out a little bit?

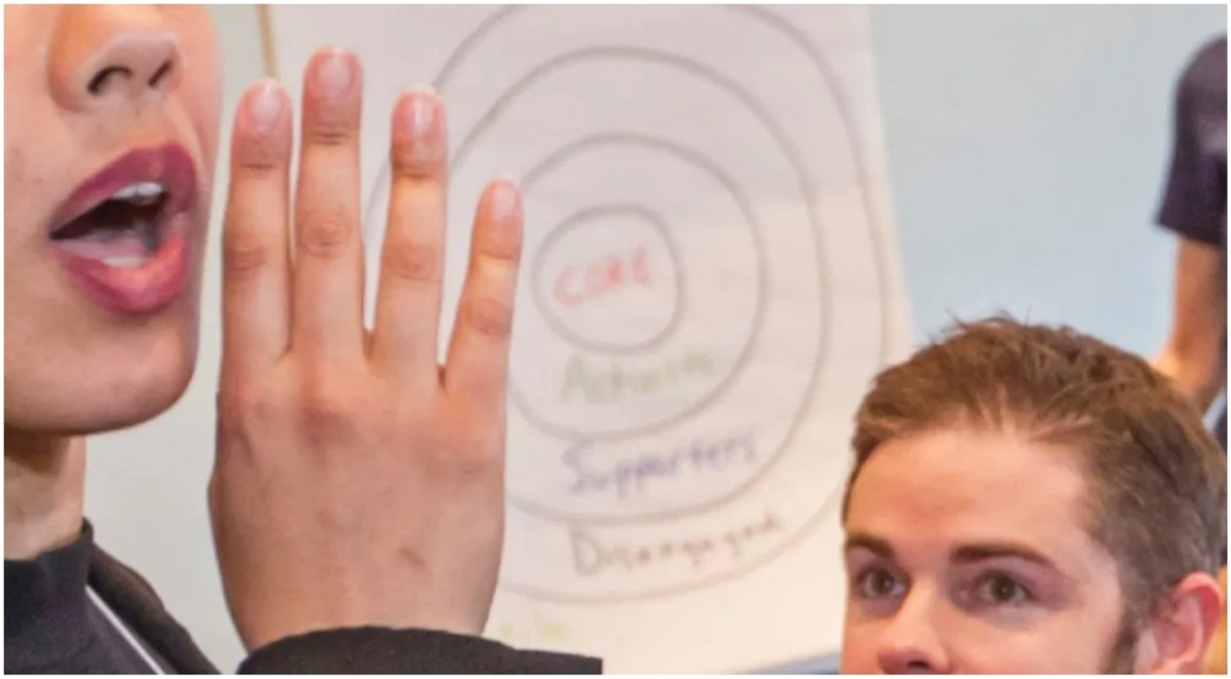
Do you see her hands? The one at the bottom almost looks like it's fondling something, doesn't it?

Do you see her mouth? Do you see where her other hand is? None of this is accidental, and everything is there for a reason.

Let's expand the picture.

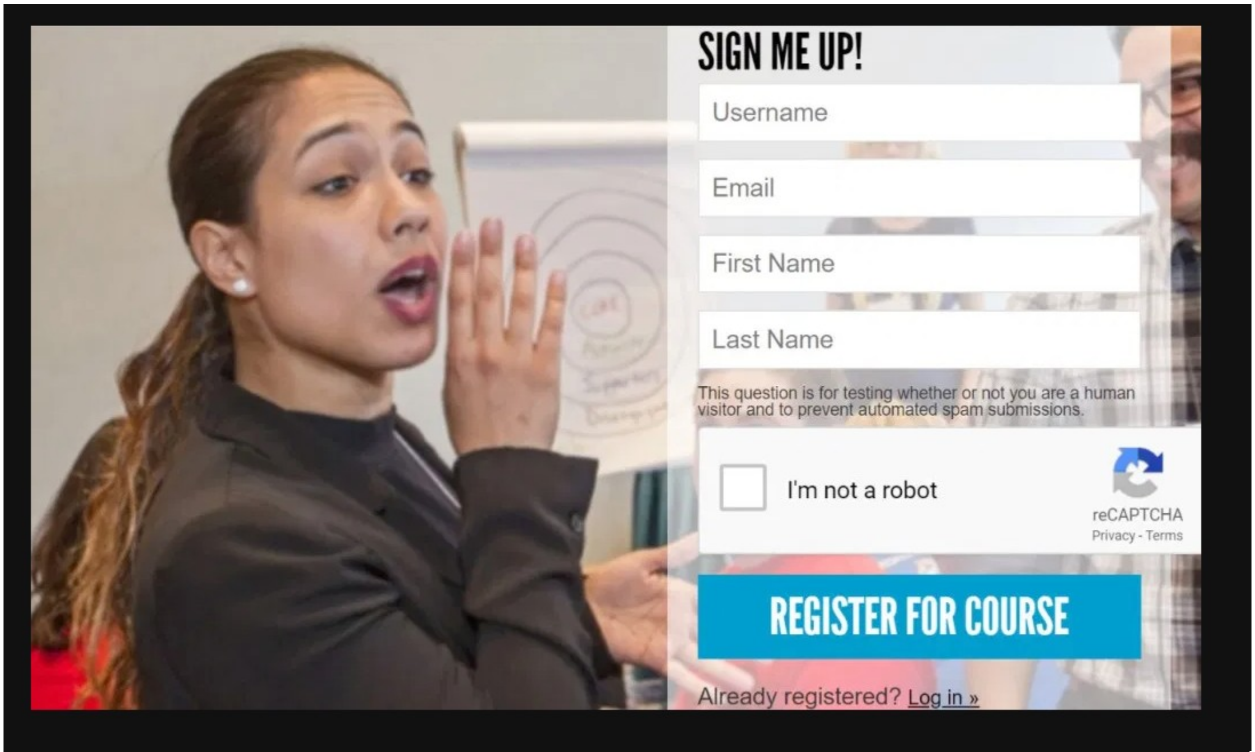

CORE
Activists
Supporters
Disengaged
UNION
DUH

Everybody in the background is looking at her, like she's about do something….big. They are all waiting expectantly as she opens her mouth. The man on the right is ready, excited. He knows what's coming. The man on the bottom; do you see the look on his face? Look at his eyes. It's like he can't wait for what is about to come.


CORE
Activists
Supporters
Disengaged

Do you see the bulls-eye; the one that lines up perfectly with her mouth? There’s a word in there that you can’t quite make out. You can sort of make it out, but it’s kind of blurry. Core maybe?……………Coke?

…..cock??..



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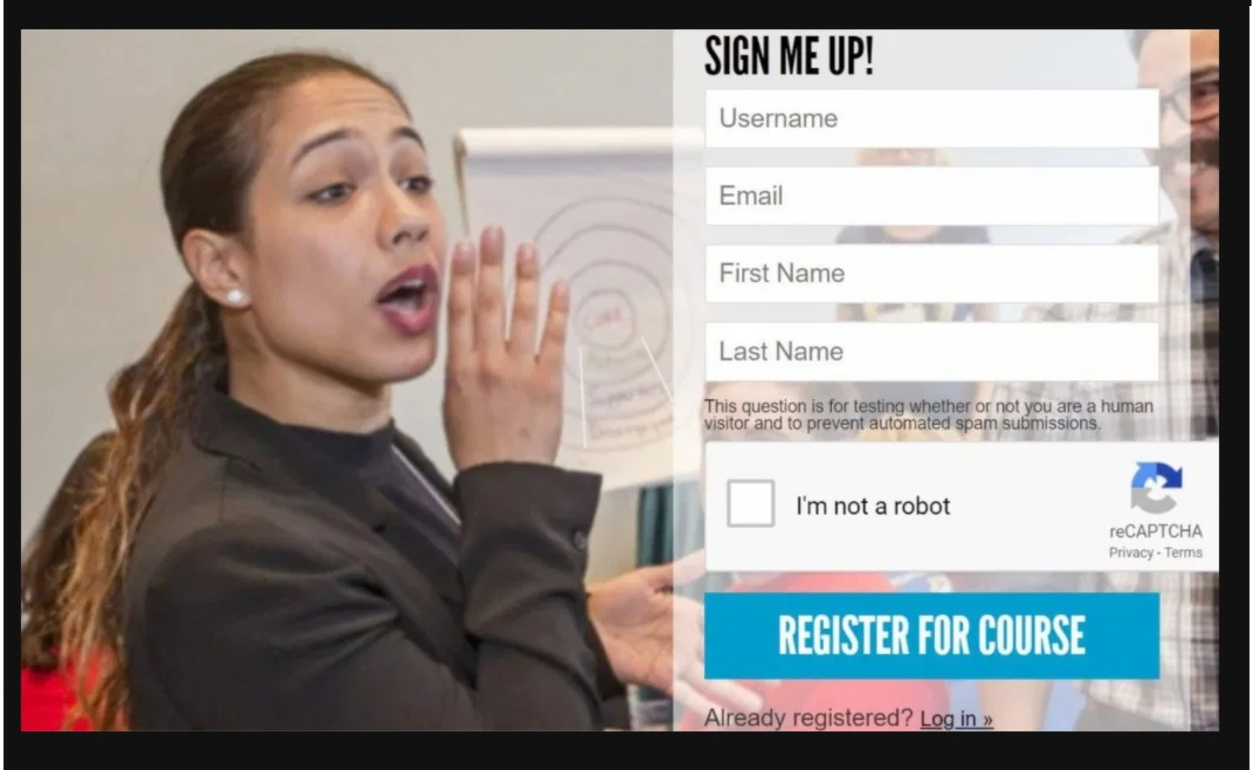

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Watch this
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcyWU3xC5vs

Journal, war: jan31 **tanks, 'locked, and loaded, and full steam ahead"...**

Last week, President Biden announced 31 M1 Abrams main battle tanks (without secret armor) would be sent to Ukraine. Germany, Norway, Poland, and other NATO countries will send other tanks, including the Leopard 2. Even Morocco will send older T-72 series tanks, currently in use in the war-torn country.

All of these 'donated' tanks sound great, but if they don't make it to Europe and race across the battlefield by spring, then the Ukranians might have trouble repelling the Russians.

A press release via the US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), a segment of the US military responsible for transporting equipment worldwide, detailed last week that a large roll-on/roll-off vessel named "ARC Integrity" loaded 60 Bradley Fighting Vehicles destined for Ukraine.

As of Monday, and according to USTRANSCOM's press release noting the vessel's name, data via MarineTraffic shows ARC Integrity is full steam ahead in the Atlantic Ocean and will arrive at the Port in Southampton, England, on Feb. 7.

Norway
Denmark
United Kingdom
Poland
Germany
France
Spain
Italy
tates
Morocco
Tunisia
Algeria
Libya
Cuba
Mauritania
Mali
Niger
Senegal
Chad
Nigeria
Ghana
Cameroon
Venezuela
Colombia
Ecuador
Peru
Brazil
Vessels
All Types
Vessel History
ARC INTEGRITY

Bloomberg Finance L.P., Mapbox, OpenStreetMap

USTRANSCOM uses large ro-ro carriers to transport all sorts of military equipment worldwide. These fighting vehicles are being loaded at ports along East Coast and Gulf Coast states.

India, war, sanctions: jan31 **markets, government, war, sanctions: it's just theft: "Indian conglomerate said Hindenburg's report was "nothing short of a calculated securities fraud under applicable law."" Adani's personal wealth plummeted by $34 billion in the last four trading sessions**

Adani might have calmed investors Sunday when his company [responded to 65 of the 88 questions] Hindenburg wrote in the short report last week. The Indian conglomerate said Hindenburg's report was "nothing short of a calculated securities fraud under applicable law."

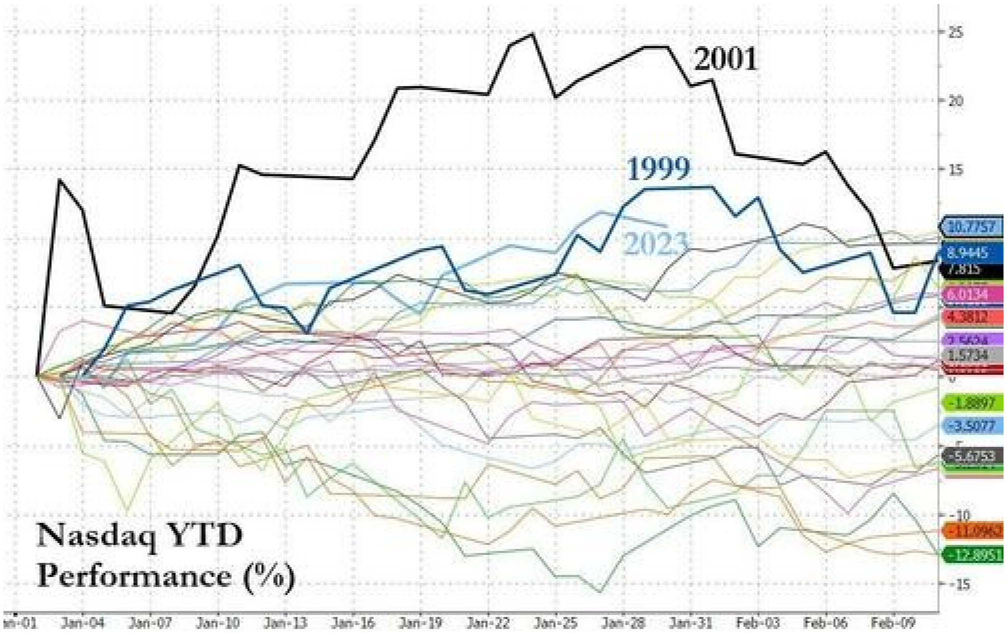
Meanwhile, Adani's personal wealth plummeted by $34 billion in the last four trading sessions. He fell out of the world's top 10 richest people list and now ranks 11th on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, with a current fortune of $84.4 billion.

"Now that Adani's FPO is out of the way, investors' focus may start shifting back to India's growth story," said Sumeet Rohra, a fund manager at Smartsun Capital Pte. in Singapore.

Tech, government: jan31 **Tech Layoffs Accelerate Despite Nasdaq's Best Start To Year Since 2001**

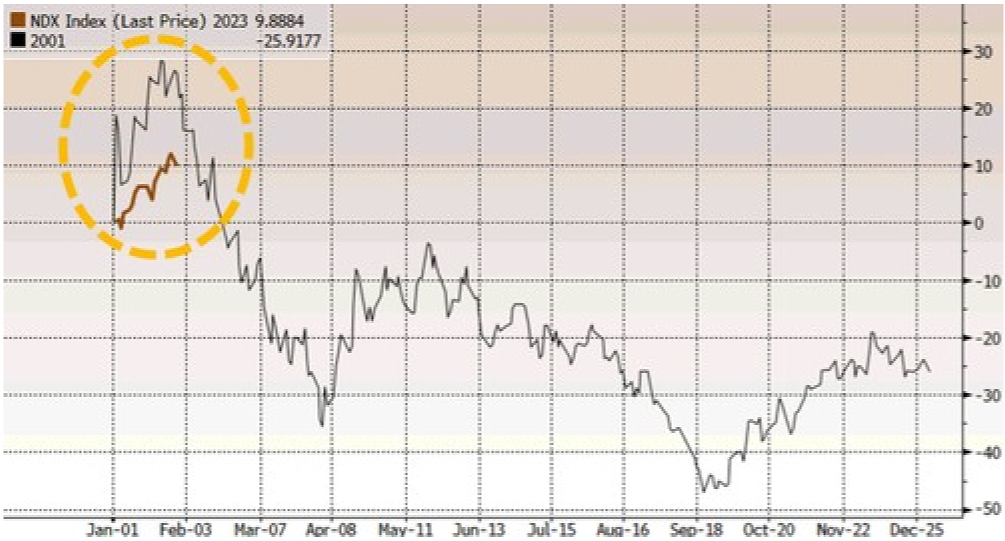
Technology-heavy Nasdaq is experiencing one of its best months in two decades despite accelerating mass job cuts at tech firms and increasing risk of recession.

The Nasdaq Composite Index is up 10% so far this month, on track for its best January performance since 2001, when it recorded a 12% gain.



Stocks are flying ahead of the Wednesday FOMC meeting. What could derail optimism is Fed Chair Powell re-emphasizing that the rate hike cycle isn't over, which would force financial conditions to retighten.

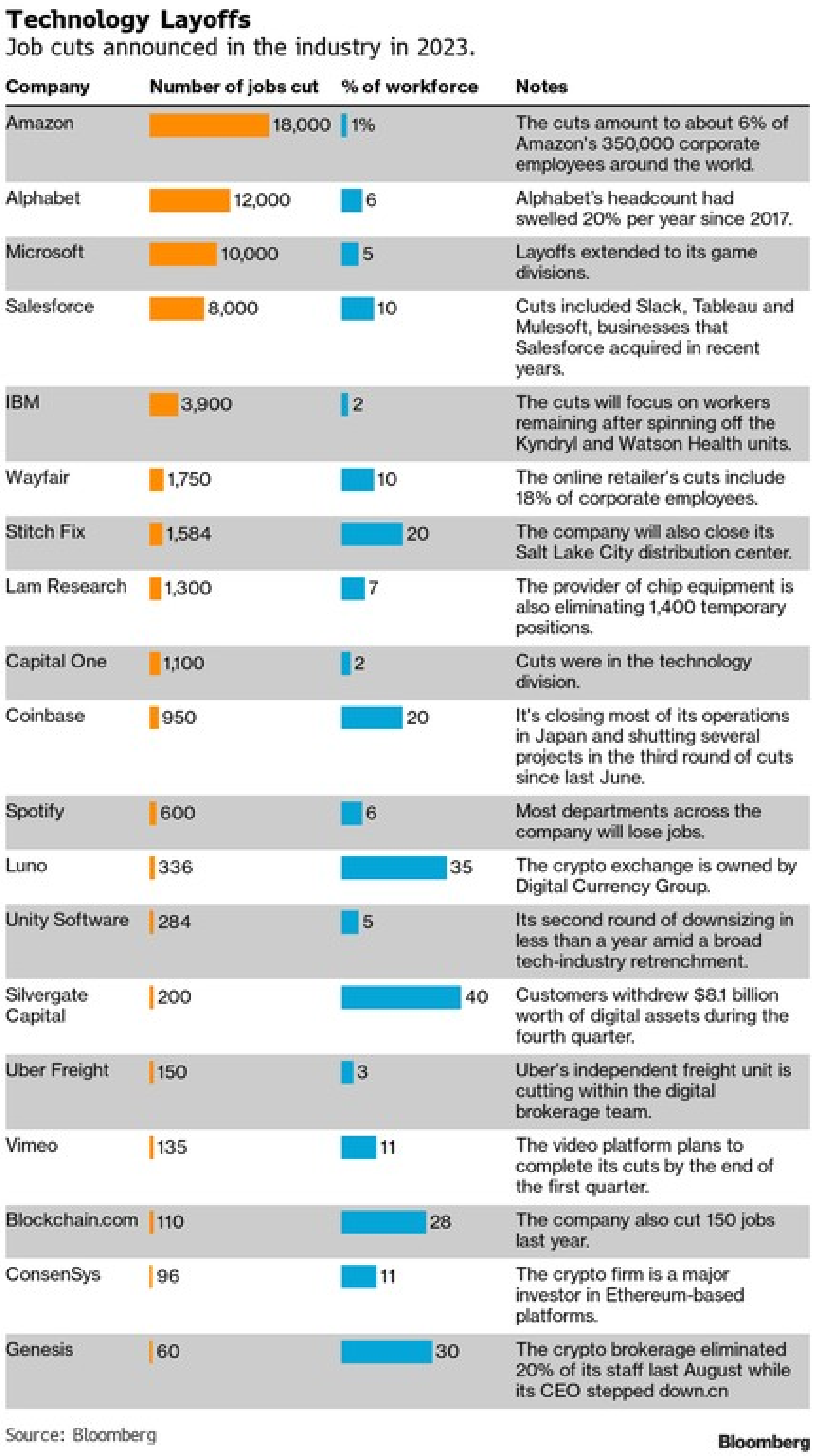
Many traders today weren't around for the Dot Com bust. As soon as February 2001 hit, Nasdaq resumed its tumble and plunged nearly 30% through the rest of the year.



Another repeat of early 2001 could be in the cards if the Fed maintains its uber-hawkishness, earning season disappoints, and recession risks continue to flourish.

One ominous sign of financial stress among tech firms is the accelerating headcount reduction to start the year, a move to improve profitability amid recession threats.

So far this month, big tech firms, including Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Salesforce, IBM, and others, have laid off more than 52,000 jobs, according to Bloomberg data.



Technology Layoffs

Job cuts announced in the industry in 2023.

Company	Number of jobs cut	% of workforce	Notes
Amazon	18,000	1%	The cuts amount to about 6% of Amazon's 350,000 corporate employees around the world.
Alphabet	12,000	6	Alphabet's headcount had swelled 20% per year since 2017.
Microsoft	10,000	5	Layoffs extended to its game divisions.
Salesforce	8,000	10	Cuts included Slack, Tableau and Mulesoft, businesses that Salesforce acquired in recent years.
IBM	3,900	2	The cuts will focus on workers remaining after spinning off the Kyndryl and Watson Health units.
Wayfair	1,750	10	The online retailer's cuts include 18% of corporate employees.
Stitch Fix	1,584	20	The company will also close its Salt Lake City distribution center.
Lam Research	1,300	7	The provider of chip equipment is also eliminating 1,400 temporary positions.
Capital One	1,100	2	Cuts were in the technology division.
Coinbase	950	20	It's closing most of its operations in Japan and shutting several projects in the third round of cuts since last June.
Spotify	600	6	Most departments across the company will lose jobs.
Luno	336	35	The crypto exchange is owned by Digital Currency Group.
Unity Software	284	5	Its second round of downsizing in less than a year amid a broad tech-industry retrenchment.
Silvergate Capital	200	40	Customers withdrew $8.1 billion worth of digital assets during the fourth quarter.
Uber Freight	150	3	Uber's independent freight unit is cutting within the digital brokerage team.
Vimeo	135	11	The video platform plans to complete its cuts by the end of the first quarter.
Blockchain.com	110	28	The company also cut 150 jobs last year.
ConsenSys	96	11	The crypto firm is a major investor in Ethereum-based platforms.
Genesis	60	30	The crypto brokerage eliminated 20% of its staff last August while its CEO stepped down.cn

Source: Bloomberg

Additional jobs data from Layoffs.fyi shows 229 tech firms (big and small) laid off a total of 68,502 employees this month. Last year, 1,040 tech companies fired 160,000 employees.

What's evident is that tech firms are under pressure, but shares in companies are surging, leaving some to believe the latest up move could be a bear market rally.

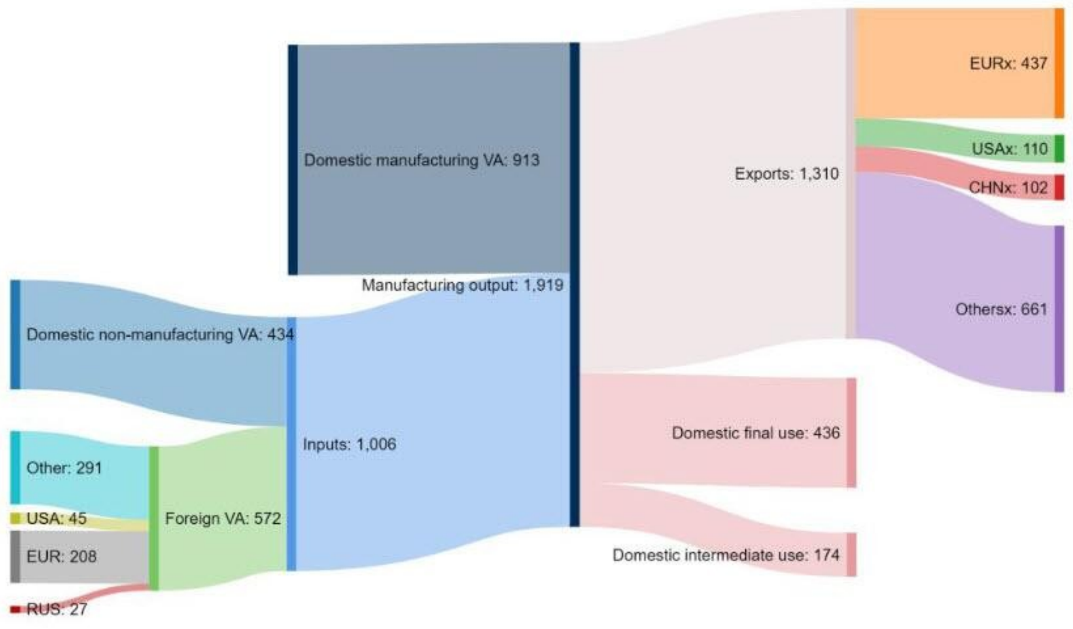
Sanctions, markets, Germany, energy: jan31 The "Price Shock" is Just Starting: German Industry To Pay 40% More For Energy Than Pre-Crisis

Back in August 2022, repo plumbing guru Zoltan Pozsar published a fascinating chart showing how "*$2 Trillion Of German Value Depends On $20 Billion Of Russian Gas*" or specifically, how Germany had applied **some 100x leverage - much more than Lehman - on cheap commodities, and mostly Russian gas, to cheaply run its export-driven economic miracle for decades.**

And with Russia's cheap gas now gone for the foreseeable future, so is Germany's tremendous operating leverage. Which means profit margins will be hammered for years to come.

Germany's Commodities "Leverage" (2)

billions of U.S. dollars; sources of value added are shown on the left; sales shown on the right



Source: World Input-Output database, Credit Suisse

And with Russia's cheap gas now gone for the foreseeable future, so is Germany's tremendous operating leverage. Which means profit margins will be hammered for years to come.

As proof look no further than a study published Monday by Allianz Trade which cited contract expiries and delayed wholesale pricing effects, and which according to Reuters found that **German industry is set to pay about 40% more for energy in 2023 than in 2021,** before the energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The large energy-price shock still lies ahead for European corporates," said Allianz Trade, the credit insurer that changed its name from Euler Hermes last year.

As a reminder, in 2022, higher corporate utility bills were contained as long pass-through times from wholesale markets and government interventions mitigated the immediate hit from surging prices as Russia curbed fuel exports to the West. The resulting budget deficits were promptly funded by the ECB, which meant that for all the posturing, Christine Lagarde was directly funding Putin's cash build up.

But the pass-throughs are ending, which means **that price increases will soon hit corporate profits across Europe by 1-1.5% and lead to lower investment, which in Germany's case would amount to 25 billion euros ($27 billion),** Allianz Trade estimated.

The silver lining is that German companies' finances are robust, while a state-imposed gas price cap would help (unless it makes things much worse).

At the same time, fears the crisis could lead to de-industrialisation and a loss of competitiveness against the United States were overdone, because labor costs and exchange rates have a bigger impact on manufacturing than energy prices, the study said. Also, while exporters were losing market shares in areas such as agrifood, machinery, electrical equipment, metals and transport, the **relative beneficiaries tended to be Asian, Middle Eastern and African,** not American, it added.

Meanwhile, the economic ministry said on Saturday that the German government's one-off payment to help private households and small businesses with gas prices - the first stage of a package that will be complemented with retroactive price caps kicking in in March - has cost 4.3 billion euros so far.

Berlin has earmarked 12 billion euros for the payment, but the ministry said 4.3 billion euros was not the final cost as many eligible firms had not yet applied for the aid. They have until the end of February to apply; and judging by the huge losses they still face, *they will.*

sanctions, china, government: jan30 US Halts New Licenses For Export To Huawei

The Biden administration has halted the provision of licenses for US companies to export technology to Huawei, as it moves closer to imposing a total ban on the sale of American technology to the Chinese telecom equipment maker.

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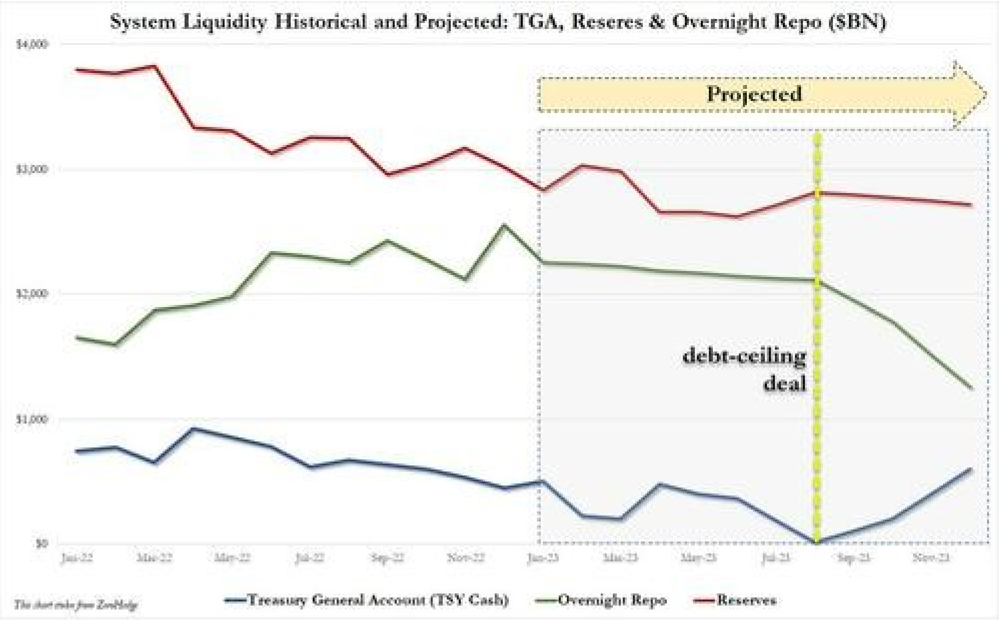
read later, government, inflation, journal:

Treasury Publishes Cash Balance Estimates As It Prepares To Drain $650 Billion To Offset Debt Ceiling

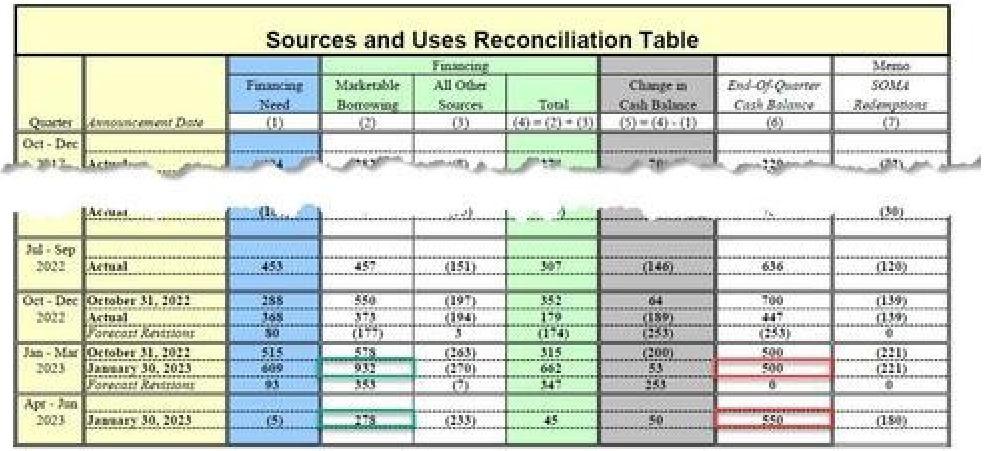
BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, JAN 30, 2023 - 06:00 PM

Now that all eyes are on the Treasury General Account (or TGA, also known as Treasury cash parked at the Fed) which is viewed as an offset to Fed tightening - if only until the debt limit D-day is hit some time in August, as a rapid drain in Treasury cash offsets (i.e., adds liquidity) the Fed's QT which hopes to tighten financial conditions by draining both high-powered (reserves) and low-powerered (overnight repo) money equivalents as it shrinks its balance sheet (as explained in detail in "How The Coming Debt Ceiling Debacle Blew Up The Fed's QT, And What Happens Next")...



... today's quarterly announcement by the Treasury announcing its Marketable Borrowing Estimates was of particular interest as it showed what the most likely Trajectory of treasury cash balances will be over the next two quarters.

Cutting to the chase, here is the Treasury's sources and uses table...



Sources and Uses Reconciliation Table

			Financing					Memo
		Financing Need	Marketable Borrowing	All Other Sources	Total	Change in Cash Balance	*End-Of-Quarter Cash Balance*	*SOMA Redemptions*
Quarter	*Announcement Date*	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4) = (2) + (3)	(5) = (4) - (1)	(6)	(7)
Oct - Dec 2017	Actual	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	Actual	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	(30)
Jul - Sep 2022	Actual	453	457	(151)	307	(146)	636	(120)
Oct - Dec 2022	October 31, 2022	288	550	(197)	352	64	700	(139)
	Actual	368	373	(194)	179	(189)	447	(139)
	Forecast Revisions	80	(177)	3	(174)	(253)	(253)	0
Jan - Mar 2023	October 31, 2022	515	578	(263)	315	(200)	500	(221)
	January 30, 2023	609	932	(270)	662	53	500	(221)
	Forecast Revisions	93	353	(7)	347	253	0	0
Apr - Jun 2023	January 30, 2023	(5)	278	(233)	45	50	550	(180)

... for the January – March 2023 and April – June 2023 quarters, and it shows the following:

- **During the January – March 2023 quarter,** Treasury expects to borrow $932 billion in privately-held net marketable debt, assuming an end-of-March cash balance of $500 billion. The borrowing estimate is $353 billion higher than announced in October 2022, **primarily due to the lower beginning-of-quarter cash balance ($253 billion), and projections of lower receipts and higher outlays ($93 billion).**

- **During the April – June 2023 quarter,** Treasury expects to borrow $278 billion in privately-held net marketable debt, **assuming an end-of-June cash balance of $550 billion.**

  Before digging into these numbers, a quick look at what the Treasury did in the just completed fiscal Q1 2023 quarter:

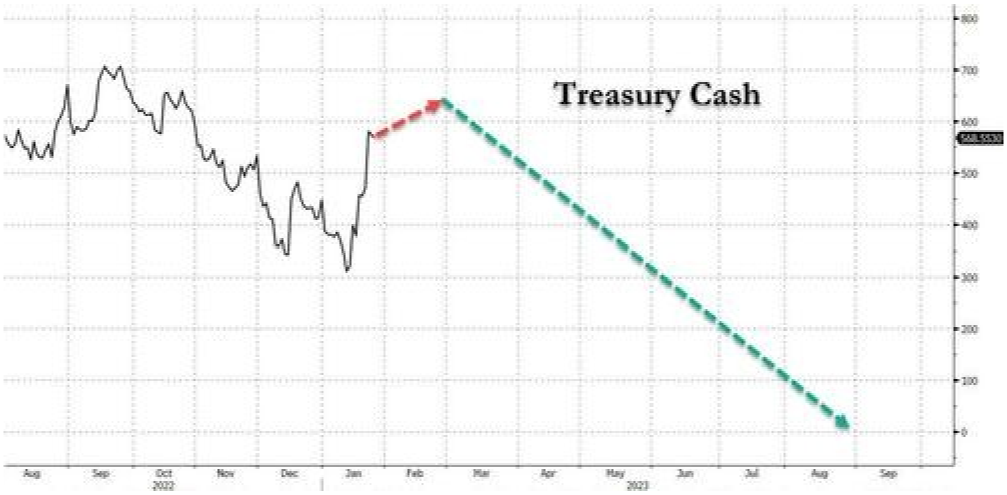
  During the October – December 2022 quarter, Treasury borrowed $373 billion in privately-held net marketable debt and ended the quarter with a cash balance of $447 billion. In October 2022, Treasury estimated borrowing of $550 billion and assumed an end-of-December cash balance of $700 billion. The $177 billion difference in privately-held net market borrowing resulted primarily from the lower end-of-quarter cash balance, somewhat offset by lower net fiscal flows.

  With that in mind, what is most notable about the numbers above is that all else equal, the Treasury expects a March cash balance of $500BN, followed by a $50BN build cash build in the Apr-Jun quarter which would be a material difference from assumptions of a rapid cash drain. There is just one problem: both those numbers are now meaningless as the Treasury itself admits in a footnote to the financing estimates...

  ... to wit:

  The end-of-March and end-of-June cash balances **assume enactment of a debt limit suspension or increase. Treasury's cash balance may be lower than assumed depending on several factors, including constraints related to the debt limit.** If Treasury's cash balance for the end of either quarter is lower than assumed, and assuming no changes in the forecast of fiscal activity, Treasury would expect that borrowing would be lower by the corresponding amount

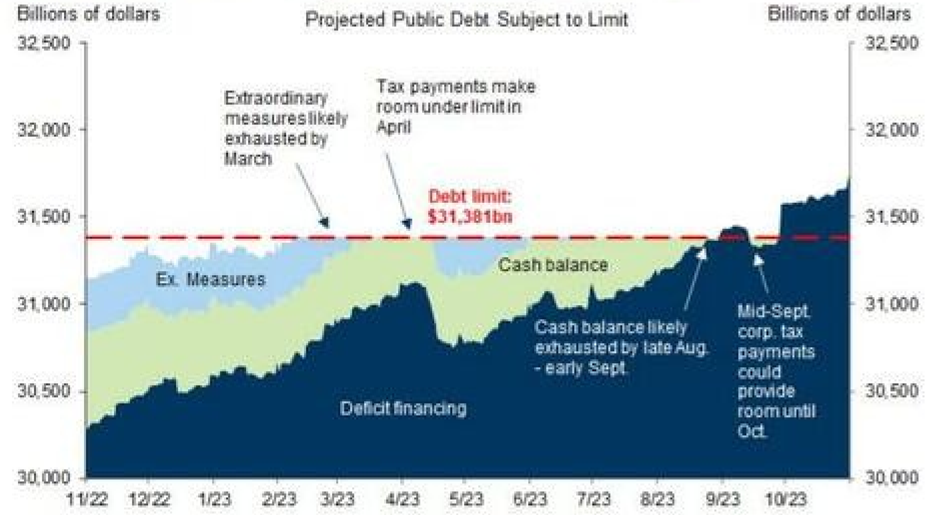
  In other words, today's financing estimates are devoid of any actual debt-limit signal, which - as the case may be - is the $32 trillion elephant in the room. So in lieu of that, we will instead go back to our preliminary analysis and update it for the recent spike in the TGA balance which has surged from $310BN when we looked at it last two weeks ago, to $568BN as of Friday's print. The jump is thanks to the various extraordinary measures - i.e., replacing non-marketable Treasuries in federal employee retirement funds with instruments that do not count toward the debt limit, or simple IOUs - and according to Goldman there is a total of $300BN or so in measures, meaning that the TGA may hit $650 billion by March. At that point, the Treasury would need to run down its cash balance to shrink bills outstanding. This sequence of events is shown in the chart below...



... and amounts to roughly ~$110 billion in liquidity added by the Treasury and offsetting the Fed's QT until the September debt ceiling D-Day.

It goes without saying, that should there be no deal after the drop dead date, and we don't mean a trillion dollar platinum coin...

Exhibit 5: The Debt Limit is Likely to Bind Between August and October



Source: Treasury, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

... then all bets are off.

journal: jan30 so the weather has ....really gotten even crazier...everyone is just like WOW now...

Markets, stats, censorship: jan30 yeah yet rh moves the markets...pfft yeah ,right. "Add 4,281 Hedge Fund Clients to What Makes JPMorgan Chase the Riskiest Mega Bank in the U.S."

According to a Yale School of Management study, in 2013 JPMorgan Chase had 1,339 hedge fund clients. As of July of last year, that number had soared to 4,281 according to the annual Convergence Inc. study.

While Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley topped the total number of hedge fund clients (with 5,150 and 4,964, respectively) JPMorgan Chase ranked number one in terms of hedge fund Assets Under Advisement (AUA). (See Convergence Inc. study linked above.)

There’s a big problem here that federal bank regulators are choosing to ignore at the peril of the U.S. financial system.

JPMorgan Chase, unlike Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, is the largest federally insured, taxpayer backstopped, depository bank in the United States with more than $2.47 *trillion* in deposits as of June 30, 2022. Unfortunately, as a result of the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act in 1999, this mom and pop depository bank with more than 5,000 Chase bank branches spread across the United States, is also allowed to make wild trading gambles. Those trading gambles have resulted in felony charges by the U.S. Department of Justice for rigging the foreign exchange markets, the U.S. Treasury market and the precious metals markets.

Even without the dramatic growth of its risky hedge fund business, JPMorgan Chase already ranked as the riskiest bank in the U.S. The data comes from the National Information Center, a repository of bank data collected by the Federal Reserve. The National Information Center is part of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), which was created under federal legislation and imposes uniformity in how U.S. financial institutions are examined by federal banking regulators.

The National Information Center creates an annual profile of banks, measured by 12 systemic risk indicators. The data used to create these graphics come from the “Systemic Risk Report” or form FR Y-15 that banks are required to file with the Federal Reserve. To measure the systemic risk that a particular bank poses to the stability of the U.S. financial system, the data is broken down into five categories of system risk: size, interconnectedness, substitutability, complexity, and cross-jurisdictional activity. Those measurements consist of 12 pieces of financial information that banks are required to provide on their Y-15 forms.

The data for the period ending December 31, 2020 showed that in 8 out of 12 measurements – or two-thirds of all systemic risk measurements – JPMorgan Chase ranked at the top for having the riskiest footprint among its peer banks.

One of the 12 financial metrics is based on the Intra-Financial System Liabilities of each bank. This shows how much money a particular bank has at risk at other banks by using inputs such as how much of its funds it has on deposit with, or has been lent to, other financial institutions; the unused portion of any credit lines it has committed to other financial institutions; and its holdings of debt, equity, commercial paper, etc. of other financial institutions. The idea is to understand the interconnectivity of systemically-risky megabanks and whether one distressed megabank could cause a daisy-chain of contagion with other megabanks — such as the contagion caused by Citigroup and Lehman Brothers during and after the financial crisis of 2008.

JPMorgan Chase's footprint for Intra-Financial System Liabilities is very large. The 2020 data show that JPMorgan Chase has $577 billion exposure in that category. That's an increase of $182 billion over what it showed in that category in 2019 – an increase of 46 percent in one year.

The Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase, Jamie Dimon, likes to perpetually brag about the bank's "fortress balance sheet." Unfortunately, that bragging isn't supported by the bank's felony history or the fact that the bank lost $6.2 billion gambling in exotic derivatives in London during the leadership tenure of Dimon: the so-called "London Whale" scandal.
Then there is also the fact that the Federal Reserve has yet to explain why a unit of JPMorgan Chase (J.P. Morgan Securities) needed to secretly borrow a cumulative $2.59 *trillion* in emergency repo loans from the Fed in the last quarter of 2019 – long before the first case of COVID-19 appeared in the U.S. (See chart below.) Perhaps it's time for the Senate Banking Committee to take a long, hard look at what's really under the hood of this banking behemoth.

War: jan30 full atw page (too much going on)

News

Updated January 30, 2023 - 2:13 PM EST

Zelensky: Ukraine Needs More Weapons, Faster

NATO Official: 'Ready' for Direct Confrontation With Russia

Russia Accuses Ukraine of Hospital Strike Using US-Provided HIMARS

Ten Killed in Airstrikes on Syria-Iraq Border

Report: Israel Was Behind Attack on Iran Facility

Israeli Government Calls for Retribution After Jerusalem Shooting

Air Force General Predicts War With China in 2025

As NATO Chief Visits South Korea and Japan, China High on Agenda

Suicide Bomber Kills 44, Wounds 150 at Pakistan Mosque

Erdogan Could OK Finland's NATO Bid Without Sweden

Switzerland Weighs Break With Policy of Neutrality

Viewpoints

The West Is Incentivizing Russia To Hit Back **by Caitlin Johnstone**

US Foreign Policy Establishment Proves in Ukraine That It Forgot Lessons of Vietnam **by James Carden**

US Is Sending Tanks to Ukraine. But Why? **by Ted Snider**

Beware the 'America First' Foreign Policy Phonies **by Andrew Earvolino**

More Viewpoints

Spotlight

This Time It's Different

by Col. Douglas Macgregor

Frontline

New Sen. JD Vance Leads GOP Effort to Put Ukraine Aid Under a Microscope

Guantanamo: Tumor Discovered on Detainee Ammar Al-Baluchi's Spine

In Meeting With CIA Chief, Abbas Calls for Pressure on Israeli Government

Poland Will Send
60 Additional Tanks to Ukraine

Palestine/Israel

Ben-Gvir to Propose Law Allowing Death Penalty for Palestinians

Israeli Nobel Laureate Says Judicial Overhaul Plan Would Mark 'The End of Democracy'

Israeli Settlers Carry Out 144 Attacks Against Palestinians in One Day

Siege Causes Shortage of X-Ray Machines in Gaza

Co-Founder of Jenin Brigade Succumbs to Wounds Sustained in Jenin Massacre

Israeli Soldiers Open Fire at Palestinian Journalists Covering

Ukraine

- How to Fix a Howitzer: US Offers Help Line to Ukraine Troops
- Ukraine Says It Repels Attack Around Blahodatne, Wagner Claims Control
- Heavy Fighting in Ukraine's Donetsk as Wagner Targets Village
- Ukraine Imposes Sanctions on 182 Russian, Belarusian Firms, Three People
- German Chancellor Scholz Doubles Down on Refusal of Fighter Jets for Ukraine
- Ukraine's Zelensky Attacks Effort to Allow Russia Back at Olympics

Russia

- Three Killed by Russian Shelling of Kherson: Officials
- Russian Polar Research Vessel Docks in Cape Town
- Russia Blocks CIA, FBI Websites for 'Spreading False Information'

United Kingdom

- UK Army Spied on Covid Critics
- UK Court to Rule on Controversial Weapons Sales to Saudi Arabia

Europe

- France Buys AT4 Anti-Armor Weapons From Saab for $26m
- Rheinmetall Eyes Boost in Munitions Output, HIMARS Production in Germany
- Italy's Eni Signs $8 Billion Gas Deal With Libya Amid Energy Crunch
- Norway Could Limit Electricity Exports to Avoid Shortages

Afghanistan/Pakistan

- Amid Economic Turmoil, Pakistan Hikes Up Fuel Prices
- Afghan Female Students Banned From University Entrance Exam

India

- Two Indian Military Jets Crash After Apparent Midair Collision

Indian Police Detain Students Over Modi Documentary Screenings

Moderation a La Modi: Indian Government's Crackdown on BBC Documentary Backfires

China

China Says It Resumes Issuing Ordinary Visas for Japanese Citizens

US, Allies Near Deal to Limit Chip Tech to China: Dutch Firm

Koreas

North Korea Slams United States for Pledging Tanks to Ukraine

S. Korea Mistakenly Fires Machine Gun Near Border With North

North Korea Denies Arming Russia's Wagner Group

The War at Home

Two More US Sailors Died by Suicide in the Last Month

Troops Can't Get Discharge Forms or Retire Due to Army's HR Transition

House Republicans Pass Bill to Limit Strategic Petroleum Reserve Moves

Brazil

Bolsonaro's Son Dismisses Idea of Father's Extradition by US

January 8 Investigation Targets Nephew of Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro

Australia

Senior Australian Ministers to Visit France, Britain to Boost Ties

Radioactive Capsule's Loss in Western Australia Described as 'Highly Unusual'

war: jan30 Ten Reported Killed in Airstrikes on Syria-Iraq Border

Ten Reported Killed in Airstrikes on Syria-Iraq Border

Israel is suspected since it recently launched similar airstrikes targeting trucks in the same areaby Dave DeCamp Posted onJanuary 29, 2023CategoriesNewsTagsIraq, Syria

Airstrikes targeting a convoy of trucks launched by unidentified aircraft were reported on the Syria-Iraq border on Sunday.

According to *The Times of Israel*, Syria's Sham FM radio station and other local media reports said six refrigerator trucks were hit. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) also reported six refrigerator trucks were targeted and said they were hit in eastern Syria after crossing the border.

The SOHR later said 10 people were killed in the strikes and described them as "truck drivers and their assistants, all of them non-Syrians" and said the trucks were carrying Iranian weapons. Other reports contradicted the claim, with sources telling *Al-Mayadeen*, a Lebanon-based media outlet, that the convoy did "not carry any weapons."

The aircraft was unidentified, but Israel is suspected, as it has launched similar attacks in the past. In November, airstrikes hit a convoy of trucks entering Syria from Iraq, reportedly killing ten people. Israel's former army chief, Aviv Kohavi, later said Israel was responsible for the attack.

Kohavi, who just stepped down as the Israeli Defense Forces chief of staff, claimed a truck in the convoy that was hit in November was carrying weapons from Iran to Lebanon, while Syrian reports said it was carrying fuel.

Israel frequently launches airstrikes in Syria but rarely acknowledges individual strikes. The Israelis frame the operations as strikes against Iran and Hezbollah, but they often kill Syrian troops and damage civilian infrastructure.

War: jan30 NATO Official says they are "ready" for a direct confrontation with Russia; Adm. Rob Bauer Says NATO countries should discuss shifting to a 'war economy' to increase weapons production

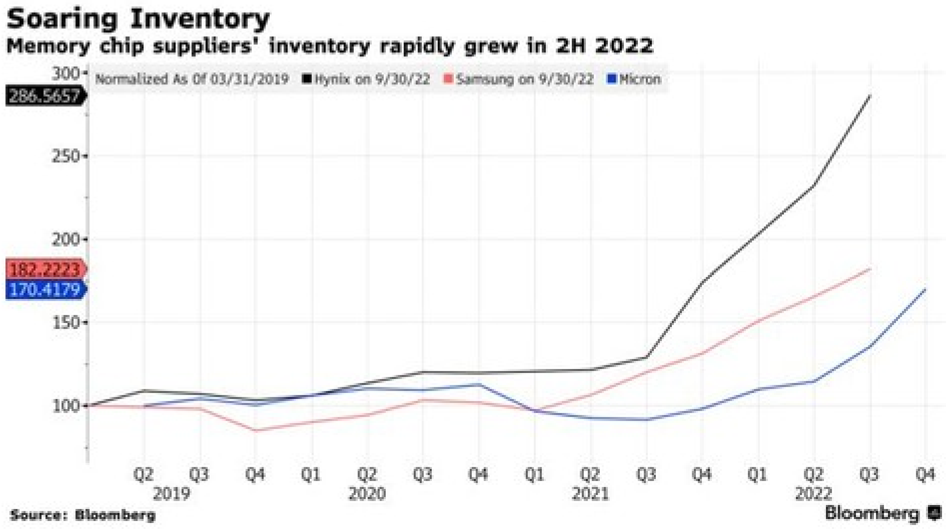
Rob Bauer, chairman of NATO's Military Committee, recently said that the alliance is "ready" for a direct confrontation with Russia as the country continues to fight in Ukraine.
Bauer, an admiral in the Royal Netherlands Navy, told a Portuguese television channel, RTP, that NATO is focused on rearmament as Russian President Vladimir Putin's strategic objectives go beyond Ukraine and could possibly expand to neighboring countries.

The chairman, who is reportedly advocating "peacetime war economy," added that it is important for NATO nations to direct civil industrial production towards military objectives.

"This Is Not A Normal Situation": A Semiconductor Rout Is On As Supply Balloons And Demand Dissipates

The memory chip sector, typically a volatile and cyclical sector, is in the midst of yet another rout.

But as Bloomberg noted this week, this rout wasn't supposed to happen. For years we had heard that the sector would eventually calm down and even out - and that volatility wouldn't be as pronounced due to steadier demand for things like 5G and cloud services.



Just months after a historic semiconductor shortage, there's a "glut of the chips sitting in warehouses" at the same time that customers are paring back on orders. We first identified the whipsaw in semiconductors all the way back in October 2022, which you can read about here.

Avril Wu, senior research vice president at TrendForce told Bloomberg this week: “The chip industry thought that suppliers were going to have better control. This downturn has proved everybody was wrong.”

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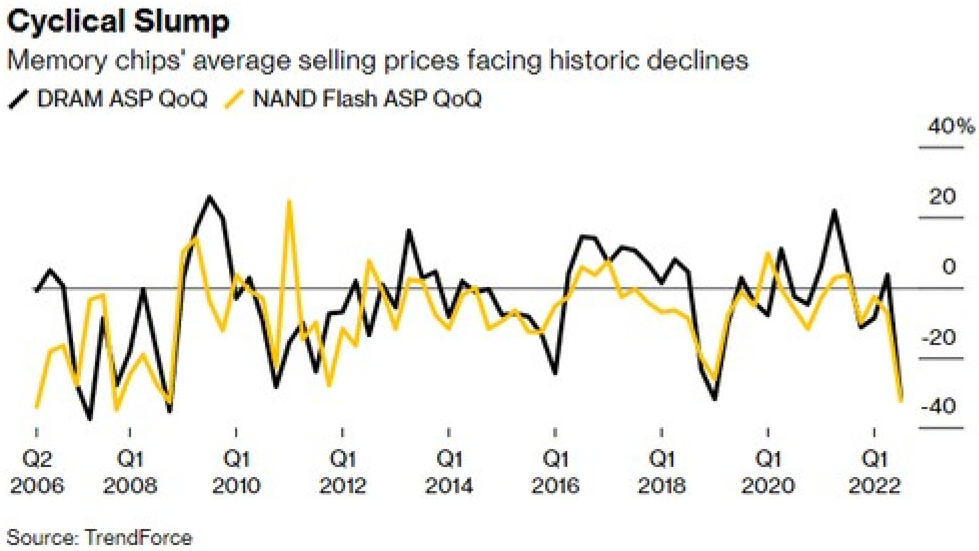
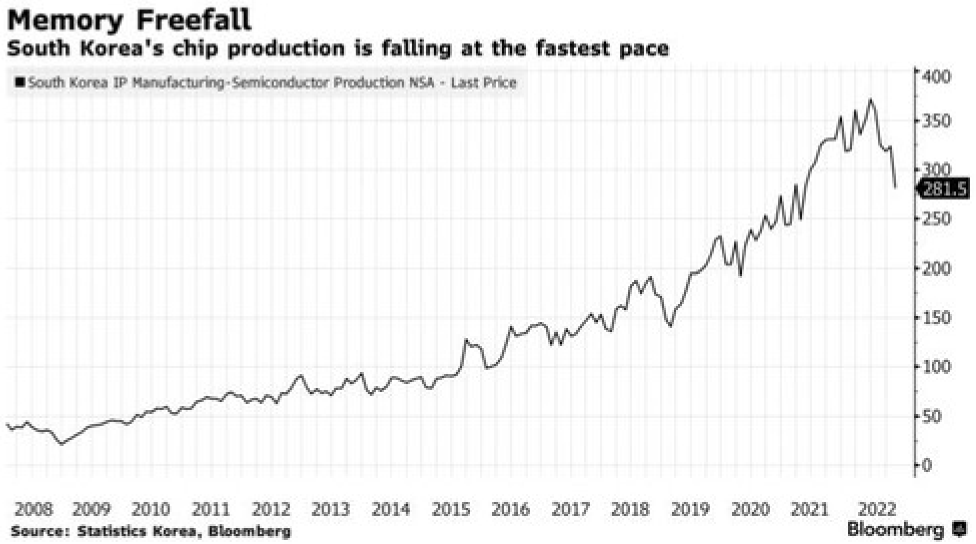
Avril Wu, senior research vice president at TrendForce told Bloomberg this week: “The chip industry thought that suppliers were going to have better control. This downturn has proved everybody was wrong.”



The report notes that the very same consumers who were keen to spend their stimulus money on things like cars and electronics during the pandemic, items which necessitate semiconductors, are now "holding off on big purchases as they cope with inflation and rising interest rates". And the pullback in demand comes just as semi companies sought to increase supply to try and deal with the shortages.

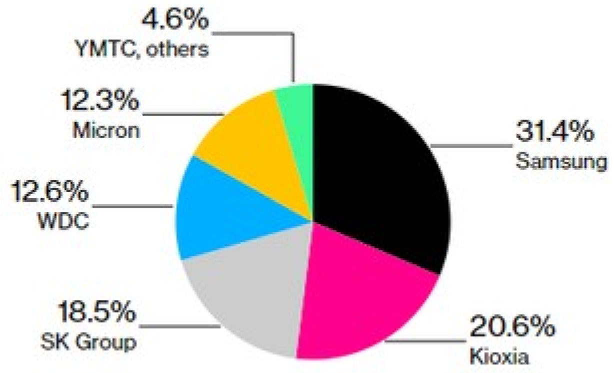
Companies like Samsung are now "losing money on every chip they produce", the report says. Collective operating losses are projected to hit a stunning $5 billion this year, it continues.



Greg Roh, head of technology research at HMC Investment & Securities, added: “Chip equipment companies’ sales are plunging by around 30% to 50%. This is not a normal situation."

“There will be pent-up demand for gadgets as well. Our view is that memory will recover in the second half," he added.

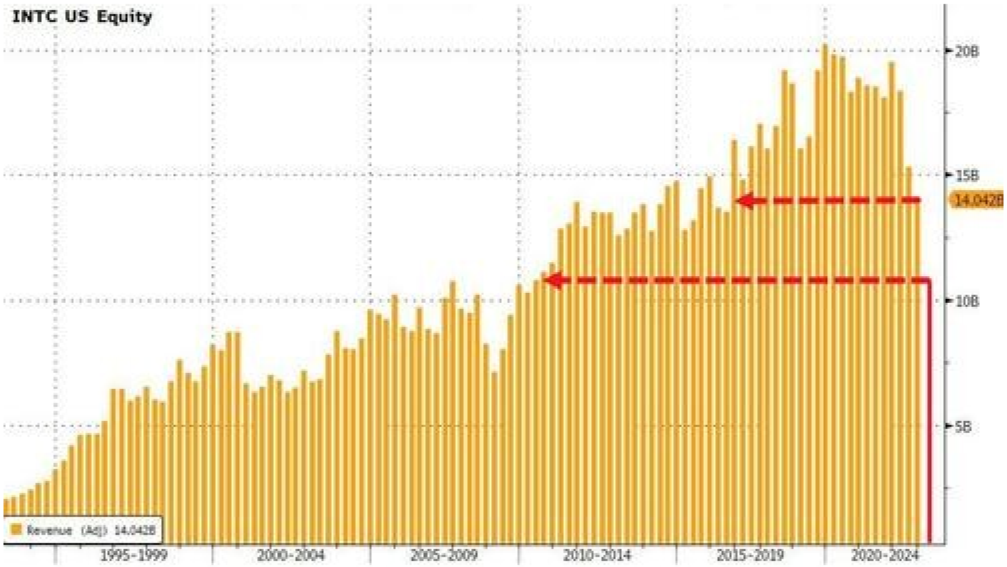
Top 5 NAND Flash makers are competing for market share



Source: TrendForce
* 3Q 2022 NAND Flash Market Share

Micron is planning on cutting its budge for new plants and is rushing to curb output. The company's Chief Executive Officer Sanjay Mehrotra sid this week: “We have to get through this cycle. I believe the trend of cross-cycle growth and profitability is still in place.”

Just last week, [Intel reported](#) terrible earnings and catastrophic guidance as well. As shown below, at the low end of the forecast range, Intel’s revenue would be the smallest quarterly total since 2010.



The outlook reflects the myriad challenges facing Intel, which was attempting to stage a comeback even before the market for personal-computer chips — its main source of revenue — fell into a slump. To get back on track, the company needs computer makers to quickly work through inventory stockpiles and return to ordering components. That would provide Intel with a revenue boost needed to help shore up its finances, which were already stretched by ambitious plans to regain technological leadership within the chip industry.

“We’ve seen extraordinary measures within the memory market. It’s at levels that we haven’t seen in 25 years,” said Lam CEO Tim Archer.

Shin Jinho, co-CEO of Midas International Asset Management added: “The NAND market is experiencing fierce competition and the recovery will follow one quarter after the DRAM market recovery. If the situation gets longer, eventually, we are going to see consolidation in the NAND market.”

All eyes are now on Samsung, Bloomberg says. It'll report on Tuesday this week and will offer additional color on the sector on its conference call.

War, china, sanctions, government, markets: jan30 Apple's expected to post its first revenue decline since 2019 on Thursday

War: jan30 Ukraine Says Expedited Talks For F-16 Jets Underway As Germany Counters 'Not An Option'

The Ukrainian presidency's office is saying that it is already engaged in expedited negotiations with the US regarding the possibility of supplying Kiev forces with long-range missiles and military jets. This despite German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who was key in the decision of Berlin and Washington to approve tanks, earlier saying that sending jets is not an option.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Zelesnky, was cited in *The Associated Press* on Saturday as saying that **"fast-track" talks are taking place for jets**, and which also focus on long-range missiles "to drastically curtail the key tool of the Russian army" by providing the ability to attack weapons warehouses far behind front lines.

Stats, tech: jan30 apples assault on third party repair shops

Apple has never looked too kindly upon users actually repairing their own devices. The company’s ham-fisted efforts to shut down, sue, or otherwise imperil third-party repair shops are **legendary**. As are the company’s efforts to force recycling shops to **shred Apple products** (so they can’t be refurbished and re-used).

War: jan30 Scholz doubles down on refusal of fighter jets for Ukraine: ‘The question of combat aircraft does not arise at all,’ German chancellor tells Tagesspiegel.

Crypto, sanctions, Africa: jan30 bitcoin is officially 60% in nigeria due to localized demand

The price of one Bitcoin (BTC) in Nigeria has skyrocketed to the equivalent of $38,000 in the local currency, the naira...

The price of Bitcoin in Nigeria has skyrocketed to well above global market levels amid continued efforts by the central bank to push its citizens into digitalized cash.

At the time of writing, the price of 1 BTC on the Nigerian crypto exchange NairaEX is 17.8 million nairas, equating to a whopping $38,792.

This is more than a 60% premium over the current market price of Bitcoin, around $23,700 at the time of writing.

It comes as the Central Bank of Nigeria has continued to impose limits on ATM cash withdrawals amid an ongoing effort to accelerate its shift to a cashless society.

Earlier this month, the central bank imposed a limit on cash withdrawals following a December announcement.

As of Jan. 9, citizens are only allowed to withdraw a maximum of 20,000 nairas (around $43.50) from cash machines per day, with a weekly limit of 100,000 nairas (roughly $217).

The move also came just days before new naira banknotes went into circulation with the aim of curbing inflation and money laundering. The

central bank imposed a deadline of Jan. 24 for Nigerians to exchange their old, higher denomination bank notes for the new currency.

However, there were long queues and complaints that there was insufficient time to meet the deadline. The central bank has now extended that deadline to Feb. 10, the BBC reported on Jan. 29.

It is not the first time the Bitcoin premium has surged in Nigeria. In February 2021, the central bank banned regulated financial institutions from providing services to cryptocurrency exchanges in the country, driving the BTC premium as high as 36%.

The recent interest in Bitcoin has also seen Nigeria becoming the leading country for Bitcoin web searches, according to Google Trends.

Additionally, on Jan. 26 Reuters reported that the Central Bank of Nigeria launched a domestic card scheme to rival foreign cards like Mastercard and Visa.

The "AfriGo" card scheme was designed to give Nigerians better access to bank card services and circumvent often expensive foreign card fees and exchange costs.

Markets: jan30 nasdaq records best start in 20 years: sounds and looks like a textbook bear rally

War: jan30 strange internal memo in military: Air Force General Tells His Officers 'War With China' Only 2 Years Away

A four-star Air Force general sent a memo on Friday to the officers he commands that predicts the U.S. will be at war with China in two years and tells them to get ready to prep by firing "a clip" at a target, and "aim for the head."

*In the memo sent Friday and obtained by NBC News, Gen. Mike Minihan, head of Air Mobility Command, said, **"I hope I am wrong. My gut tells me will fight in 2025."***

Government, markets, energy: jan30 The five biggest oil majors in the world are expected to report record profits for 2022 in the coming days, for around $200 billion in combined yearly earnings thanks to the jump in oil and gas prices last year. This year, earnings at ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP, Shell, and TotalEnergies

The record quarterly earnings which the majors reported for the second and third quarters of 2022 have already drawn intense criticism from the White House, which has scrambled to have gasoline prices down from the record levels seen in June. The Biden Administration has accused Big Oil of “war profiteering” and has called on companies to invest in more supply or “face higher taxes.” In Europe, the record earnings are already subject to windfall taxes, which ExxonMobil has challenged in court.

The five oil and gas supermajors are expected to report at the end of January and early February combined 2022 earnings of $200 billion, according to early estimates compiled by S&P Capital IQ and cited by the Financial Times. Fourth-quarter earnings will still be well above year-ago levels, although lower than the record quarterly profits for Q2 and Q3.

The majors’ earnings for 2023 are set to drop from the 2022 record to around $150 billion, which – despite the decline – would be the second-highest profit haul for Big Oil, per projections by S&P Capital IQ.

War, Russia, energy: jan30 article has 260k views, 3000 comments on zh; top military official for the united states makes interesting comment: Until it decided to confront Moscow with an existential military threat in Ukraine, Washington confined the use of American military power to conflicts that Americans could afford to lose, wars with weak opponents in the developing world from Saigon to Baghdad that did not present an existential threat to U.S.

forces or American territory. This time - a proxy war with Russia - is different.

Douglas Abbott Macgregor (born January 4, 1953) is a retired U.S. Army colonel and government official, and an author, consultant, and television commentator.[1] He played a significant role on the battlefield in the 1990-91 Gulf War and the 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. His 1997 book Breaking the Phalanx established him as an influential if unconventional theorist of military strategy. His thinking contributed to the US strategy in its 2003 invasion of Iraq."

Contrary to early Beltway hopes and expectations, Russia neither collapsed internally nor capitulated to the collective West's demands for regime change in Moscow. Washington underestimated Russia's societal cohesion, its latent military potential, and its relative immunity to Western economic sanctions.

As a result, Washington's proxy war against Russia is failing. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was unusually candid about the situation in Ukraine when he told the allies in Germany at Ramstein Air Base on January 20, "We have a window of opportunity here, between now and the spring," admitting, "That's not a long time."

Alexei Arestovich, President Zelensky's recently fired advisor and unofficial "Spinmeister," was more direct. He expressed his own doubts that Ukraine can win its war with Russia and he now questions whether Ukraine will even survive the war. Ukrainian losses—at least 150,000 dead including 35,000 missing in action and presumed dead—have fatally weakened Ukrainian forces resulting in a fragile Ukrainian defensive posture that will likely shatter under the crushing weight of attacking Russian forces in the next few weeks.

Ukraine's materiel losses are equally severe. These include thousands of tanks and armored infantry fighting vehicles, artillery systems, air defense platforms, and weapons of all calibers. These totals include the equivalent of seven years of Javelin missile production. In a setting where Russian artillery systems can fire nearly 60,000 rounds of all types—rockets, missiles, drones, and hard-shell ammunition—a day, Ukrainian forces are hard-pressed to answer these Russian salvos with 6,000 rounds daily. New platform and ammunition packages for Ukraine may enrich the Washington community, but they cannot change these conditions.

Predictably, Washington's frustration with the collective West's failure to stem the tide of Ukrainian defeat is growing. In fact, the frustration is rapidly giving way to desperation.

Michael Rubin, a former Bush appointee and avid supporter of America's permanent conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan, vented his frustration in a *1945* article asserting that, "if the world allows Russia to remain a unitary state, and if it allows Putinism to survive Putin, then, Ukraine should be allowed to maintain its own nuclear deterrence, whether it joins NATO or not." On its face, the suggestion is reckless, but the statement does accurately reflect the anxiety in Washington circles that Ukrainian defeat is inevitable.

NATO's members were never strongly united behind Washington's crusade to fatally weaken Russia. The governments of Hungary and Croatia are simply acknowledging the wider European public's opposition to war with Russia and lack of support for Washington's desire to postpone Ukraine's foreseeable defeat.

Though sympathetic to the Ukrainian people, Berlin did not support all-out war with Russia on Ukraine's behalf. Now, Germans are also uneasy with the catastrophic condition of the German armed forces.

Retired German Air Force General (four-star equivalent) Harald Kujat, former chairman of the NATO Military Committee, severely criticized Berlin for allowing Washington to railroad Germany into conflict with Russia, noting that several decades of German political leaders actively disarmed Germany and thus deprived Berlin of authority or credibility in Europe. Though actively suppressed by the German government and media, his comments are resonating strongly with the German electorate.

The blunt fact is that in its efforts to secure victory in its proxy war with Russia, Washington ignores historical reality. From the 13th century onward, Ukraine was a region dominated by larger, more powerful national powers, whether Lithuanian, Polish, Swedish, Austrian, or Russian.

In the aftermath of the First World War, abortive Polish designs for an independent Ukrainian State were conceived to weaken Bolshevik Russia. Today, Russia is not communist, nor does Moscow seek the destruction of the Polish State as Trotsky, Lenin, Stalin, and their followers did in 1920.

So where is Washington headed with its proxy war against Russia? The question deserves an answer.

On Sunday December 7, 1941, U.S. Ambassador Averell Harriman was with Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill having dinner at Churchill's home when the BBC broadcast the news that the Japanese had attacked the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. Harriman was visibly shocked. He simply repeated the words, "The Japanese have raided Pearl Harbor."

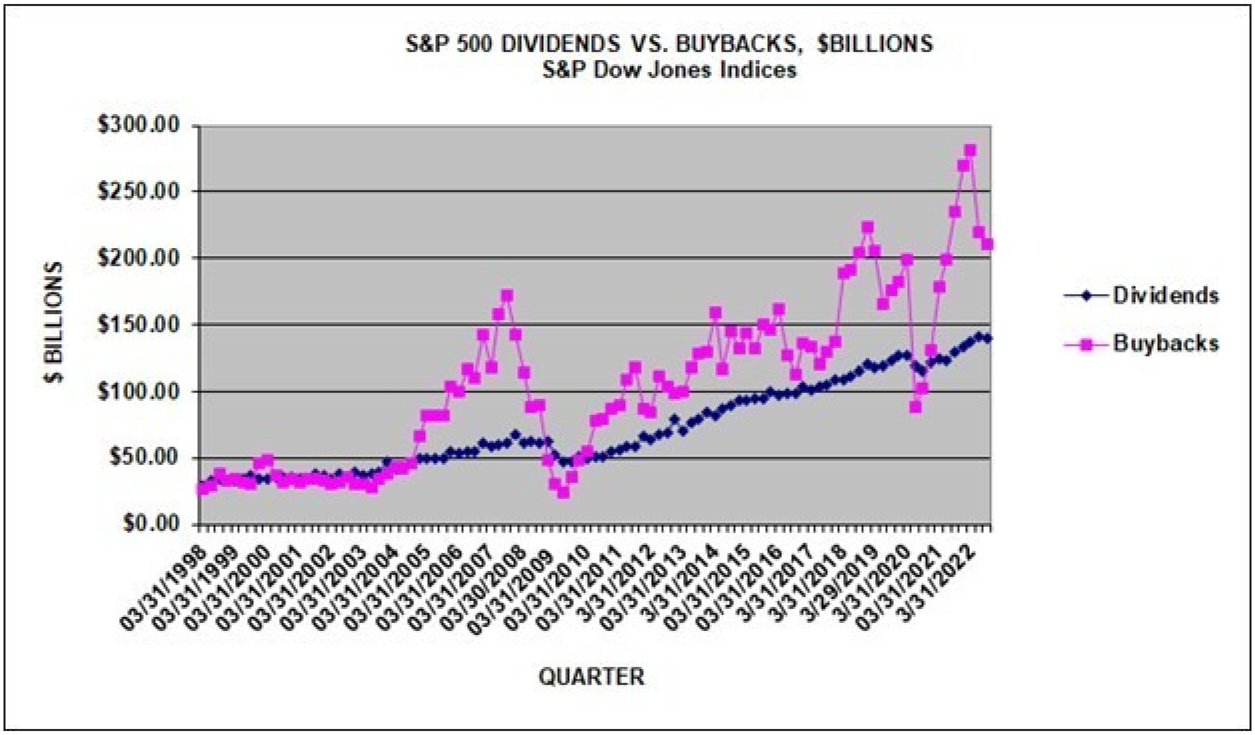
Harriman need not have been surprised. The Roosevelt administration had practically done everything in its power to goad Tokyo into attacking U.S. forces in the Pacific with a series of hostile policy decisions culminating in Washington's oil embargo during the summer of 1941.

In the Second World War, Washington was lucky with timing and allies. This time it's different. Washington and its NATO allies are advocating a full-blown war against Russia, the devastation and breakup of the Russian Federation, as well as the destruction of millions of lives in Russia and Ukraine.

Washington emotes. Washington does not think, and it is also overtly hostile to empiricism and truth. Neither we nor our allies are prepared to fight all-out war with Russia, regionally or globally. The point is, if war breaks out between Russia and the United States, Americans should not be surprised. The Biden administration and its bipartisan supporters in Washington are doing all they possibly can to make it happen.

Government, stats, markets: jan30 2022 buybacks up to q3: Jun 16, 2022: "S&P 500 Buybacks Set Quarterly and 12-Month Records" - Again

S&P 500 Buybacks Decline 4.0% but Energy Buybacks increase 64.5%; Proforma Buyback Tax Would Have Reduced Operating Earnings by 0.46%



- **Buybacks remained top heavy with the top 20 companies accounting for 49.0% of Q3 2022 buybacks,** an increase from Q2 2022's 46.8%, but down from the 53.8% in Q3 2021, and up from the pre-COVID historical average of 44.5%.

  Financials increased their buybacks after last quarter's significant pull back, as their Q3 2022 expenditures increased 8.5% to $23.0 billion, representing 10.9% of the buybacks, from the Q2 2022 $21.2 billion, which represented 9.7% of all buybacks, but was 62.8% less than their Q3 2021 expenditure of $61.9 billion.

- **For the 12-months ending September 2022, buybacks were $981.6 billion, down from the record $1.005 trillion posted for the June 2022 period, and up from the $742.2 billion spent in the September 2021 time period.**

- **Total shareholder returns for the 12-months ending September 2022 increased to a record $1.534 trillion** from the September 2021 $1.241 trillion.

S&P 500 Buybacks Decline 4.0% but Energy Buybacks increase 64.5%; Proforma Buyback Tax Would Have Reduced Operating Earnings by 0.46%

NEWS PROVIDED BY
S&P Dow Jones Indices
Dec 19, 2022, 09:30 ET

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- **S&P 500 Q3 2022 buybacks were $210.8 billion, down 4.0% from Q2 2022's $219.6 billion, as participation declined**
- **Financials increased 8.5% from Q2, but remained down 62.8% from Q3 2021, as Energy went up 64.5% from Q2 and up 640% from Q3 2021**
- **On a proforma basis, the new net buyback 1% excise tax, which starts in 2023, would have reduced Q3 2022 operating earnings by 0.46%**

NEW YORK, Dec. 19, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- S&P Dow Jones Indices ("S&P DJI") announced today preliminary S&P 500® stock buybacks, or share repurchases, data for Q3 2022.

Historical data on S&P 500 buybacks are available at www.spdji.com/indices/equity/sp-500.

Key Takeaways:

- **Q3 2022 share repurchases were $210.8 billion,** down 4.0% from Q2 2022's $219.6 billion expenditure and down 10.1% from Q3 2021's $234.6 billion.
- **319 companies reported buybacks of at least $5 million for the quarter**, down from 331 in Q2 2022 and up from 309 in Q3 2021; 384 companies did some buybacks for the quarter, the same as in Q2 2022 and up from 371 in Q3 2021; 441 companies did some buybacks for the 12-months ending September 2022, up from 424 in the prior 2021 period.
- **Buybacks remained top heavy with the top 20 companies accounting for 49.0% of Q3 2022 buybacks,** an increase from Q2 2022's 46.8%, but down from the 53.8% in Q3 2021, and up from the pre-COVID historical average of 44.5%.
- **For the 12-months ending September 2022, buybacks were $981.6 billion, down from the record $1.005 trillion posted for the June 2022 period, and up from the $742.2 billion spent in the September 2021 time period.**

- **21.2% of companies reduced share counts used for earnings-per-share (EPS) by at least 4% year-over-year**, up from Q2 2022's 19.8% and Q3 2021's 7.4%, and down from the pre-COVID Q3 2019 rate of 22.8%.
- **S&P 500 Q3 2022 dividends decreased 0.2% to $140.3 billion** from Q2 2022's record $140.6 billion and were 7.9% greater than the $130.0 billion in Q3 2021. For the 12-months ending September 2022, dividends were a record $552.4 billion, up 10.7% on an aggregate basis from the 12-month's September 2021's $498.9 billion.
- **Total shareholders return of buybacks and dividends declined to $351.2 billion in Q3 2022,** down 2.5% from Q2 2022's $360.2 billion and down 3.7% from Q3 2021's $364.7 billion.
- **Total shareholder returns for the 12-months ending September 2022 increased to a record $1.534 trillion** from the September 2021 $1.241 trillion.
- **On a proforma basis, the new 1% excise tax on net buybacks, which will start in 2023, would have reduced the Q3 2022 S&P 500 operating earnings by 0.46% and as reported GAAP earnings by 0.52%; for 2021 it would have reduced operating by 0.45% and as reported GAAP by 0.47%.**

"Companies, led by Financials, continued to pull back from their Q1 record-breaking buyback expenditures. However, energy has reentered the market at a time when the sector's shares are up substantially for the year," said **Howard Silverblatt, Senior Index Analyst at S&P Dow Jones Indices.** "The math of lower stock prices has resulted in more shares repurchased with 21.2% of the companies in the S&P 500 increasing their earnings-per-share by at least 4% thanks to their newly lowered share counts. The impact is expected to increase in Q4 2022 as companies appear to have accelerated their buybacks from Q1 2023 to Q4 2022 to avoid the new buyback tax."

1% Buyback Excise Tax for 2023:

On a proforma basis, the new 1% excise tax on net buybacks would have reduced Q3 2022 operating earnings by 0.46%, down from the proforma 0.48% for Q3 2021, with as reported GAAP earnings being reduced by 0.52%, up from the proforma 0.50% for Q3 2021. For the proforma 12-months period ending in September 2022, the tax would have cost S&P 500 companies $9.0 billion, and would have reduced operating earnings by 0.53% and as reported GAAP earnings by 0.57%.

Silverblatt added: "While going from zero to anything is the biggest increase, the 1% tax is an additional cost, but it is still not significant enough to impact overall buybacks at this point. However, some buybacks planned for 2023 appear to have been moved into Q4 2022. The buyback tax had bipartisan support, so there is a good possibility that the 1% level is only the opening rate, which if increased enough could shift some of the shareholder returns to dividends."

Q3 2022 GICS® Sector Analysis :

Information Technology continued to lead in buybacks, as its percentage of buybacks and aggregate expenditures decreased. In Q3 2022, IT's share decreased to 28.8% of all S&P 500 buybacks compared to Q2 2022's 32.8% and Q3 2021's 28.2%, as expenditures decreased (15.5%) to $60.8 billion from the prior quarter's $72.0 billion and were 8.0% lower than the Q3 2021 expenditure of $66.1 billion. For the 12-months ending September 2022, the sector spent $279.2 billion, representing 28.4% of all S&P buybacks, compared to the 2021 12-month $241.3 billion expenditure, which represented 32.5% of all buybacks. For the 10-years, the sector spent $1.857 trillion, representing 29.0% of the expenditures.

Financials increased their buybacks after last quarter's significant pull back, as their Q3 2022 expenditures increased 8.5% to $23.0 billion, representing 10.9% of the buybacks, from the Q2 2022 $21.2 billion, which represented 9.7% of all buybacks, but was 62.8% less than their Q3 2021 expenditure of $61.9 billion.

Energy continued to increase their buybacks, as they increased their expenditures by 64.5% for the quarter, to $22.0 billion (on a sector basis, second only to its Q4 2007 $25.3 billion expenditure), from the prior quarter's $13.4 billion and were up 640% from the Q3 2021 $3.0 billion. For the 12-months, buybacks were $51.6 billion compared to the prior period's $5.4 billion, an 853% increase.

Health Care buybacks increased 17.2% (after decreasing 58.2% last quarter), spending $20.2 billion in Q3 2022, representing 9.6% of all buybacks, up from the Q2 2022 $17.2 billion, which accounted for 7.8% of the buybacks, and were 24.6% higher than the Q3 2021 expenditure of $16.2 billion.

Issues:

The five issues with the highest total buybacks for Q3 2022 are:

- **Apple (AAPL)**: continued to be the poster child for buybacks as it once again spent the most of any issue, with its Q3 2022 expenditure ranking as the third highest in S&P 500 history. For the quarter, the company spent $24.7 billion, up 0.7% from Q2 2022's $24.6 billion. Apple holds 18 of the top 20 record quarters (Meta Platforms holds #11 and QUALCOMM holds #12). For the 12-months ending September 2022, Apple spent $95.6 billion on buybacks, up from the prior 12-month's $92.5 billion. Over the five-year period, they have spent $409.1 billion and $582.0 billion over the ten-year period.
- **Alphabet (GOOG/L)**: was next with $15.4 billion for Q3 2022, up from $15.2 billion in Q2 2022; the 12-month September 2022 expenditure was $57.4 billion versus the 12-month September 2021 expenditure of $44.7 billion.
- **Meta Platforms (META)**: $7.4 billion for Q3 2022, up from $6.2 billion in Q2 2022; the 12-month September 2022 expenditure was $45.6 billion versus $31.5 billion.
- **Microsoft (MSFT)**: $5.6 billion for Q3 2022, down from $8.8 billion in Q2 2022; the 12-month September 2022 expenditure was $30.6 billion versus $28.3 billion.
- **Exxon Mobile (XOM)**: returning to the top five for the first time since Q3 2014, the former poster child of buybacks spent $4.5 billion in Q3 2022, up from $3.9 billion in Q2 2022 and nothing in Q3 2021; the 12-month September 2022 expenditure was $10.6 billion versus $0.1 billion.

For more information about S&P Dow Jones Indices, please visit www.spdji.com.

S&P Dow Jones Indices S&P 500, $ U.S. BILLIONS			**(preliminary in bold)**					
PERIOD	**MARKET VALUE**	**OPERATING EARNINGS**	**AS REPORTED EARNINGS**	**DIVIDENDS**	**BUYBACKS**	**DIVIDEND**	**BUYBACK**	**DIVIDEND & BUYBACK**
	$ BILLIONS	**$ BILLIONS**	**$ BILLIONS**	**$ BILLIONS**	**$ BILLIONS**	**YIELD**	**YIELD**	**YIELD**
12 Mo Sep,'22 Prelim.	$30,119	**$1,716.39**	**$1,577.81**	$552.40	**$981.59**	1.83 %	**3.26 %**	**5.09 %**
12 Mo Sep,'21	$36,538	$1,604.21	$1,483.50	$498.95	$742.21	1.37 %	2.03 %	3.40 %
2021	$40,356	$1,738.62	$1,652.78	$511.23	$881.72	1.27 %	2.18 %	3.45 %

2020	$31,659	$1,019.04	$784.21	$483.18	$519.76	1.53 %	1.64 %	3.17 %
2019	$26,760	$1,304.76	$1,158.22	$485.48	$728.74	1.81 %	2.72 %	4.54 %
2018	$21,027	$1,281.66	$1,119.43	$456.31	$806.41	2.17 %	3.84 %	6.01 %
9/30/2022 Prelim.	$30,119	**$423.86**	**$372.20**	$140.34	**$210.84**	1.83 %	**3.26 %**	**5.09 %**
6/30/2022	$31,903	$395.02	$360.21	$140.56	$219.64	1.70 %	3.15 %	4.85 %
3/31/2022	$38,288	$417.16	$388.68	$137.60	$281.01	1.37 %	2.57 %	3.94 %
12/31/2021	$40,356	$480.35	$456.72	$133.90	$270.10	1.27 %	2.18 %	3.45 %
9/30/2021	$36,538	$441.26	$420.64	$130.04	$234.64	1.37 %	2.03 %	3.40 %
6/30/2021	$36,325	$439.95	$409.02	$123.38	$198.84	1.33 %	1.68 %	3.01 %
3/31/2021	$33,619	$401.19	$388.84	$123.91	$178.13	1.43 %	1.48 %	2.91 %
12/31/2020	$31,659	$321.81	$265.00	$121.62	$130.59	1.53 %	1.64 %	3.17 %
9/30/2020	$27,868	$314.06	$273.29	$115.54	$101.79	1.75 %	2.05 %	3.80 %
6/30/2020	$25,637	$221.53	$147.44	$119.04	$88.66	1.93 %	2.52 %	4.45 %
3/31/2020	$21,424	$161.64	$98.48	$126.98	$198.72	2.31 %	3.37 %	5.68 %
12/31/2019	$26,760	$324.52	$294.29	$126.35	$181.58	1.81 %	2.72 %	4.54 %
9/30/2019	$24,707	$330.42	$282.12	$123.12	$175.89	1.94 %	3.12 %	5.06 %
6/28/2019	$24,423	$333.26	$290.00	$118.68	$165.46	1.93 %	3.27 %	5.20 %
3/29/2019	$23,619	$316.56	$291.82	$117.33	$205.81	1.97 %	3.49 %	5.45 %
12/31/2018	$21,027	$293.82	$242.91	$119.81	$222.98	2.17 %	3.84 %	6.01 %
9/30/2018	$24,579	$349.04	$306.70	$115.72	$203.76	1.81 %	2.93 %	4.75 %

S&P Dow Jones Indices

S&P 500 SECTOR BUYBACKS

SECTOR $ MILLIONS	**Q3,'22**	**Q2,'22**	**Q3,'21**	**12MoSep,'22**	**12MoSep,'21**	**5-YEARS**	**10-YEARS**
Consumer Discretionary	$19,542	$27,639	$20,553	$106,308	$64,528	$367,413	$778,679
Consumer Staples	$11,316	$10,662	$8,337	$43,213	$35,599	$167,612	$393,701
Energy	$22,014	$13,383	$2,974	$51,563	$5,410	$115,340	$234,190
Financials	$23,027	$21,216	$61,927	$150,447	$152,693	$732,867	$1,167,286
Healthcare	$20,152	$17,201	$16,170	$100,327	$69,336	$417,096	$757,813

Industrials	$17,113	$17,834	$17,567	$75,960	$53,241	$305,788	$636,115
Information Technology	$60,771	$71,956	$66,060	$279,174	$241,262	$1,205,391	$1,857,180
Materials	$5,678	$8,726	$5,252	$31,082	$16,534	$85,303	$152,772
Real Estate	$793	$1,127	$272	$3,696	$1,473	$14,411	$17,700
Communication Services	$30,297	$29,441	$35,230	$137,113	$100,860	$361,276	$390,032
Utilities	$140	$453	$299	$2,710	$1,272	$12,590	$18,598
TOTAL	**$210,843**	**$219,637**	**$234,640**	**$981,593**	**$742,209**	**$3,785,087**	**$6,404,065**

SECTOR BUYBACK MAKEUP %	**Q3,'22**	**Q2,'22**	**Q3,'21**	**12MoSep,'22**	**12MoSep,'21**	**5-YEARS**	**10-YEARS**
Consumer Discretionary	9.27 %	12.58 %	8.76 %	10.83 %	8.69 %	9.71 %	12.16 %
Consumer Staples	5.37 %	4.85 %	3.55 %	4.40 %	4.80 %	4.43 %	6.15 %
Energy	10.44 %	6.09 %	1.27 %	5.25 %	0.73 %	3.05 %	3.66 %
Financials	10.92 %	9.66 %	26.39 %	15.33 %	20.57 %	19.36 %	18.23 %
Healthcare	9.56 %	7.83 %	6.89 %	10.22 %	9.34 %	11.02 %	11.83 %
Industrials	8.12 %	8.12 %	7.49 %	7.74 %	7.17 %	8.08 %	9.93 %
Information Technology	28.82 %	32.76 %	28.15 %	28.44 %	32.51 %	31.85 %	29.00 %
Materials	2.69 %	3.97 %	2.24 %	3.17 %	2.23 %	2.25 %	2.39 %
Real Estate	0.38 %	0.51 %	0.12 %	0.38 %	0.20 %	0.38 %	0.28 %
Communication Services	14.37 %	13.40 %	15.01 %	13.97 %	13.59 %	9.54 %	6.09 %
Utilities	0.07 %	0.21 %	0.13 %	0.28 %	0.17 %	0.33 %	0.29 %
TOTAL	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %

S&P Dow Jones Indices

S&P 500 20 LARGEST Q3 2022 BUYBACKS, $ MILLIONS

Company	**Ticker**	**Sector**	**Q3 2022 Buybac**	**Q2 2021 Buybac**	**Q3 20221 Buyback**	**12-Months Sep,'22**	**12-Months Sep,'21**	**5-Year Buybac**	**10-Year Buyback**	**Indicated Divide**

			ks $ Million	**ks $ Million**	**s $ Million**	**$ Million**	**$ Million**	**ks $ Million**	**s $ Million**	**nd $ Million**
Apple	AAPL	Information Technology	$24,736	$24,562	$20,449	$95,625	$92,527	$409,123	$582,041	$13,898
Alphabet	GOOGL	Communication Services	$15,392	$15,197	$12,610	$57,362	$44,705	$154,884	$163,102	$0
Meta Platforms	META	Communication Services	$7,365	$6,235	$15,033	$45,600	$31,532	$108,389	$115,597	$0
Microsoft	MSFT	Information Technology	$5,573	$8,757	$7,684	$30,585	$28,326	$116,316	$172,130	$20,285
Exxon Mobil	XOM	Energy	$4,494	$3,919	$0	$10,634	$101	$12,492	$52,459	$15,170
Procter & Gamble	PG	Consumer Staples	$4,000	$1,250	$2,750	$11,253	$11,759	$41,922	$64,291	$8,722
Lowe's Companies	LOW	Consumer Discretionary	$3,999	$4,091	$2,825	$16,140	$12,442	$37,598	$56,537	$2,684
Marathon Petroleum	MPC	Energy	$3,908	$0	$928	$9,496	$1,912	$16,395	$24,603	$1,496
NVIDIA	NVDA	Information Technology	$3,779	$3,650	$439	$10,579	$1,508	$16,000	$20,789	$401
Chevron	CVX	Energy	$3,697	$1,689	$618	$5,386	$618	$12,124	$22,210	$10,229
Comcast	CMCSA	Communication Services	$3,525	$3,065	$1,660	$11,868	$2,722	$22,066	$45,381	$4,756
Cigna	CI	Health Care	$3,500	$1,006	$2,611	$7,295	$8,011	$20,751	$26,260	$1,367
Walmart	WMT	Consumer Staples	$2,961	$3,339	$2,168	$11,127	$8,807	$35,887	$65,594	$3,193
ConocoPhillips	COP	Energy	$2,804	$2,300	$1,243	$7,928	$2,390	$18,500	$20,690	$2,597
Morgan Stanley	MS	Financials	$2,608	$2,837	$3,628	$11,973	$9,278	$35,895	$47,763	$4,151
S&P Global	SPGI	Financials	$2,512	$1,508	$10	$11,091	$60	$15,557	$19,970	$1,158
Charter Commun	CHTR	Communication Services	$2,225	$3,687	$3,666	$13,842	$15,183	$51,132	$60,521	$0
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	Health Care	$2,165	$973	$391	$5,711	$2,781	$24,821	$55,373	$11,884
Visa	V	Information Technology	$2,106	$2,434	$2,969	$11,709	$8,820	$44,807	$71,674	$2,943
Union Pacific	UNP	Industrials	$2,024	$290	$1,361	$6,942	$6,595	$31,653	$46,843	$3,247
Top 20			**$103,373**	**$90,789**	**$83,043**	**$392,146**	**$290,077**	**$1,226,312**	**$1,733,828**	**$108,182**
S&P 500			**$210,843**	**$219,637**	**$234,640**	**$981,593**	**$742,209**	**$3,785,087**	**$6,404,065**	**$568,648**
Top 20 % of S&P 500			**49.03 %**	**41.34 %**	**35.39 %**	**39.95 %**	**39.08 %**	**32.40 %**	**27.07 %**	**19.02 %**

Gross values are not adjusted for float

S&P Dow Jones Indices

S&P 500 Q3 2022 Buyback Report

SECTOR	DIVIDEND YIELD	BUYBACK YIELD	COMBINED YIELD
Consumer Discretionary	**1.03 %**	**3.17 %**	**4.20 %**
Consumer Staples	**2.56 %**	**1.87 %**	**4.43 %**
Energy	**3.66 %**	**3.26 %**	**6.92 %**
Financials	**2.14 %**	**4.00 %**	**6.14 %**
HealthCare	**1.60 %**	**1.93 %**	**3.53 %**
Industrials	**1.69 %**	**2.70 %**	**4.39 %**
Information Technology	**1.12 %**	**3.20 %**	**4.32 %**
Materials	**2.06 %**	**3.46 %**	**5.52 %**
Real Estate	**3.38 %**	**0.41 %**	**3.79 %**
Communications Services	**1.40 %**	**7.01 %**	**8.41 %**
Utilities	**3.00 %**	**0.27 %**	**3.27 %**
S&P 500	**1.75 %**	**3.02 %**	**4.76 %**

Uses full values (unadjusted for float)

Dividends based on indicated; buybacks based on the last 12-months ending Q3,'22

Share Count Changes (Y/Y diluted shares used for EPS)	>=4%	<=-4%
Q3 2022	**7.21 %**	**21.24 %**
Q2 2022	**8.42 %**	**19.84 %**
Q1 2022	**7.62 %**	**17.64 %**
Q4 2021	**10.06 %**	**14.89 %**
Q3 2021	**10.22 %**	**7.41 %**
Q2 2021	**11.02 %**	**5.41 %**
Q1 2021	**10.40 %**	**5.80 %**
Q4 2020	**9.02 %**	**6.01 %**
Q3 2020	**8.62 %**	**9.62 %**
Q2 2020	**8.60 %**	**17.80 %**
Q1 2020	**8.00 %**	**19.60 %**
Q4	**7.63**	**20.68**

2019	%	%
Q3 2019	8.62 %	22.85 %

Journal, energy: jan30 TSVETANA PARASKOVA, top ranked writer on top ranked energy markets website in the united states appears to be using a 'pen name'. Why are all these indepth markets writers always anonymous; zh being the obvious first example that should come to mind.

India, markets, war: jan30 now 68 billion loss...lol.massive indian conglomerate...Adani Wipeout Hits $68 Billion; Despite Turmoil, UAE Sees Investment Opportunity

Markets, war, india: jan29 Adani Publishes 413-Page Report Saying Hindenburg's Short Attack Is 'Calculated' Fraud; report led to a $50 billion selloff in Adani's corporate empire.

US short-seller Hindenburg Research and Indian billionaire Gautam Adani are locked in an epic game of ping pong as both throw barbs at each other.

Last week, Hindenburg published a 100-page report alleging Adani's company Adani Enterprises Ltd. is built on accounting fraud, while Adani's legal team called the short report "maliciously mischievous and unresearched."

Hindenburg's report led to a $50 billion selloff in Adani's corporate empire.

Markets, war: jan29 Massive Fire Destroys Commercial Egg Farm Belonging To Top US Supplier

Dozens of food processing plants were destroyed and/or damaged last year by "accidental fires." After several months of a lull in mysterious fires rippling through the food industry, the first major one of the new year was reported by NBC Connecticut on Saturday.

More than 100 firefighters battled a massive fire at a commercial egg farm in Bozrah, Connecticut, on Saturday afternoon.

According to Epoch Times, firefighters spent hours extinguishing a 150-foot-by-400-foot chicken coop at Hillandale Farms, which contained about 100,000 chickens.

A Salvation Army canteen truck was on the scene, providing food. According to the Salvation Army, about 100,000 chickens may have died in the fire. It also said that no injuries had been reported.

Here's the video of the fire:

Crypto, markets: jan29 "HODLers Held The Line" - Bitcoin Tops $24k As "Capitulation Has Clearly Unfolded"

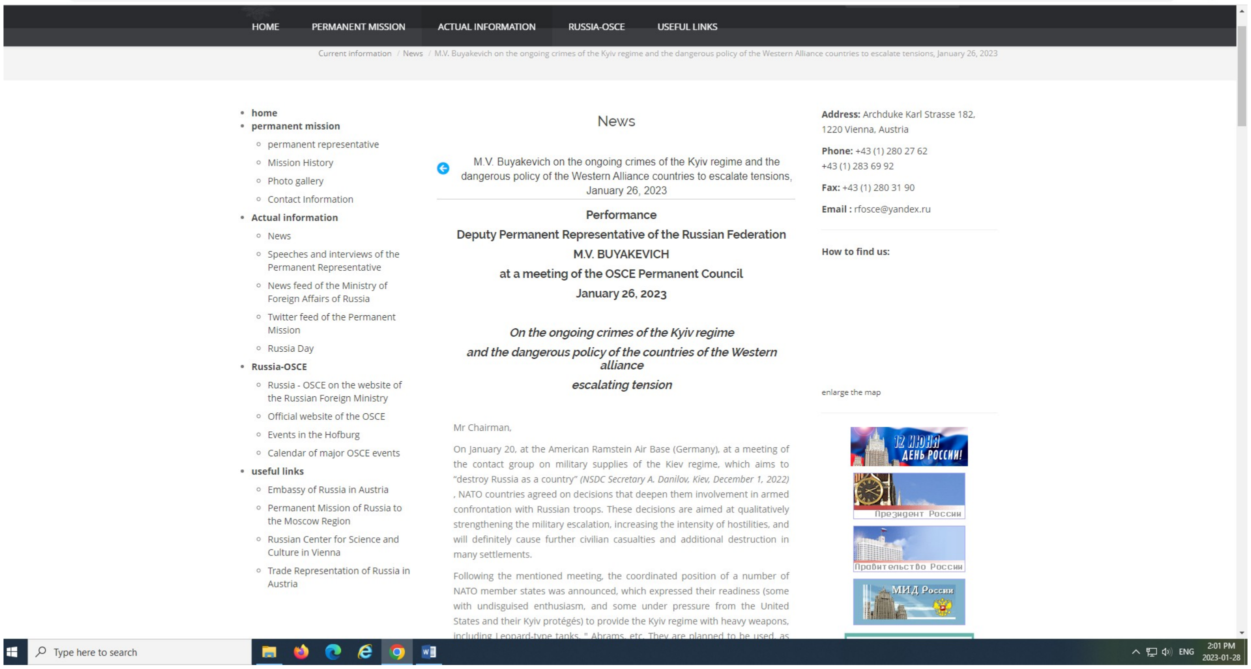
Government, inflation: jan29 Millions To See Food Stamp Payment Decrease After February, Federal Agency Says

*"**All SNAP households have or will see a decrease to the SNAP benefits** they receive when emergency allotments end..."*

Government, inflation: jan28 "It's The Perfect Storm": More Americans Can't Afford Their Car Payments Than During The Peak Of Financial Crisis

Jeremy Cross, the president of International Recovery Systems in Pennsylvania, said he can’t find enough repo men to meet the demand or space to hold all the cars his company has been tasked with repossessing

Russia Warns of ‘Full-Blown Conflict in Europe’: “The leaders of the US and their NATO client states have come close to a red line. Their deliberate actions to escalate the military confrontation in Ukraine – provoking the regime into military action against the Russian population using Western heavy weapons and NATO intelligence – is a direct path to a full-blown military conflict in Europe,” he said, arguing that all people on the continent “definitely stand to lose” from such a war.; “Their masks have long been thrown off. They are no longer embarrassed to say directly that this is not at all about the struggle for some kind of Ukrainian statehood, but about the promotion of the ‘rules-based world order’ being formed by the West,” Buyakevich continued, citing recent comments by German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, who declared that “we are fighting a war against Russia” earlier this week.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Current information / News / M.V. Buyakevich on the ongoing crimes of the Kyiv regime and the dangerous policy of the Western Alliance countries to escalate tensions, January 26, 2023

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  - Russia - OSCE on the website of the Russian Foreign Ministry
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  - Events in the Hofburg
  - Calendar of major OSCE events
- **useful links**
  - Embassy of Russia in Austria
  - Permanent Mission of Russia to the Moscow Region
  - Russian Center for Science and Culture in Vienna
  - Trade Representation of Russia in Austria

News

M.V. Buyakevich on the ongoing crimes of the Kyiv regime and the dangerous policy of the Western Alliance countries to escalate tensions, January 26, 2023

Performance
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
M.V. BUYAKEVICH
at a meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
January 26, 2023

On the ongoing crimes of the Kyiv regime
and the dangerous policy of the countries of the Western alliance
escalating tension

Mr Chairman,

On January 20, at the American Ramstein Air Base (Germany), at a meeting of the contact group on military supplies of the Kiev regime, which aims to "destroy Russia as a country" *(NSDC Secretary A. Danilov, Kiev, December 1, 2022)* , NATO countries agreed on decisions that deepen them involvement in armed confrontation with Russian troops. These decisions are aimed at qualitatively strengthening the military escalation, increasing the intensity of hostilities, and will definitely cause further civilian casualties and additional destruction in many settlements.

Following the mentioned meeting, the coordinated position of a number of NATO member states was announced, which expressed their readiness (some with undisguised enthusiasm, and some under pressure from the United States and their Kyiv protégés) to provide the Kyiv regime with heavy weapons, including Leopard-type tanks, " Abrams, etc. They are planned to be used, as

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1220 Vienna, Austria

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+43 (1) 283 69 92

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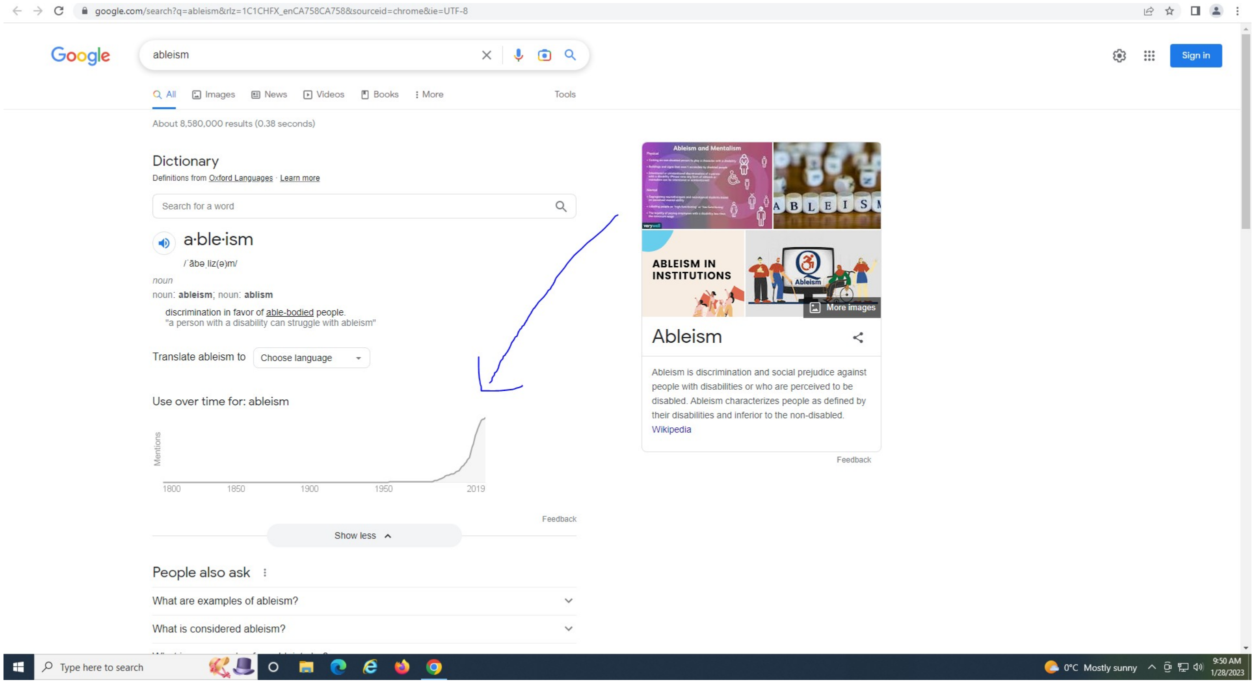
Stats, censorship: jan28 ableism……is now offensive at universities………definition of ableism, a word that I didn't know existed until i read this article:"discrimination in favor of able-bodied people. "a person with a disability can struggle with ableism""

The University of Aberdeen in Scotland put a trigger warning on "Beowulf" due to its depictions of "animal cruelty" and "ableism." Beowulf had to fear "a creature of darkness, exiled from happiness and accursed of God, the destroyer and devourer of our human kind." However, Aberdeen students have the added fear that they may run across depictions from 975 which "place value on people's bodies and minds based on societally constructed ideas of normality, intelligence, excellence, desirability, and productivity." [Notably, even that definition is preceded at Stanford by a trigger warning that "*Content warning*: The following page contains content including the historical context of ableism. It may be disturbing to those with a history of institutionalization or other negative experiences in the medical world concerning their specific disabilities."]


google.com/search?q=ableism&rlz=1C1CHFX_enCA758CA758&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
Google
All
Images
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Videos
Books
More
Tools
Search for a word
Mentions
1800
1850
1900
1950
2019
More images
Feedback
Show less
Sign in
Type here to search
0°C Mostly sunny
9:50 AM
1/28/2023

ableism

About 8,580,000 results (0.38 seconds)

Dictionary

Definitions from Oxford Languages · Learn more

a·ble·ism

/ˈābəˌliz(ə)m/

noun

noun: ableism; noun: ablism

discrimination in favor of able-bodied people.
"a person with a disability can struggle with ableism"

Translate ableism to Choose language

Use over time for: ableism

People also ask

What are examples of ableism?

What is considered ableism?

ABLEISM IN INSTITUTIONS

Ableism

Ableism is discrimination and social prejudice against people with disabilities or who are perceived to be disabled. Ableism characterizes people as defined by their disabilities and inferior to the non-disabled.
Wikipedia

Even the death of an albatross in “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” required a trigger warning at the University of Greenwich as “potentially upsetting.”

There is trigger warning imposed by the University of Warwick for Thomas Hardy’s “Far From the Madding Crown” because of its depiction of “rural life.”

Of course, the British are not alone in such warnings. The National Archives recently moved to add trigger warnings to displays on our founders and founding documents.

Trigger warning: I am about to quote Shakespeare….

This all proves the Bard’s point that ***“Nothing routs us but the villainy of our fears.”***

many universities have added trigger warnings to classic works of literature in order to warn students that they contain racist or homophobic language

Students warned tragedy may be too ‘triggering’

University of Derby staff tell students that the genre is 'obsessed with violence and suffering, often of a sexual or graphic kind'

*By*Craig Simpson25 January 2023 • 10:39am

Shakespeare's King Lear is one of the plays taught on the literature module CREDIT: Johan Persson

Tragedy may be too “triggering” for modern students, academics have warned.

The dramatic art form has entranced audiences from Ancient Greece to the Shakespearean stage, but has now been deemed potentially upsetting by staff at the University of Derby.

Students embarking on a literature module covering tragedy, including celebrated examples like Hamlet and King Lear, are warned that the genre is “obsessed… with suffering” and could prove “triggering”.

Athenian dramas concerning the deaths of mythical kings, and Arthur Miller’s classic Death of a Salesman, are also on the reading list for the module, which has been given a blanket advisory on how the tragic could be troubling.

The warning, as seen by The Telegraph, states: “Tragedy is a genre obsessed with violence and suffering, often of a sexual or graphic kind, and so some of the content might be triggering for some students.

“If you feel that your engagement with particular texts or themes is going to present challenges, do speak to me in advance of the class.”

Literary classics given warnings

1. Beowulf - University of Aberdeen

The Anglo-Saxon tale of foul monsters and a fire-breathing dragon being slain was given a warning for "animal cruelty" and "ableism".

Expand to read more

University staff said the warning was deemed necessary because “any of the plays explicitly engage with themes of violence and trauma, frequently sexual in nature”.

The plays in the module span 2,500 years of literature, beginning with the works of Aeschylus, whose Oresteia tells of numerous mythological murders, and Sophocles, whose drama Oedipus Rex tells the story of a king who sleeps with his mother and kills his father.

‘The real tragedy is the use of trigger warnings’

Professor Frank Furedi, an education expert at the University of Kent, criticised the broad trigger warning and said that tragedy is meant to cause upset.

“In order to draw a reader or an audience into the drama, tragedy is meant to provoke emotional upheaval and cause upset,” he said.

“If they fail to provoke strong emotions then a tragedy is anything but tragic. There is no such thing as a safe tragedy and students who wish to study this literary form have to live with it.

“A trigger warning is merely a banal way of saying beware of engaging with this wonderful art form. The real tragedy is the use of trigger warnings for grown-up students who are about to encounter their first taste of Euripides.”

The University of Derby said that the trigger warning is given “because many of the plays explicitly engage with themes of violence and trauma, frequently sexual in nature, and the module leader believes that students benefit from being made aware of this before classes begin”.

Censorship, government: jan28 trigger warnings at uninversities: When universities say even a trigger warning is triggering, it’s hard not to pity the students. "The compilers of the Stanford list, however, have decided that the term “trigger warning” is itself triggering – because it “can cause stress about what’s to follow”."

COMMENT

When universities say even a trigger warning is triggering, it’s hard not to pity the students

Thanks to their baffling banned terms, Stanford is no longer a leading American college – not least because they say ‘American’ is offensive

MICHAEL DEACON
COLUMNIST & ASSISTANT EDITOR

21 December 2022 • 6:07pm

I must admit, I'm feeling rather guilty. In countless previous columns, I've suggested that students nowadays are comically sanctimonious.

But perhaps it isn't actually the students' fault. They're just following the example set by even more sanctimonious university staff.

I've been contemplating this possibility ever since I read a story about Stanford, a leading American university. Some of its staff, it seems, have been working on what they call an "Elimination of Harmful Language Initiative". This consists of an extremely long list of words and phrases which they believe students should never use, because they're far too offensive.

Almost all of it, however, is utterly bewildering. So much so, it makes me feel sorry for the students. The most baffling thing I had to read at university was Finnegans Wake. But it had nothing on this.

In the context of scientific research, for example, students are instructed to avoid the term "blind study", because it "perpetuates [the idea] that disability is somehow abnormal". Instead, students should use the term "masked study". Until, presumably, the staff decide that "masked study" is hurtful to sadomasochists, by perpetuating the idea that they're somehow abnormal, too.

In the context of computing, meanwhile, students are ordered not to use the word "user". Apparently, it makes website users sound like drug addicts. Then again, students aren't supposed to use the word "addicts", either, because it stigmatises drug users. Sorry: I mean, "people with a substance use disorder".

Another offensive term, you may be intrigued to learn, is "prisoner". To avoid causing offence, the list recommends the phrase "person who is incarcerated". This is because, in the view of the compilers, it's hurtful to "define people by just one of their characteristics". Why, of course. We must never forget that murderers have feelings too.

As, indeed, do animals. According to the list, we should avoid using the old saying "There's more than one way to skin a cat", because it "normalises violence against animals". What evidence the compilers have for this claim, I'm not sure. Perhaps a study has confirmed that, after being told that there's more than one way to skin a cat, people are more likely to go out and try it. If so, I would call it a copycat crime, but no doubt that would be offensive, as well. After all, this baseless association with plagiarism must be deeply hurtful to cats. No wonder they always seem so grumpy.

Believe it or not, another entry on the list is the word “American”. This is deemed offensive because it “often refers to people from the United States only, thereby insinuating that the US is the most important country in the Americas”. Clearly I shouldn’t have described Stanford as a leading American university. Or, for that matter, as a leading university.

Still, if you found that entry hard to fathom, wait till you hear the next one. In recent years, many universities have added trigger warnings to classic works of literature in order to warn students that they contain racist or homophobic language. The compilers of the Stanford list, however, have decided that the term “trigger warning” is itself triggering – because it “can cause stress about what’s to follow”. How university librarians are meant to resolve this conundrum, I don’t know. Perhaps they should add trigger warnings to the trigger warnings. But then the trigger warnings to the trigger warnings would need trigger warnings, too.

At any rate, there are countless other bizarre entries that I sadly haven’t got room to include. You may think it all sounds crazy. But if you do, please don’t say so, because the word “crazy” is on the banned list, too. It’s described as “ableist language” that “trivialises the experiences of people living with mental health conditions”.

As an alternative, the compilers suggest we use the word “surprising”. In this particular context, however, I really don’t think that will do. Because a university going woke is the least surprising thing in the world.

Censorship, media, government: jan28 (2018?) University of Manchester Bans Clapping and Cheering As Marginalizing For Some Students, Must Use Hand Signs Instead…

The student union of the University of Manchester voted to ban clapping, whooping and cheering because some students might find these common forms of expression to be unwelcoming or alienating for some students. As a result, students are expected to use “Jazz hands” to show approval to maintain a welcoming environment.

The students are expected to use the British Sign Language (BSL) equivalent of a clap – a wave of both hands. The change was proposed Student Union access officer Sara Khan.

nice exerpt on chinese censorship history. "It started in 1997: In 1997, a sweeping wave of regulations aimed at restricting internet usage was enacted. Section Five of the Computer Information Network and Internet Security, Protection, and Management Regulations was the first time pornography was specifically targeted and banned in China's criminal law. It defined obscene material as any "books, periodicals, movies, video-and audio-tapes, pictures, etc. that explicitly portray sexual behavior or undisguisedly publicize pornographic materials", but made exception for those used for medical or artistic purposes.[13][14] The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television's prohibition on pornography has been complete, and the government has shown no signs of reversing its decision. Directors, producers, and actors involved in pornographic films have been barred from competing in any

film competitions. Any film studio found in violation may have its license revoked."

Government censorship[edit]

See also: Censorship in China

In 1997, a sweeping wave of regulations aimed at restricting internet usage was enacted. Section Five of the Computer Information Network and Internet Security, Protection, and Management Regulations was the first time pornography was specifically targeted and banned in China's criminal law. It defined obscene material as any "books, periodicals, movies, video-and audio-tapes, pictures, etc. that explicitly portray sexual behavior or undisguisedly publicize pornographic materials", but made exception for those used for medical or artistic purposes.[13][14]

The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television's prohibition on pornography has been complete, and the government has shown no signs of reversing its decision. Directors, producers, and actors involved in pornographic films have been barred from competing in any film competitions. Any film studio found in violation may have its license revoked.[15]

Ideas[edit]

Chinese government consistently holds the idea that pornography information is harmful, arguing that "disseminating pornographic information online severely harms the physical and mental health of minors, and seriously corrupts social ethos",[16][17] pornography information is close to "spiritual pollution".[18] *Xinhuanet* states that "Chinese cultural traditions and moral values do not allow obscene and pornographic information to spread unchecked on the Internet".[19]

Methods[edit]

The term *Great Firewall of China* was coined in 1997 by Geremie Barmé to describe the combination of legislative actions and technologies enforced by the People's Republic of China to regulate the Internet domestically. First introduced in 1997, three years after the internet first arrived in China, it included regulations prohibiting the use of the internet to disseminate sexually suggestive material, among other things. The Great Firewall is a subsystem of the Golden Shield Project, also referred to as the "National Public Security Work Informational Project".

In its effort to combat internet pornography and other internet activity which it deemed illegal, the government of China issued the widespread use of internet censors. Algorithms designed by tech companies including Alibaba and Tuputech, these censors were designed to detect, block, and remove all sexual content.[3] The development of artificial intelligence technologies has been essential in the success of the censorship of internet pornography in China.

chinese censorship: "A crackdown of pornographic websites in 2004 lead to the arrests of over 200 people and the shutdown of over 700 pornographic websites including "99

Erotica", after having acquired more than 300,000 registered users within a year of its launch. One of those imprisoned, Wang Yanli, was believed to be the first woman jailed on a pornography related charge. She received a sentence of four years for operating an online strip club."

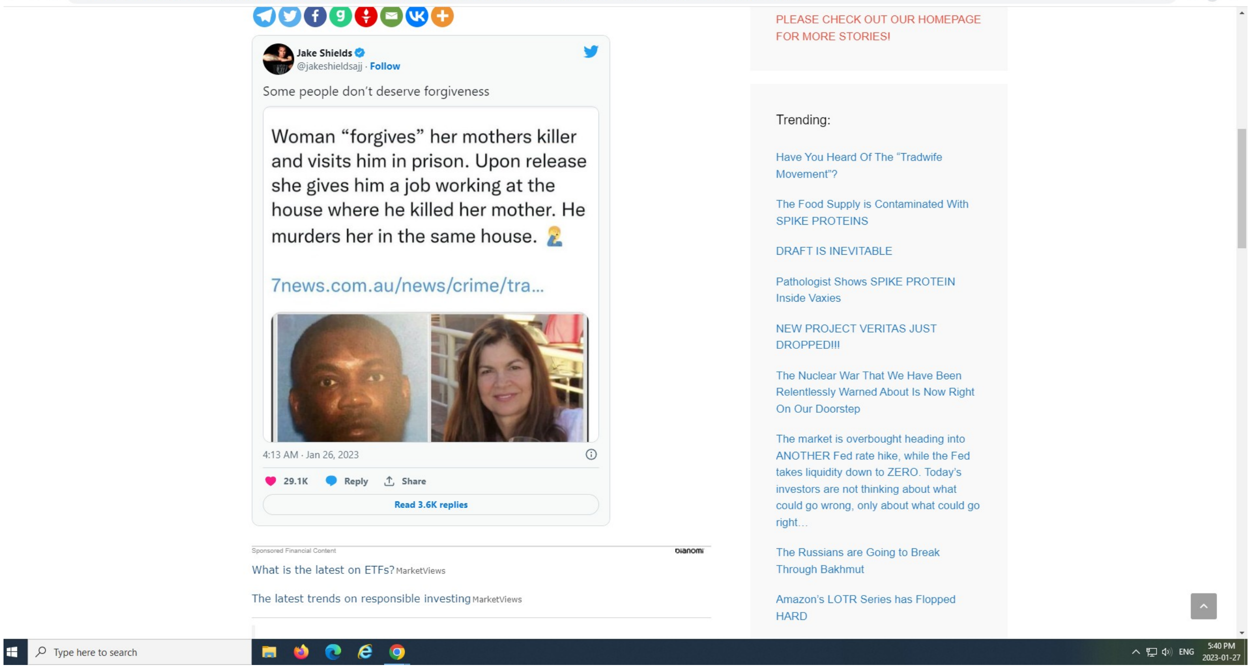
In 2005 authorities sentenced its eleven workers, among them teachers and civil servants, to imprisonment ranging from three to twelve years for disseminating obscene material. In October 2006 authorities closed down "Erotica Juneday", which charged its highest-paying members 3,999 yuan (then around $490) a year, and sentenced founder Chen Hui to life imprisonment.[22] Among those who complained about the harshness of the sentence was the sociologist Li Yinhe. She called on authorities to either repeal the pornography laws in China or stop pretending the nation enjoys freedom of expression.

2009-present[edit]

Between 2009 and 2010, crackdowns on pornography sites resulted in the arrests of thousands of people annually. In 2009, 5,394 people were arrested and 9,000 illegal porn-related sites were shut down.[23] In 2010, Chinese authorities shut down 60,000 pornographic websites and arrested almost 5,000 suspects.[24]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pornography_in_China

Stats, media: weird story



investmentwatchblog.com/woman-forgives-her-mothers-killer-visits-him-in-jail-upon-release-woman-gives-him-a-job-at-the-decease-mothers-house-and-is-quickly-killed-too/

Jake Shields @jakeshieldsajj · Follow

Some people don't deserve forgiveness

Woman "forgives" her mothers killer and visits him in prison. Upon release she gives him a job working at the house where he killed her mother. He murders her in the same house. 🤦‍♂️

7news.com.au/news/crime/tra...

4:13 AM · Jan 26, 2023

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The Nuclear War That We Have Been Relentlessly Warned About Is Now Right On Our Doorstep

The market is overbought heading into ANOTHER Fed rate hike, while the Fed takes liquidity down to ZERO. Today's investors are not thinking about what could go wrong, only about what could go right…

The Russians are Going to Break Through Bakhmut

Amazon's LOTR Series has Flopped HARD

: jan27 Woman "forgives" her mothers killer, visits him in jail. Upon release woman gives him a job at the decease mothers house and is quickly killed too.

After her mother was killed in a home invasion gone wrong, Martha McKay was quick to forgive the person responsible.

Then, 23 years on from her murder, the unthinkable happened to Martha…

Described by its website as 'stately' and 'elegant,' Snowden House, with its marble floor and sweeping staircase, was the perfect setting for a murder mystery.

In fact, the grand building, situated on the water's edge of Horseshoe Lake, served as a location for a movie adaptation of one of John Grisham's crime novels…

www.thatslife.com.au/she-forgave-her-mums-killer-then-he-murdered-her-too

Stats, health, censorship: jan27 500% Increase in Autism in New York-New Jersey Region

Time frame: 2000-2016

What could be the cause? What also happened during that time frame?

SNIP

Documented cases of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in the New York–New Jersey metro region increased by as much as 500 percent between 2000 and 2016, with the highest increase among children without intellectual disabilities, according to a Rutgers University study.

This is the opposite of past findings, which have suggested that autism typically co-occurs with intellectual impairment.

“One of the assumptions about ASD is that it occurs alongside intellectual disabilities,” said Josephine Shenouda, an adjunct professor at the Rutgers School of Public Health and lead author of the study published today (January 26) in the journal Pediatrics. “This claim was supported by older studies suggesting that up to 75 percent of children with autism also have intellectual disability.”

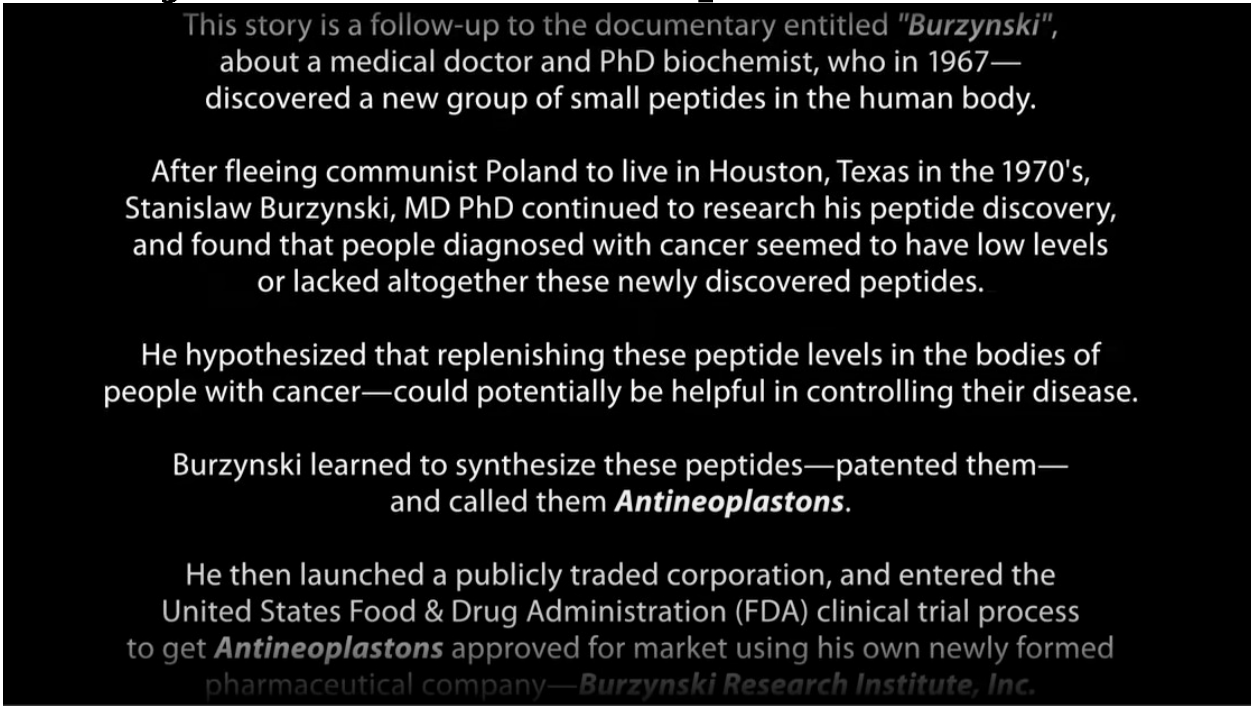
“What our paper shows is that this assumption is not true,” Shenouda said. “In fact, in this study, two-in-three children with autism had no intellectual disability whatsoever.”

Using biannual data from the New Jersey Autism Study, researchers identified 4,661 8-year-olds with ASD in four New Jersey counties (Essex, Hudson, Ocean, and Union) during the study period. Of these, 1,505 (32.3 percent) had an intellectual disability; 2,764 (59.3 percent) did not.

Source:

scitechdaily.com/rutgers-finds-shocking-500-increase-in-autism-in-new-york-new-jersey-region/

Stats: jan27 cancer cover-up



This story is a follow-up to the documentary entitled "*Burzynski*", about a medical doctor and PhD biochemist, who in 1967—discovered a new group of small peptides in the human body.

After fleeing communist Poland to live in Houston, Texas in the 1970's, Stanislaw Burzynski, MD PhD continued to research his peptide discovery, and found that people diagnosed with cancer seemed to have low levels or lacked altogether these newly discovered peptides.

He hypothesized that replenishing these peptide levels in the bodies of people with cancer—could potentially be helpful in controlling their disease.

Burzynski learned to synthesize these peptides—patented them—and called them ***Antineoplastons***.

He then launched a publicly traded corporation, and entered the United States Food & Drug Administration (FDA) clinical trial process to get ***Antineoplastons*** approved for market using his own newly formed pharmaceutical company—***Burzynski Research Institute, Inc.***

War, government, iran: jan27 Conservatives cheer EU 'retreat' on blacklisting IRGC: Javan daily, which is affiliated with the IRGC, wrote: "For a while, the Europeans played with the card of adding the IRGC to their terror list, but finally

they faced the real price of doing that and retreated."

Tech, government: jan27 Surveillance concerns as India issues new digital IDs in Kashmir: “Even if the government intends to provide us with benefits by creating these new IDs, their authoritarian treatment towards the people of Jammu and Kashmir has made us doubt their intentions,” he said.

“Families already use their ID cards if they need to access any social welfare programmes. So why is this required?” said Mehak, 22, who asked that her last name be withheld.

Regional authorities have said the JK Family ID, an eight-digit code assigned to each household, would improve access to social welfare benefits such as subsidised food grains.

It means families will not have to apply for benefits under various schemes, as eligibility decisions will be automated based on the data, said Prerna Puri, a commissioner in Indian-administered Kashmir’s information technology department.

Across India, the government is undertaking a vast digitisation push, including health records, property titles, railway bookings and utility payments, as part of the Digital India programme aimed at better governance.

War jan27 UN Food Agency: Afghan Malnutrition Rates at Record High

War, censorship: jan27 Four People With Russian Flags Kicked Out of Australian Open by Police

Four people were kicked out of the Australian Open after displaying Russian flags — which have been banned from Melbourne Park — and threatening security guards, police and Tennis Australia said Thursday.

Markets, government, journal: jan27 lockheed reports massive share repurchases: 11 billion in repurchases and dividend payments. dividends fine; repurchases, not fine…

Lockheed may be a for-profit, publicly traded, company but those stock buybacks, dividends and appreciated stock value are largely underwritten by U.S. taxpayers. The company's 2021 annual report acknowledged that, "…71% of our $67.0 billion in net sales were from the U.S. Government."

War: Jan27IMF Mulling Fresh $16 Billion Ukraine Aid Package; Revealed the same week Zelensky is touting a new 'anti-corruption' drive...

'

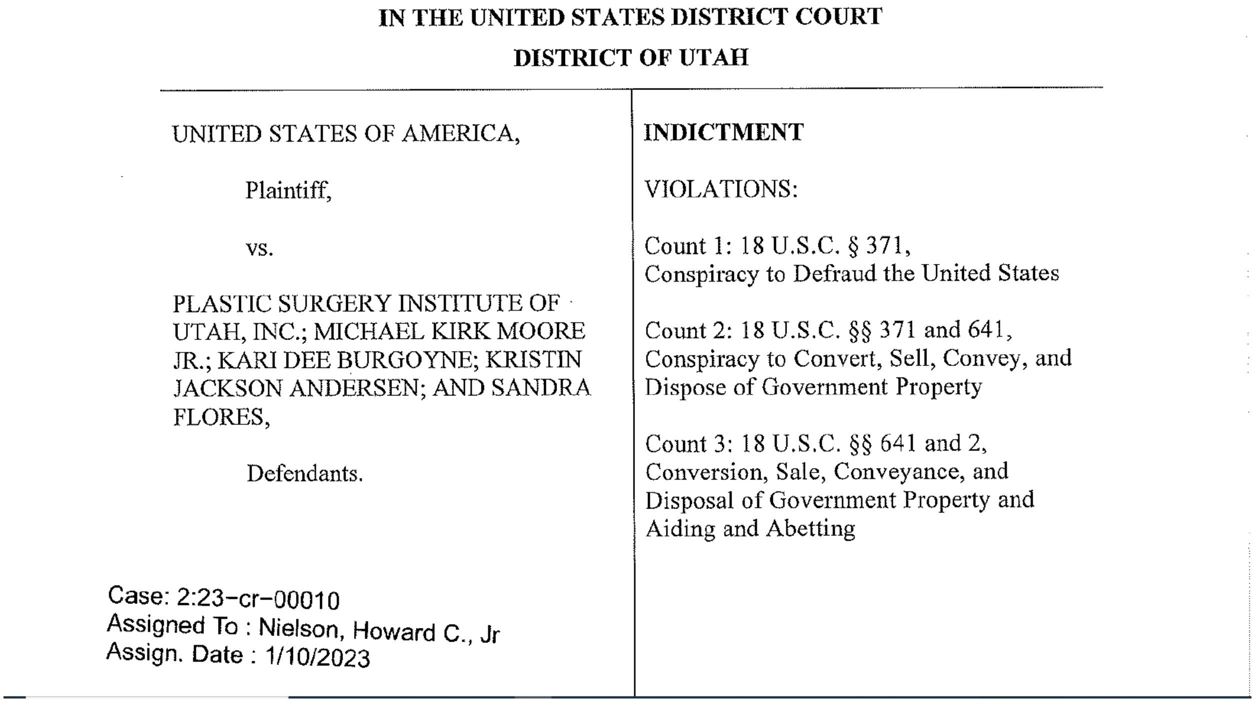
Vaccine, censorship, government: jan27 judge blocks cali covid misinformation law; The

court’s ruling effectively halts the law while the legal challenge plays out.

In Hoeg v. Newsom, **five doctors alleged that the state law, AB 2098, is unconstitutional under the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. A separate related lawsuit, Hoang v. Bonta, makes similar allegations.**

Both lawsuits sought a preliminary injunction to prevent California from enforcing the law.

Health, vaccine, censorship: jan27 Utah Plastic Surgeon Allegedly Destroyed COVID Vaccines, Gave Fake Shots To Children: image of legal complaint by u.s. goverment aleging doctor involved in elaborate conspiracy. Word conspiracy used several times.



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF UTAH

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PLASTIC SURGERY INSTITUTE OF UTAH, INC.; MICHAEL KIRK MOORE JR.; KARI DEE BURGOYNE; KRISTIN JACKSON ANDERSEN; AND SANDRA FLORES,

Defendants.

Case: 2:23-cr-00010
Assigned To : Nielson, Howard C., Jr
Assign. Date : 1/10/2023

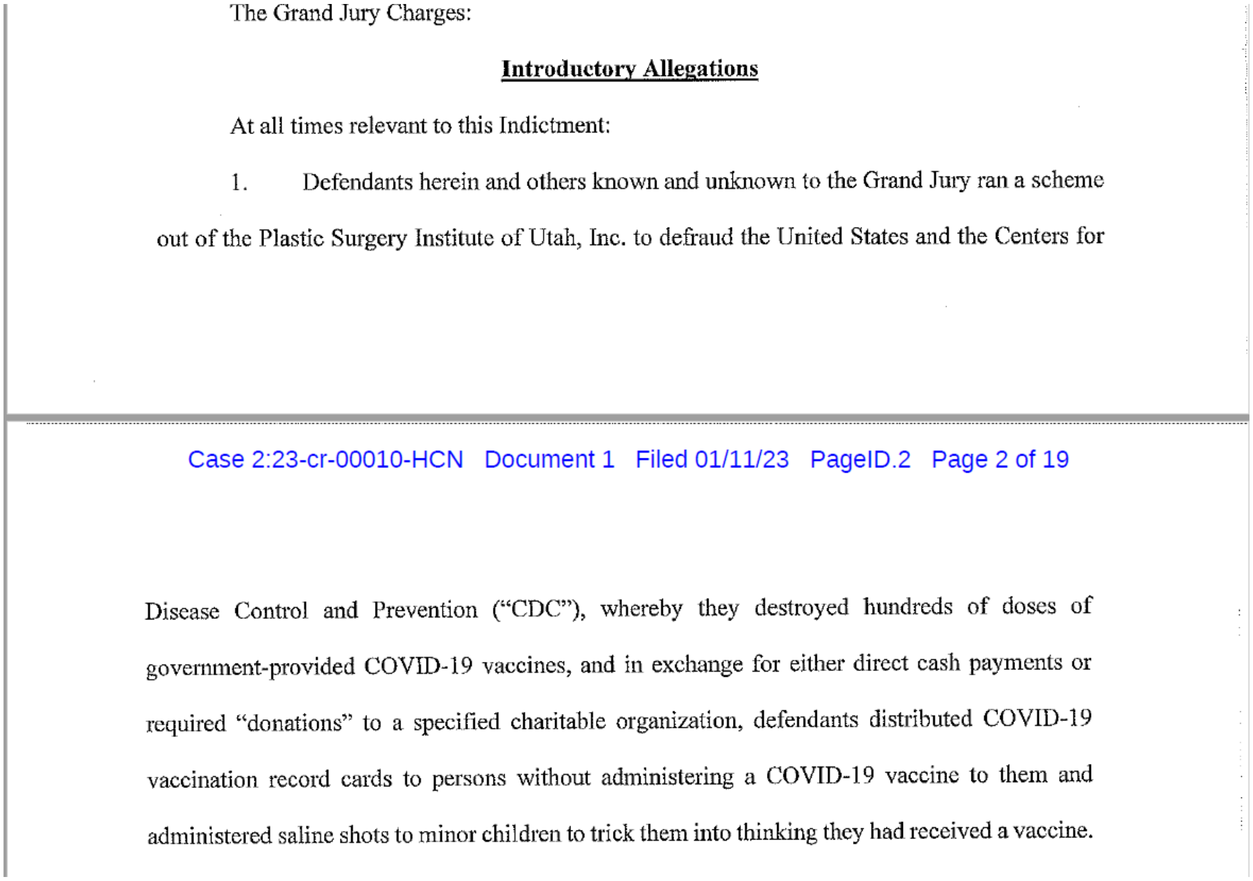
INDICTMENT

VIOLATIONS:

Count 1: 18 U.S.C. § 371,
Conspiracy to Defraud the United States

Count 2: 18 U.S.C. §§ 371 and 641,
Conspiracy to Convert, Sell, Convey, and Dispose of Government Property

Count 3: 18 U.S.C. §§ 641 and 2,
Conversion, Sale, Conveyance, and Disposal of Government Property and Aiding and Abetting



The Grand Jury Charges:

Introductory Allegations

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

1. Defendants herein and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury ran a scheme out of the Plastic Surgery Institute of Utah, Inc. to defraud the United States and the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), whereby they destroyed hundreds of doses of government-provided COVID-19 vaccines, and in exchange for either direct cash payments or required "donations" to a specified charitable organization, defendants distributed COVID-19 vaccination record cards to persons without administering a COVID-19 vaccine to them and administered saline shots to minor children to trick them into thinking they had received a vaccine.

"Flores and other employees would then provide the Fraudulent Vax Card Seekers with the completed COVID-19 Vaccine Record Cards without administering any COVID-19 vaccine to them," the document reads.

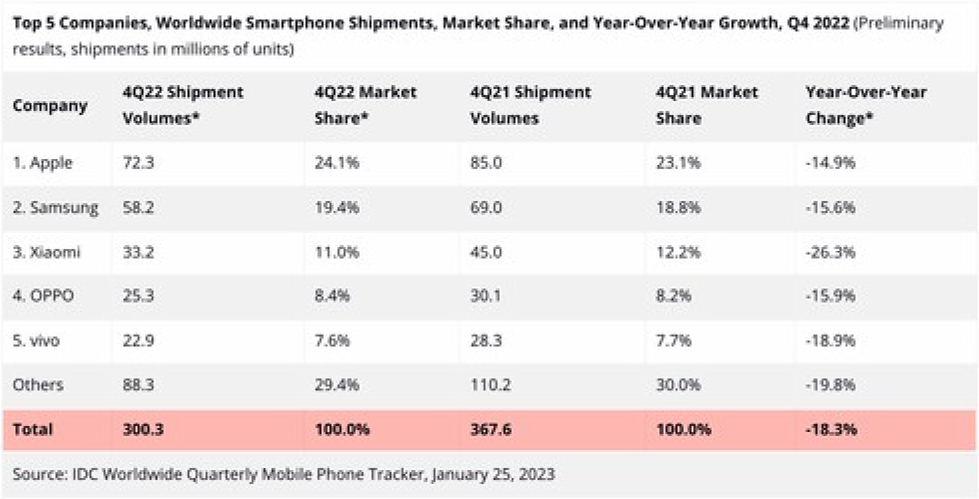
The group also gave fake vaccines to children when requested by the minors' parents.

"Dr. Moore, Burgoyne, and Flores also arranged, at times, to administer or have others administer saline shots to minor children at the request of their parents so that the minor children would think they were actually receiving a COVID-19 vaccine," according to the document.

China, markets, sanctions: jan27 Global Smartphone Shipments Plunge Most On Record; zh, as usual, was telling us this for ....a long long

time....."IDC's report was published one week before Apple reveals quarterly earnings."

Fourth-quarter global smartphone shipments plunged 18.3% year over year to 300.3 million units.

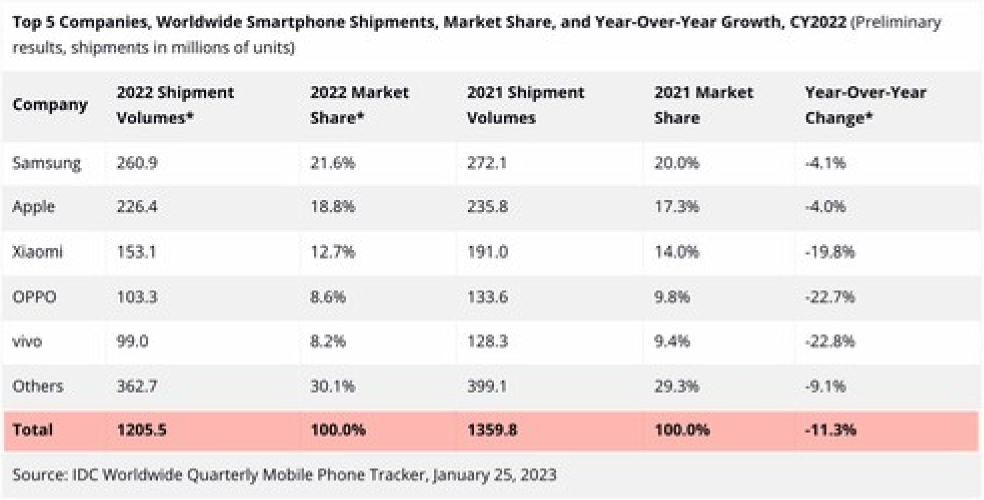


Top 5 Companies, Worldwide Smartphone Shipments, Market Share, and Year-Over-Year Growth, Q4 2022 (Preliminary results, shipments in millions of units)

Company	4Q22 Shipment Volumes*	4Q22 Market Share*	4Q21 Shipment Volumes	4Q21 Market Share	Year-Over-Year Change*
1. Apple	72.3	24.1%	85.0	23.1%	-14.9%
2. Samsung	58.2	19.4%	69.0	18.8%	-15.6%
3. Xiaomi	33.2	11.0%	45.0	12.2%	-26.3%
4. OPPO	25.3	8.4%	30.1	8.2%	-15.9%
5. vivo	22.9	7.6%	28.3	7.7%	-18.9%
Others	88.3	29.4%	110.2	30.0%	-19.8%
Total	**300.3**	**100.0%**	**367.6**	**100.0%**	**-18.3%**

Source: IDC Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, January 25, 2023

The decline was the largest on record for one quarter and contributed to an annual reduction of 11.3%. 1.21 billion smartphones were shipped for the year, the lowest yearly total since 2013.



Top 5 Companies, Worldwide Smartphone Shipments, Market Share, and Year-Over-Year Growth, CY2022 (Preliminary results, shipments in millions of units)

Company	2022 Shipment Volumes*	2022 Market Share*	2021 Shipment Volumes	2021 Market Share	Year-Over-Year Change*
Samsung	260.9	21.6%	272.1	20.0%	-4.1%
Apple	226.4	18.8%	235.8	17.3%	-4.0%
Xiaomi	153.1	12.7%	191.0	14.0%	-19.8%
OPPO	103.3	8.6%	133.6	9.8%	-22.7%
vivo	99.0	8.2%	128.3	9.4%	-22.8%
Others	362.7	30.1%	399.1	29.3%	-9.1%
Total	**1205.5**	**100.0%**	**1359.8**	**100.0%**	**-11.3%**

Source: IDC Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, January 25, 2023

lobal Smartphone Shipments Forecasted To Drop Amid China Woes And Ukraine War

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JUN 02, 2022 - 12:35 PM

International Data Corporation's (IDC) *Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker* report downgraded global shipments of smartphones for the year from an expected 1.6% growth to a decline of 3.5%.

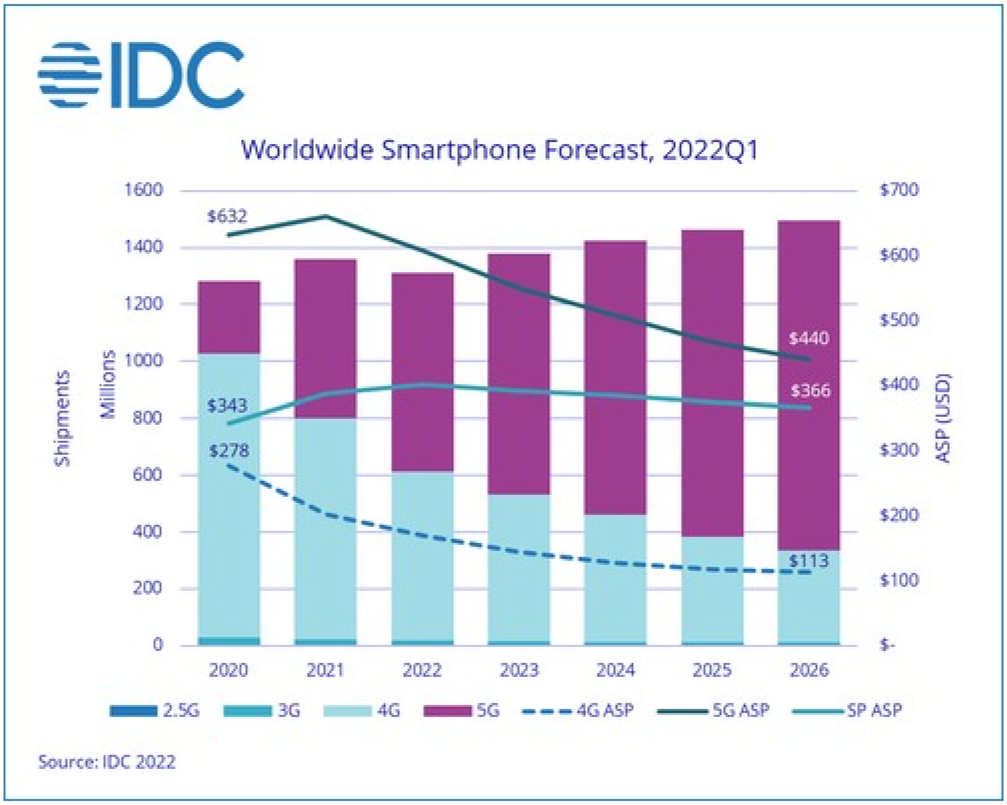
IDC's downshift in growth estimates comes as "the smartphone industry is facing increasing headwinds from many fronts – weakening demand, inflation, continued geopolitical tensions, and ongoing supply chain constraints," IDC research director Nabila Popal said in the report.

The most significant declines are expected in Central and Eastern Europe, with shipments down 22%, and China, the largest smartphone market, is forecasted to decline 11.5% or roughly 38 million units, which accounts for 80% of the global drop in shipment volume this year.

"The lockdowns hit global demand and supply simultaneously by reducing demand in the largest market globally and tightening the bottleneck to an already challenged supply chain," IDC research director Phil Solis said. He added: "The bigger problem has been the tight supply of components such as PMICs, display drivers, and discrete Wi-Fi chips."

Last week, sources familiar with Apple's supply chain told Bloomberg that production would remain flat after two months of China's zero COVID policy and resulting lockdowns disrupted suppliers ahead of series production later this summer for the new iPhone.

The expected 3.5% drop in global smartphone shipments to 1.31 billion units is a noticeable decline versus last year and relatively flat growth since 2020. However, smartphone growth is expected to rebound by 5% in 2023 as 5G products are predicted to gain a larger market share.



China's slumping economy and conflict in Ukraine appear to be cooling worldwide smartphone demand this year.

Samsung Profits Plunge 69% As Global Chip Demand In 'Full-Fledged Ice Age'

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, JAN 06, 2023 - 01:21 PM

The world's largest memory chipmaker recorded an operating profit decline of 69% for the three months that ended in December -- the worst drop in nearly a decade -- as the semiconductor supply glut worsens.

Preliminary numbers released by Samsung showed the company's operating profit declined to 4.3 trillion won ($3.4 billion) last quarter, missing the average analyst estimate of 6.7 trillion won ($5.3 billion). Sales fell to 70 trillion won ($55 billion) in the quarter, down 8.6% over the same period a year ago. The company is expected to publish a full financial statement with net income and updates on divisional performance at the end of the month.

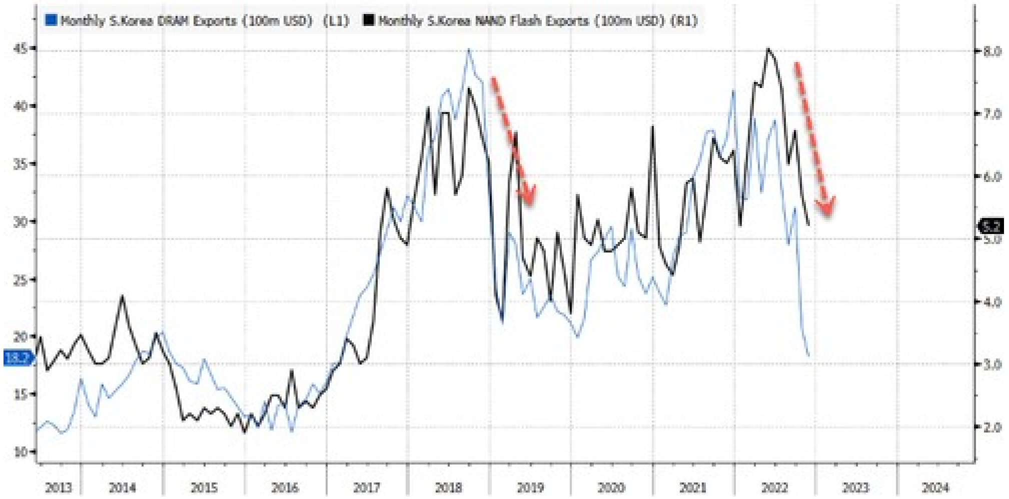
"Amid continued external uncertainties, including a potential global economic downturn, overall earnings decreased sharply quarter on quarter as we saw a significant drop in the memory business results due to lackluster demand and weaker sales of smartphones," the company said in a statement.

Readers have been well informed about South Korea's largest company grappling with dismal memory chip demand. We cited the Korea Economic Daily in September that warned about Samsung's troubles and how the "semiconductor industry has entered a full-fledged ice age."

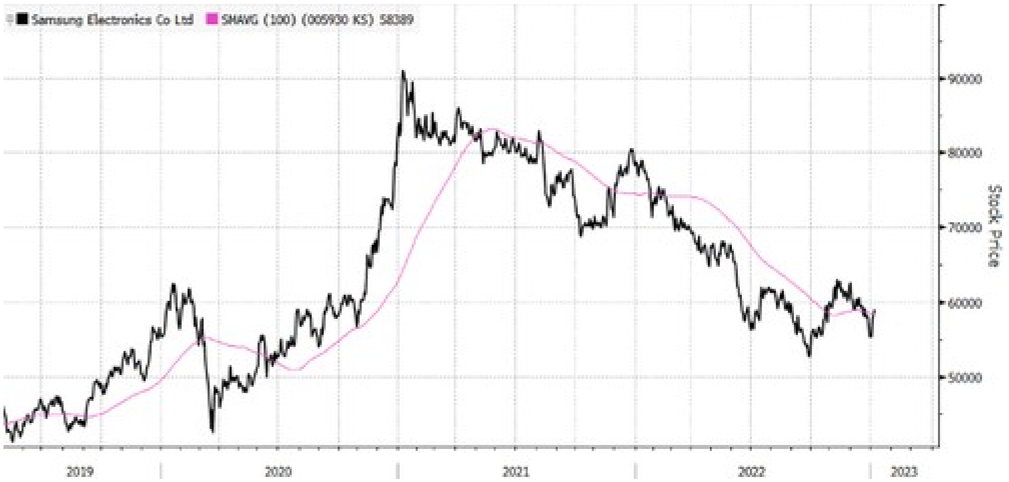
"The decline in 4Q demand was greater than expected as customers adjusted inventories in their effort to further tighten finances," Samsung said in its statement, adding significant price declines in memory chips and slumping smartphone sales were due to "weak demand resulting from prolonged macro issues."

And those macroeconomic headwinds Samsung might be talking about could be the global economy sliding into recession. Earlier this week, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva warned about global recession risks on CBS's 'Face the Nation.'

South Korea's exports of memory chips are in a down-cycle, indicating a worsening slump in tech demand critical to global economic growth.



Despite the bad news, though mostly known, shares of Samsung Electronics trading on Korean exchanges rose 1.4% Friday -- holding above the 100-day moving average.



Here's what Wall Street analysts had to say about Samsung (list courtesy of Bloomberg):

CLSA Securities Korea (Sanjeev Rana)

- "Shares are rising because really bad numbers from Samsung raise the likelihood of the company taking some action to control memory supply in the form of capex or production cut"
- "Samsung has been adamant that it has no plans to cut capex or supply but a fast deterioration in the demand and its deteriorating profitability means that the management might be forced to consider the unthinkable, i.e. memory production cuts"
- Other memory chip suppliers from Micron to Kioxia and SK Hynix have already announced reduction in either capex or output; if Samsung joins, it will become clear that the industry supply growth will tighten, leading to a better demand supply balance later this year

Midas International Asset Management (Shin Jin-Ho)

- In the past when earnings were bad, the shares began to rebound after Samsung's comments on output adjustment
- So investors are buying on the earnings shock, as expectations for output cut increase after earnings miss
- Bullish on Samsung stock price in the short term

Bloomberg Intelligence (Masahiro Wakasugi)

- Samsung's 1Q profit could stay low after its 4Q preliminary results came in 35% below consensus
- The NAND chip division may have posted a loss in 4Q due to severe price erosion while DRAM generated profit
- Earnings recovery might be slow in 2023 on declining chip prices despite demand recovery in 2Q or 3Q

Stats, energy, government: jan27 The Renewable Rejection Database shows that 79 local governments in the United States either restricted or banned solar power projects in 2022, up from 19 in 2021 and just two in 2020. https://robertbryce.com/renewable-rejection-database/

Markets, sanctions, energy, war, spr: jan27 Freeport LNG Terminal Approved For Partial Restart: "federal regulators approved Freeport LNG's request for a partial restart of operations at the liquefied natural gas export terminal on the Texas coast. "

Freeport LNG Terminal Approved For Partial Restart

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JAN 26, 2023 - 06:10 PM

US natural gas futures erased some losses but still hovered sub $3 per million British thermal units after federal regulators approved Freeport LNG's request for a partial restart of operations at the liquefied natural gas export terminal on the Texas coast.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved Freeport LNG's request to restart operations. Freeport was granted approval to begin the "cool down" of its Loop 1 transfer piping and restart the terminal's boil-off gas management compressors and other piping.

Here's what Houston-based energy firm Criterion Research told clients

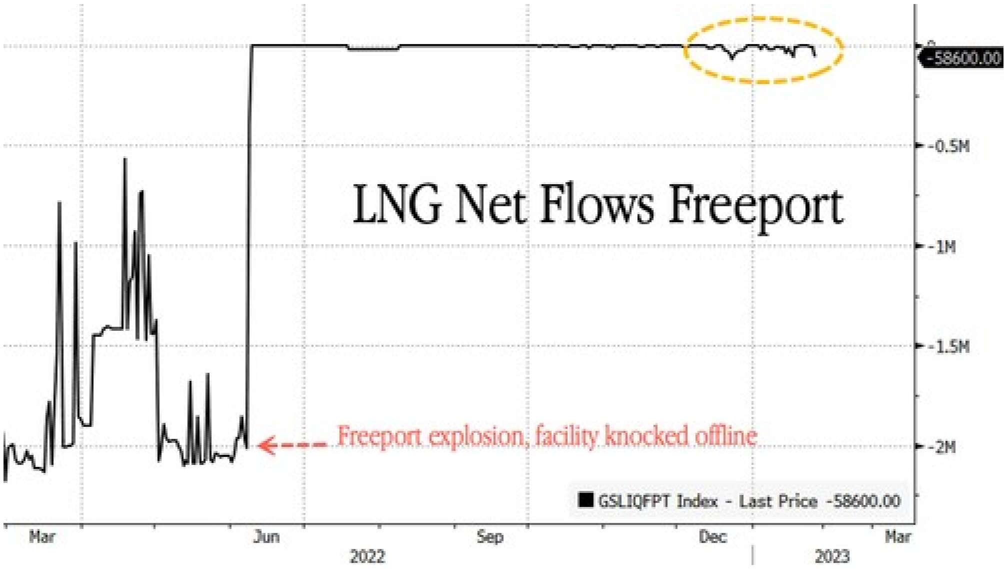
The FERC has formally granted Freeport LNG approval to "commence commissioning, including cooldown, of Loop 1 LNG transfer piping and commissioning and reinstate service of the boil off gas (BOG) management system." The letter was dated January 26, 2023 and the approval was based on an inspection conducted by the FERC and PHMSA onsite on January 25, 2023.

Moving forward, Freeport will need to request and receive approval for any further activity. This includes securing permission to "reinstate service for Loop 1 LNG circulation to enable ship loading to Dock 1 and to cooldown, recommission, and reinstate service of the liquefaction trains, including rundown piping to tanks."

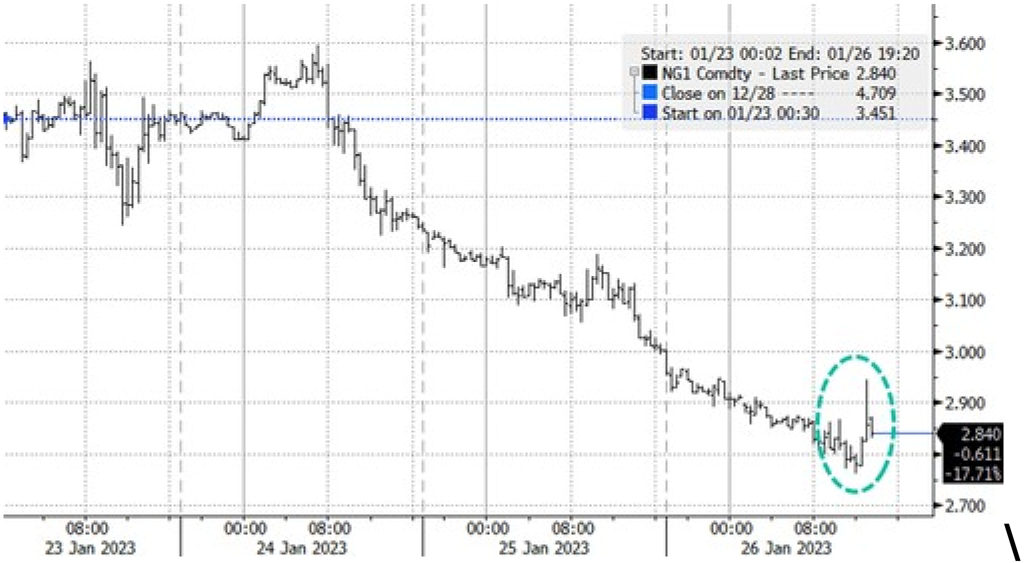
Based on Freeport's initial request this week, the Loop 1 and BOG work will now take 11 days, placing the completion of that process on Monday, February 6, 2023.

Recall earlier this week. Freeport released a statement that it "has completed repairs to the Export Facility on Quintana Island, Texas, performed safety reviews, revised various procedures, implemented new safety systems and performed necessary training in order to safely begin to resume initial operations at its Export Facility."

Freeport's LNG net flows show some signs of life after being halted last June when an explosion rocked the facility and brought it offline.



Even after the news, US NatGas futures are still deep in the red and sub $3 -- mainly because of increased production, ample supply, and a mild winter.



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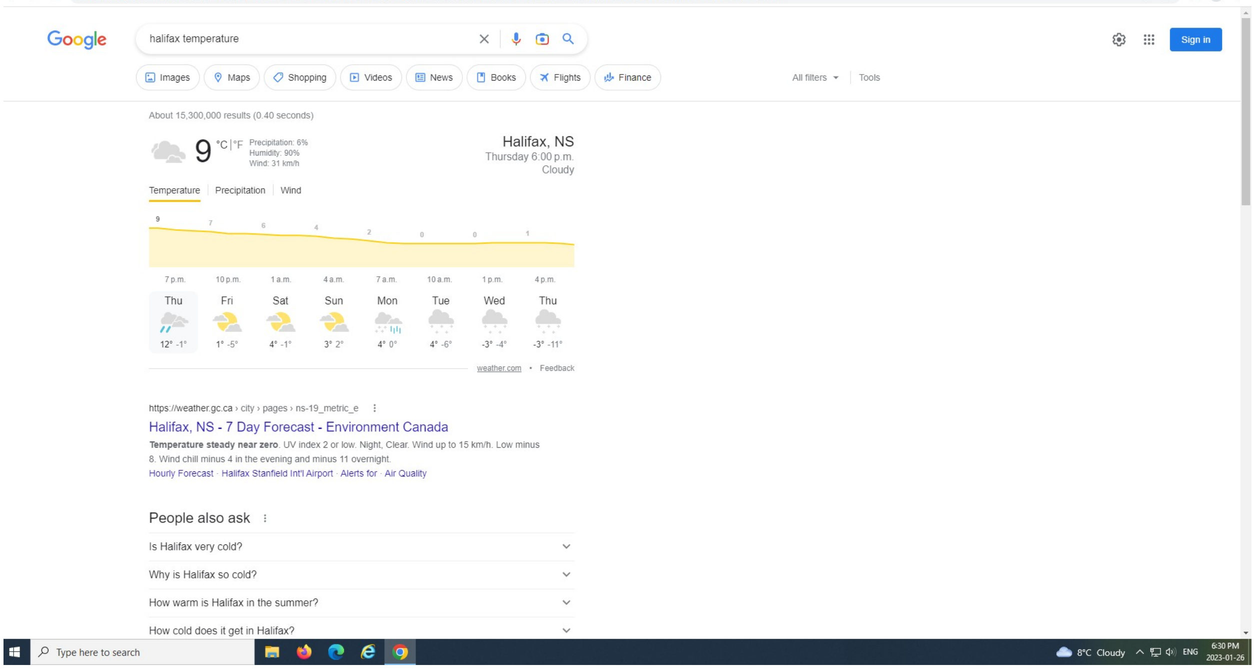
The question remains if NatGas prices will finally find a floor if Freeport begins a partial restart -- considering the facility is one of the biggest export terminals in the US.

Journal, planet, war: jan26 like it's 9 degrees right now. I can't believe this..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Google
Sign in
Images
Maps
Shopping
Videos
News
Books
Flights
Finance
All filters
Tools
Temperature
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weather.com
Feedback
Type here to search
8°C Cloudy
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6:30 PM
2023-01-26

halifax temperature

About 15,300,000 results (0.40 seconds)

9 °C | °F
Precipitation: 6%
Humidity: 90%
Wind: 31 km/h

Halifax, NS
Thursday 6:00 p.m.
Cloudy

Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
12° -1°	1° -5°	4° -1°	3° 2°	4° 0°	4° -6°	-3° -4°	-3° -11°

https://weather.gc.ca › city › pages › ns-19_metric_e

Halifax, NS - 7 Day Forecast - Environment Canada

Temperature steady near zero. UV index 2 or low. Night, Clear. Wind up to 15 km/h. Low minus 8. Wind chill minus 4 in the evening and minus 11 overnight.

Hourly Forecast · Halifax Stanfield Int'l Airport · Alerts for · Air Quality

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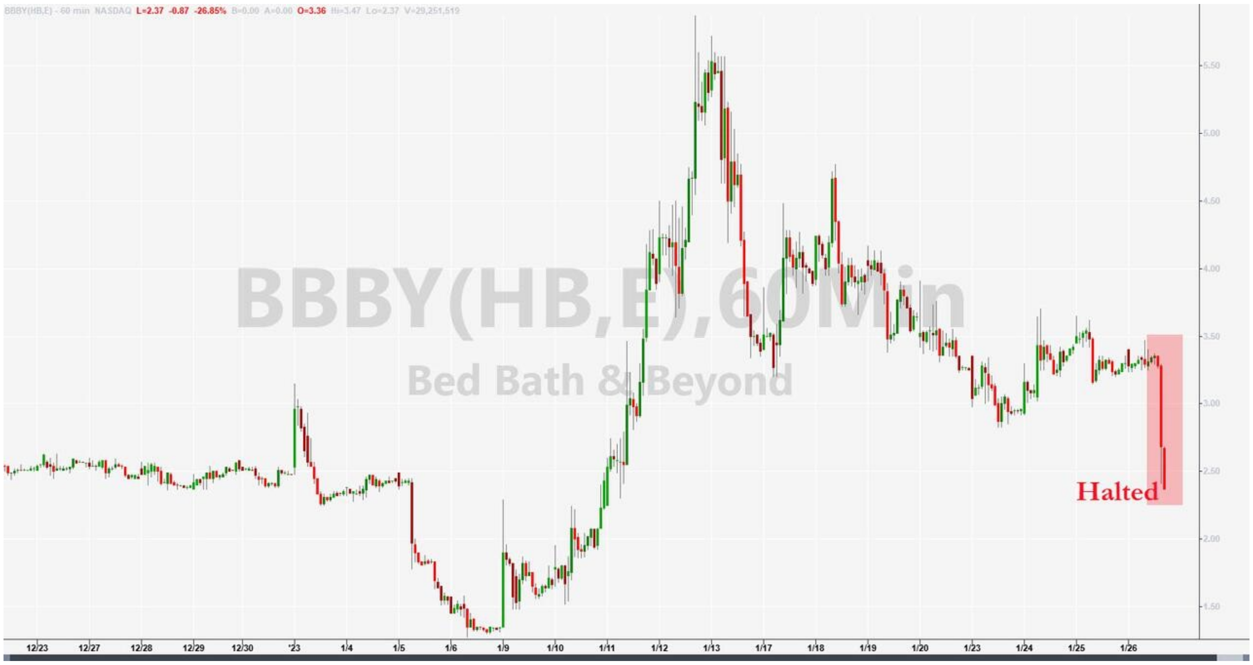
Is Halifax very cold?

Why is Halifax so cold?

How warm is Halifax in the summer?

How cold does it get in Halifax?

Markets: Bed Bath & Beyond Craters After Confirming It Received Default Notice From JPMorgan jan26



Journal, stats, markets, government, censorship: "I'll be gone, you'll be gone": data base of 6,300 major corporate fines and settlements from the early 1990s to 2015

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t0Tb5H7V_OkOuLM9kaiPmszXb3L5wS2g7Tc5dG7v9yM/edit#gid=0

In his new book *The Accidental Investment Banker*, Jonathan Knee introduces us to the phrase IBG YBG, which means “I’ll be gone. You’ll be gone.” This might be whispered between investment bankers when an inconvenient fact comes to light during due diligence on a company they are about to float. “Don’t sweat it” is the implication. Investors may be burned. The investment bank itself may be burned, but by then, the bankers themselves will have cashed their bonuses and be long gone.

glynholtondotcom/blog/risk-management/ill-be-gone-youll-be-gone/

Source:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t0Tb5H7V_OkOuLM9kaiPmszXb3L5wS2g7Tc5dG7v9yM/edit#gid=0

War: **Ukraine Pivots To F-16 Fighter Jets Hours After Securing Tanks, zh breaks the escalation down perfectly**

A mere hours after both Washington and Berlin confirmed they will be providing Western-made heavy battle tanks for Ukraine, reversing course on prior policy after intense inter-NATO debate, Ukraine said it is now pushing hard for 4th generation fighter jets.

That's according to an adviser to Ukrainian defense minister Oleksiy Reznikov, who just told *Reuters* that Kiev will step up efforts to lobby for newer western aircraft to replace its small, aging Soviet fleet. **"The next big hurdle will now be the fighter jets,"** the defense ministry official, Yuriy Sak, said.

"Every type of weapon we request, we needed yesterday," Sak added, expressing Ukrainian impatience as the Russians report fresh gains in the east and south, also after Ukrainian forces confirmed withdrawing completely from Soledar. "We will do everything possible to ensure Ukraine gets fourth-generation fighter jets as soon as possible."

F-16 file image, Lockheed Martin

American F-16s have long been as the top of President Zelensky's defense "shopping list" - especially following his first appearance before Congress. In a March 16 virtual address to US lawmakers he urged Washington to send jets along with anti-air defenses to help **"close the sky"**.

But his public calls for 'closing the sky' grew a bit quieter in the months that followed that initial March speech given it proved unpopular with the American public - because in essence this was an appeal for the US to impose a 'no fly zone' - and of course this would be a *de facto* act of war.

But with advanced tanks now in the bag, *The Hill* admits that "Western fighter jets and longer-range artillery units, which would allow Ukraine to strike Russian forces deeper in occupied territory, will likely be the next debate for NATO."

Of course, those few public voices arguing *against* these iterative steps of pledging heavier and heavier weaponry have pointed out precisely that it only ensures a ladder of escalation leading to direct clash with Russia in a WW3 scenario, which some say we are already in the midst of.

The Ukrainian side is of course fully aware that its strategy to keep pressing the West for bigger and more advanced weapons at all costs is working. The aforementioned defense ministry adviser explained to Reuters further:

"They didn’t want to give us heavy artillery, then they did. They didn’t want to give us HIMARS systems, then they did. ***They didn’t want to give us tanks, now they’re giving us tanks****," Sak said.*

"If we get them, the advantages on the battlefield will be just immense," he added. "It’s not just F-16s: fourth generation aircraft, this is what we want."

And then this amazing, brazen admission: **"Apart from nuclear weapons, there is nothing left that we will not get,"** Sak added.

As for the Pentagon reaction to all this, spokesman John Kirby cited "constant discussions" with Ukrainian officials on what they need. "Can’t blame the Ukrainians for wanting more and more systems," Kirby said. "**It’s not the first time they’ve talked about fighter jets**, but I don’t have any announcements to make on that front."

Similar to when the tank issue was first introduced, likely it'll take a mere few months or less for the West's supposedly firm "no" to become "maybe..." to a supposedly reluctant, "OK, yes". **It's only a matter of time**, and yet few top officials are acknowledging the increasing speed at which they are running straight up the escalation ladder with Russia. As Glenn Greenwald aptly observed this week, **"The *more escalation* there is, the *less debate*."**

Tech: Congressman reads speech on House floor written by Chat GPT

Markets: The long-awaited winter energy crisis has finally hit…but it wasn’t in Europe after all. On Monday, almost the entirety of Pakistan was left without power when a misguided energy saving strategy by the government backfired. Runaway inflation, a severely weakened currency, and rapidly emptying foreign exchange reserves have left Pakistan on the brink of economic collapse. The country of 230 million people is plagued by overdue energy payments, and was seeking to cut costs by lowering energy use when the plan went off the rails, leaving people across the country without power or water for more than 12 hours.

A significant energy shortage is one of the main drivers of the nation’s current economic crisis. Pakistan’s high level of dependence on imports of foreign fossil fuels to keep the lights on has left the country “acutely vulnerable to to hikes in global oil and gas prices.” This has led to devastating consequences for the cash-strapped country as the energy war between Europe and Russia has caused widespread market volatility and driven energy costs up to painful levels.

According to the Asian Development Bank, Pakistan imports “nearly a third of its energy resources in the form of oil, coal, and liquefied natural gas (LNG).” Pakistan’s own Dawn Newspaper slammed the government this week for its ‘self-inflicted’ economic crisis based on “unsustainable energy policies — price and availability — coupled with constant currency volatility,” which it says “have kept the country’s export potential capped.”
Indeed, experts say that the nation has barely enough left in its coffers for one more month of crucial energy and fuel imports. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is currently discussing how to mitigate the crisis unfolding in Pakistan, starting with softening some conditions for a proposed $6 billion bailout, which the government fears will only fuel inflation. It would come on the heels of another $1.1 billion in IMF aid given to Islamabad in August. “Since then,” Associated Press reports, “discussions between the two parties have oscillated due to Pakistan’s reluctance to impose new tax measures.”

Stats, russia: **russian dissident site: Project Gulagu.Net**

History: **Pluto enters aquarius, Pluto’s last turn in Aquarius was 1778–1798**

Pluto in Aquarius is just a few months away, and with it comes a major shift in the world's power dynamics. On March 23, 2023, Pluto leaves Capricorn and enters Aquarius, marking the beginning of the end of one of the most grueling planetary cycles of the last decade (via Café Astrology). The last time Pluto passed through Aquarius was between 1778 and 1798, a revolutionary and transformative period of time that changed the way the world viewed power, money, technology, and society as a whole, according to Shape. With the end of Pluto in Capricorn and the dawning of the Age of Aquarius just on the horizon, astrologers agree that this transit will be just as revolutionary, if not more, than the last time these energies graced the night sky.

Read More: https://www.glam.com/1059217/know-about-plutos-first-station-in-aquarius-in-centuries/

Markets: 57 Percent Of Americans Cannot Afford A $1,000 Emergency Expense

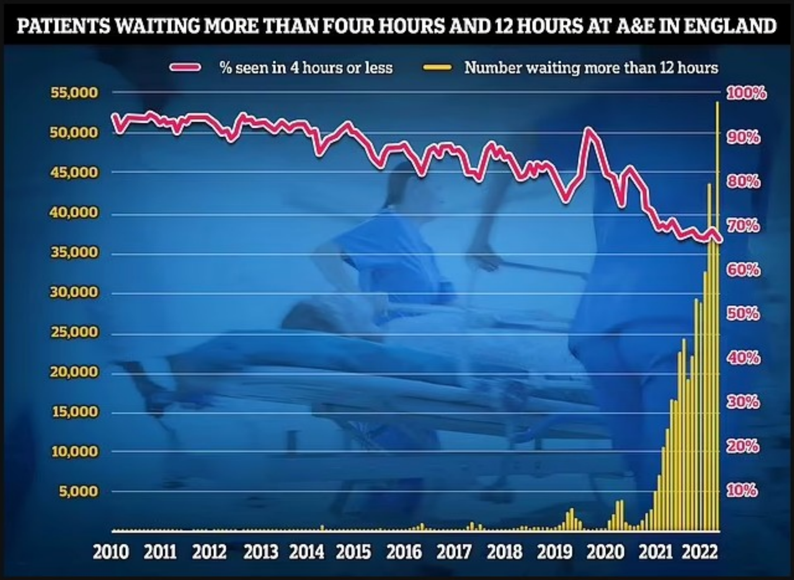
vaccine, government, stats: Massive spike in excess deaths sparks calls for an ‘urgent investigation’: NHS crisis is blamed for nearly 3,000 more Brits than usual dying each week

MPs have called for an urgent investigation into Britain's soaring death rates as thousands more people than usual are dying each week.

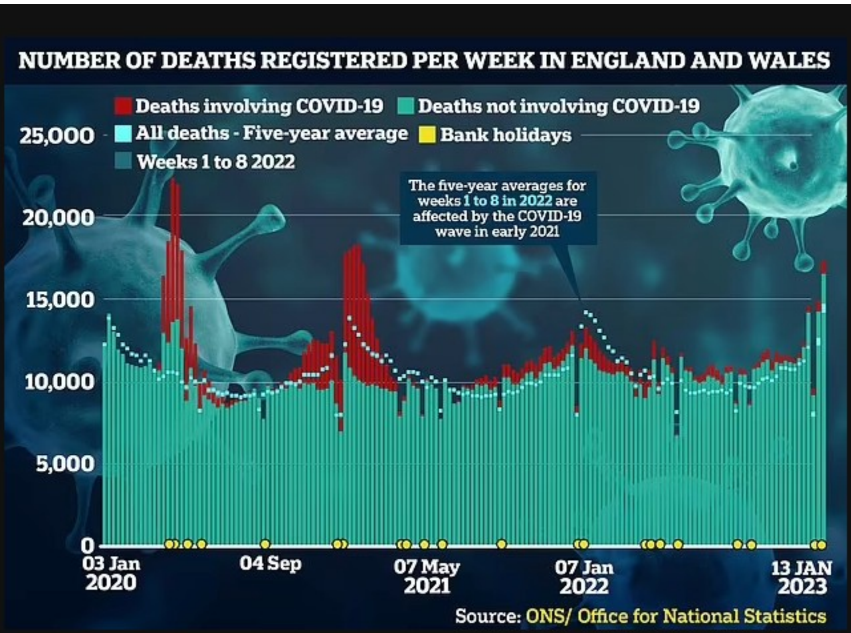
Some 17,381 deaths were registered in England and Wales in the seven days to January 13 – 2,837 above average for the time of year.

This is the highest number of excess deaths since 3,429 in the week to February 12, 2021, when the UK was experiencing its second wave of Covid-19 infections and vaccination had only just begun.

On that occasion, deaths involving coronavirus accounted for 37 per cent of all those registered, according to the Office for National Statistics.



NHS A&E data for December shows that a record 54,532 people seeking emergency care were forced to wait at least 12 hours (yellow bar). Meanwhile, just 65 per cent of A&E attendees were seen within four hours (red line) — the NHS target



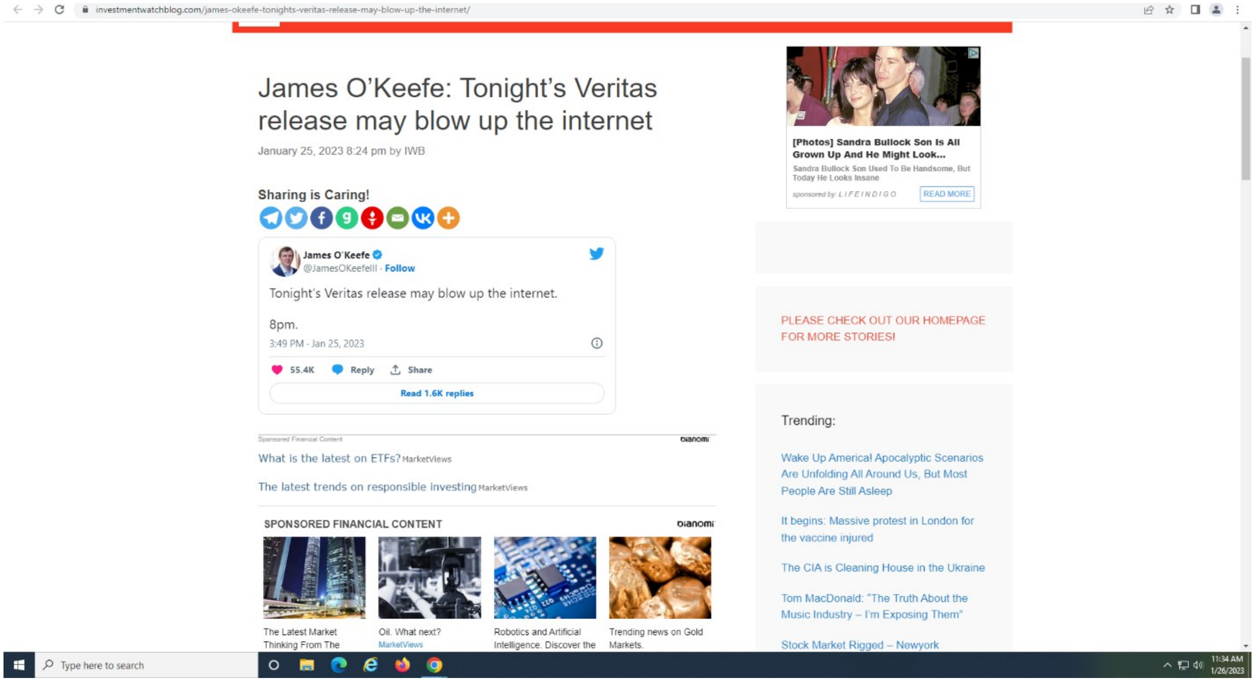
NUMBER OF DEATHS REGISTERED PER WEEK IN ENGLAND AND WALES

The five-year averages for weeks 1 to 8 in 2022 are affected by the COVID-19 wave in early 2021

Source: ONS/ Office for National Statistics

But in the most recent week, Covid-19 accounted for just 5 per cent of the total – meaning other factors are likely to be driving the high level of mortality.

Stats, journal: **more feeding into the hysteria to prime the masses for what's truly coming..**



investmentwatchblog.com/james-okeefe-tonights-veritas-release-may-blow-up-the-internet/

James O'Keefe: Tonight's Veritas release may blow up the internet

January 25, 2023 8:24 pm by IWB

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James O'Keefe @JamesOKeefeIII · Follow

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[Photos] Sandra Bullock Son Is All Grown Up And He Might Look...

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Censorship: **Twitter Facing Holocaust Denial and "Hate Speech" Lawsuit in Germany**

The lawsuit was filed in Berlin regional court by HateAid, an organization fighting against "hate speech," and the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS).

Unlike in America, where we have the First Amendment, Holocaust denial and some forms of "hate speech" are against the law in Germany.

On their website, HateAid argues that Twitter is failing to protect users by allowing antisemitic statements and insults against Jews to be made.
"Twitter promises to protect all its users," HateAid says on their website. "But antisemitism is a normality on the platform. Insults against Jews, trivialisation and denial of the

shoah: antisemitic statements, images and videos can be found all over Twitter. The platform’s lack of moderation leads to an unprecedented spread of antisemitic ideology.”

markets: JAN262023

Chevron Surges After Unveiling $75 Billion Buyback Plan "While War Is Raging"

Censorship: JAN262023 Facebook Reinstates Trump After Two Years With "New Guardrails In Place"

Markets: House Committee Chair Calls For Probe Into '$60 Billion' In Fake COVID-19 Unemployment Claims

Markets: The total market value of illicit human trafficking is estimated to be in excess of $32 billion

America holds the title of "second highest destination in the world for trafficked women" (Wiehl, 2010). Between 14,500 and 17,500 victims are trafficked into the USA each year. In most cases the average age of the prostitute or exploited victim is between 12 and 13 years old. A study from the University of Pennsylvania estimated that nearly 300,000 youth were at risk of being sexually exploited for commercial uses and many of them who are forced into performing sexual acts by their pimps are as young as 5 and 6 years of age. Sex traffickers tend to recruit children because they are not only more unsuspecting than adults, but there is also a high demand for young victims. Since 2003, according to FBI Director Robert Mueller, only 433 of the child victims have been rescued and only 308 hookers and pimps have been prosecuted for these crimes.

Tech: Crushed Bug "Additive" Is Now Included In Pizza, Pasta, & Cereals Across The EU

As of yesterday, a food additive made out of powdered crickets began appearing in foods from pizza, to pasta to cereals across the European Union.

Yes, really.

Defatted house crickets are on the menu for Europeans across the continent, without the vast majority of them knowing it is now in their food.

“This comes thanks to a European Commission ruling passed earlier this month,” reports RT.

“As per the decision, which cited the scientific opinion of the European Food Safety Authority, the additive is safe to use in a whole range of products, including but not limited to cereal bars, biscuits, pizza, pasta-based products, and whey powder.”

But don’t worry, because the crickets first have to be checked to make sure they “discard their bowel content” before being frozen.

Lovely stuff.

Critics suggested that once bugs become widely accepted as a food additive, their consumption will become normalized across the board.

“The Liberal World Order has decided that the little people must eat bugs to prevent the climate from fluctuating, in accordance with ruling class ideology,” writes Dave Blount.

“Yet rather than mindlessly obey The Experts as most did with Covid policy, people have resisted. So our moonbat overlords are furtively sneaking insects into food.”

“This will allow them to reveal in the near future that we have already been eating bugs, so there is no reason to object to them shutting down farms and imposing a new diet.”

The European Union also recently approved the use of Alphitobius diaperinus, otherwise known as the lesser mealworm, for human consumption.

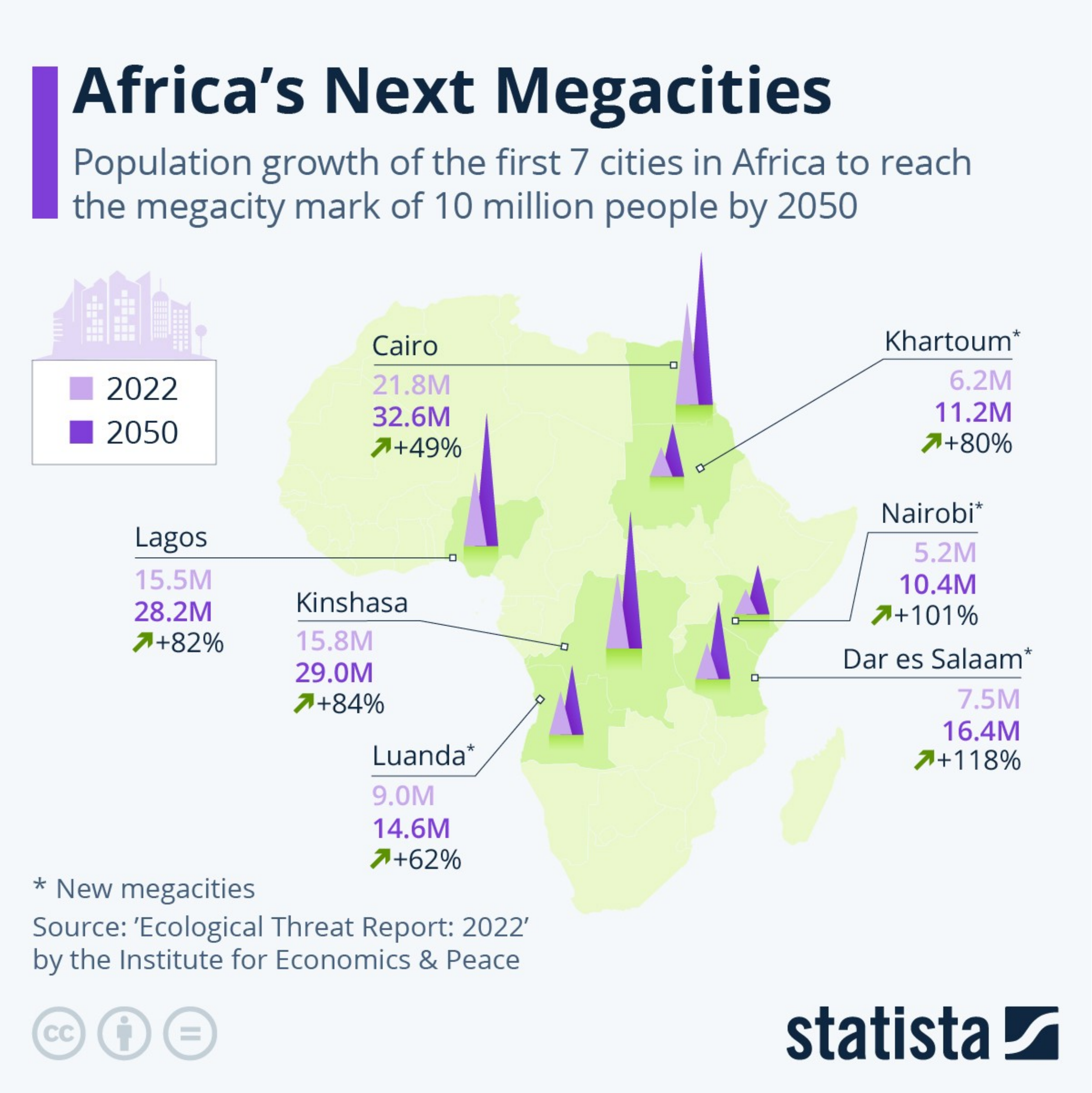
As we have exhaustively documented, globalist technocrats and climate change activists have consistently lobbied for people to start eating bugs to fight global warming, despite the practice being linked to parasitic infections.

I somewhat doubt that elitist technocrats who recently visited Davos will be switching to the bug diet, no matter how much they browbeat us about man-made climate change.

Back in November, the Washington Post advised Americans that instead of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, which now is unaffordable for a quarter of families, they should instead look to eating bugs.

While livestock farmers in the Netherlands are being climate change regulated out of existence, school children are being indoctrinated to eat bugs, while another German school has banned meat entirely.

Stats, Africa, government: **Africa's Next Megacities**



Africa's Next Megacities

Population growth of the first 7 cities in Africa to reach the megacity mark of 10 million people by 2050

2022
2050
Cairo
21.8M
32.6M
+49%
Khartoum*
6.2M
11.2M
+80%
Lagos
15.5M
28.2M
+82%
Kinshasa
15.8M
29.0M
+84%
Nairobi*
5.2M
10.4M
+101%
Dar es Salaam*
7.5M
16.4M
+118%
Luanda*
9.0M
14.6M
+62%
statista

* New megacities

Source: 'Ecological Threat Report: 2022' by the Institute for Economics & Peace

War: Germany Still Years Away From Replacing Russian NatGas, Official Admits To "Unspoken Strategy To Pay Crazy Prices" Jan 26

Some European politicians and economists are breathing a sigh of relief after mild temperatures, increasing liquefied natural gas shipments, and above-average natural gas stockpiles have so far averted a worsening energy crisis this winter. Other politicians believe the energy crunch won't be over for many years.

"Gas storage is up and gas prices are down. Inflation is falling and uncertainty is declining," Deutsche Bank AG wrote in a note this week, adding, "We can afford to be more optimistic."

As of late, Europe's biggest economy, Germany, has seen an improvement in business outlook as recession fears recede, according to data from the Ifo Institute, a Munich-based economic researcher.

Ifo President Clemens Fuest told Bloomberg TV:

"The most important risk for the German economy was a gas-rationing scenario ... and that risk is off the table now."

There's a lot to be happy about in Europe: Dutch front-month NatGas, the continent's benchmark, slid as much as 5% to 55 euros a megawatt-hour today, the lowest level since late 2021. Prices have collapsed by more than 83% since peaking at 311 euros a megawatt-hour last August.

However, the optimism could be short-lived because Germany is years from entirely substituting Russian NatGas flows with LNG shipments.

Last week, Chancellor Olaf Scholz told Bloomberg that German learned a hard lesson in its addiction for cheap Russian NatGas. **He said the country is now rejiggering supply chains that will increase capacity for LNG imports at major ports.**

A new report via the country's Economy Ministry shows Germany will install 56 billion cubic meters of domestic LNG import capacity by 2026. By 2030, capacities will increase to 76.5 billion cubic meters or about 80% of total German NatGas consumption in 2021.

The ministry pointed out that even though current NatGas storage facilities are above normal levels, there are mounting risks later this year that storage could sink to dangerously low levels and result in shortages.

"The truth is, there won't be enough in the next three to four years of LNG production capacity in the world to meet the growing demand. So the unspoken strategy is that Germany will continue to pay crazy prices and other, less rich countries go empty-handed," *Christian Leye, a Bundestag Left Party representative, told Bloomberg.*

Germany has reduced its dependence on Russian NatGas by importing LNG from other EU countries and increasing NatGas pipeline flows from Norway and the Netherlands. Germany didn't have a choice after explosions rocked Nord Stream last year. An issue we see is that Germany's NatGas storage was filled last summer when Russian NatGas was still flowing -- not so much anymore.

Deutsche Bank expects EU NatGas prices to fluctuate between 50 and 100 euros a megawatt-hour this year. It's only a matter of time before the temporary relief evaporates and the energy crisis resurfaces.

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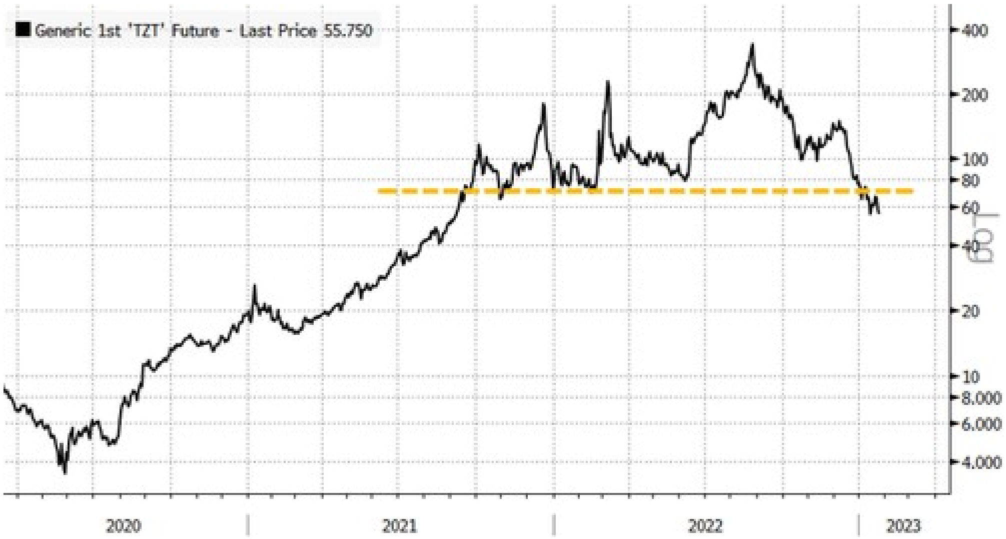

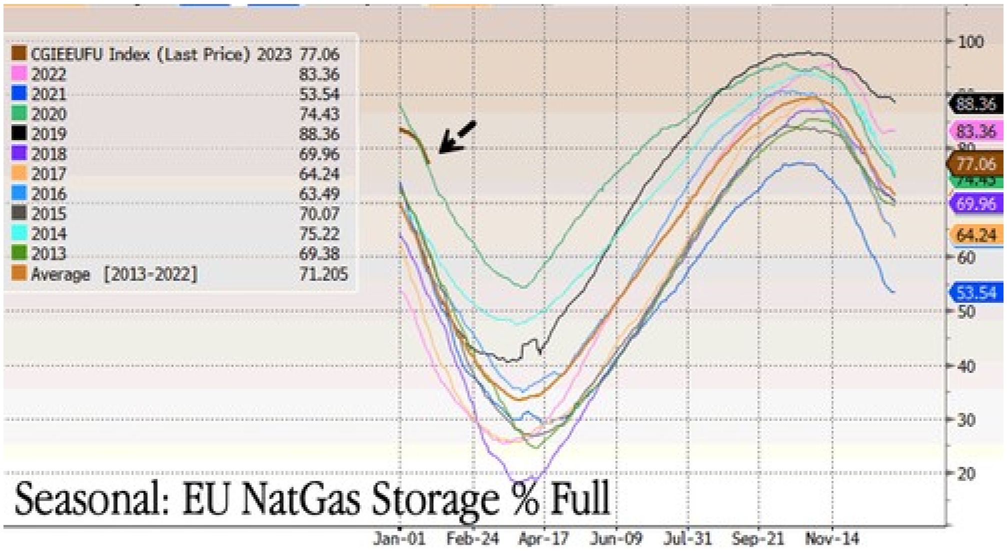

Markets: **Prices have collapsed by more than 83% since peaking at 311 euros a megawatt-hour last August.**

Stats, government, vaccine: executive at Pfizers R&D department caught by project veritas saying covid was man made, could create mutations by feeding the virus to monkeys, jan.26

"One of the things we [Pfizer] are exploring is like, **why don't we just mutate it [COVID] ourselves** so we could create -- **preemptively develop new vaccines**, right? So, we have to do that. If we're gonna do that though, there's a risk of like, as you could imagine -- no one wants to be having a pharma company mutating f**king viruses," said Walker, adding that he believes Pfizer scientists are going about it slowly "because you obviously don't want to advertise that you are figuring out future mutations."

tech: magic leap, a leader in AR, was suspected to have been building a competitor to Google Glass

A November 2014 analysis by Gizmodo, based on job listings, trademark registrations and patent applications from Magic Leap, concluded that the company appeared to be building a competitor to the Google Glass and Oculus Rift that would "blend computer-generated graphics with the real world".[14] It had also been compared to Microsoft HoloLens.[5]

Tech: 200 tech companies w/ layoffs: 59448 as of jan.25th, according to new layoff trackingwebsite, layoffs.fyi

Government, censorship, stats: Las Vegas Judge Commits Suicide After Facing Ethics Probe For Demanding An Investigation Into Alleged Sex Trafficking Ring

A Las Vegas judge and mother of three killed herself a year after leaving her position to avoid a complicated ethics probe that began over what she said was her attempt to save her daughter from prostitution.

Melanie Andress-Tobiasson, 53, who stepped down as a Justice of the Peace before a hearing regarding her ethics investigation, was reportedly found dead by suicide Friday, 8NewsNow reported. The outlet did not provide details about how she died.

The judge charged that pimps were “targeting the daughters of judges and law enforcement” to recruit them into prostitution.

Andress-Tobiasson was being investigated by Nevada’s Judicial Discipline Commission for almost two years before she agreed to resign in 2021.

Her problems began when her daughter Sarah, then 16, started working at a clothing store that Andress-Tobiasson claimed was a front for criminal activities and tried to stop it, first by reporting the issue to the police, the Daily Mail reported. She said the store, Top Knotch, was involved with prostitution and trying to recruit her daughter.

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She called out Las Vegas cops for ignoring information about the alleged sex trafficking at the store. She claimed that the store was an unlicensed, underage nightclub and added that she was “terrified” of Shane Valentine, who ran the store at the time.

When The Post reached her daughter, Sarah Tobiasson, now 23, on Saturday, she hung up.

Andress-Tobiasson said she had to go to the FBI with the information after being ignored by local police — which resulted in officers investigating her for allegedly breaching judicial rules by making an allegation to federal agents.

A complaint filed against Andress-Tobiasson alleged that she failed to comply with and uphold the law, and allowed family interests and relations to influence her conduct, the Daily Mail reported.

Andress-Tobiasson asked cops to look into Valentine but said they ignored her claims. Valentine was later linked to a shooting where a couple was found dead.

They did not officially link him to the killings of Sydney Land, 21, and Nehemiah “Neo” Kauffman, 20, until months later, according to the Daily Mail.

But Andress-Tobiasson contacted Land’s mother and “began to personally investigate the case” because she thought that Valentine was responsible, the complaint stated.

It added that she used “burner phones” to contact Land’s mother and sent texts to another woman she thought was involved in the murder.

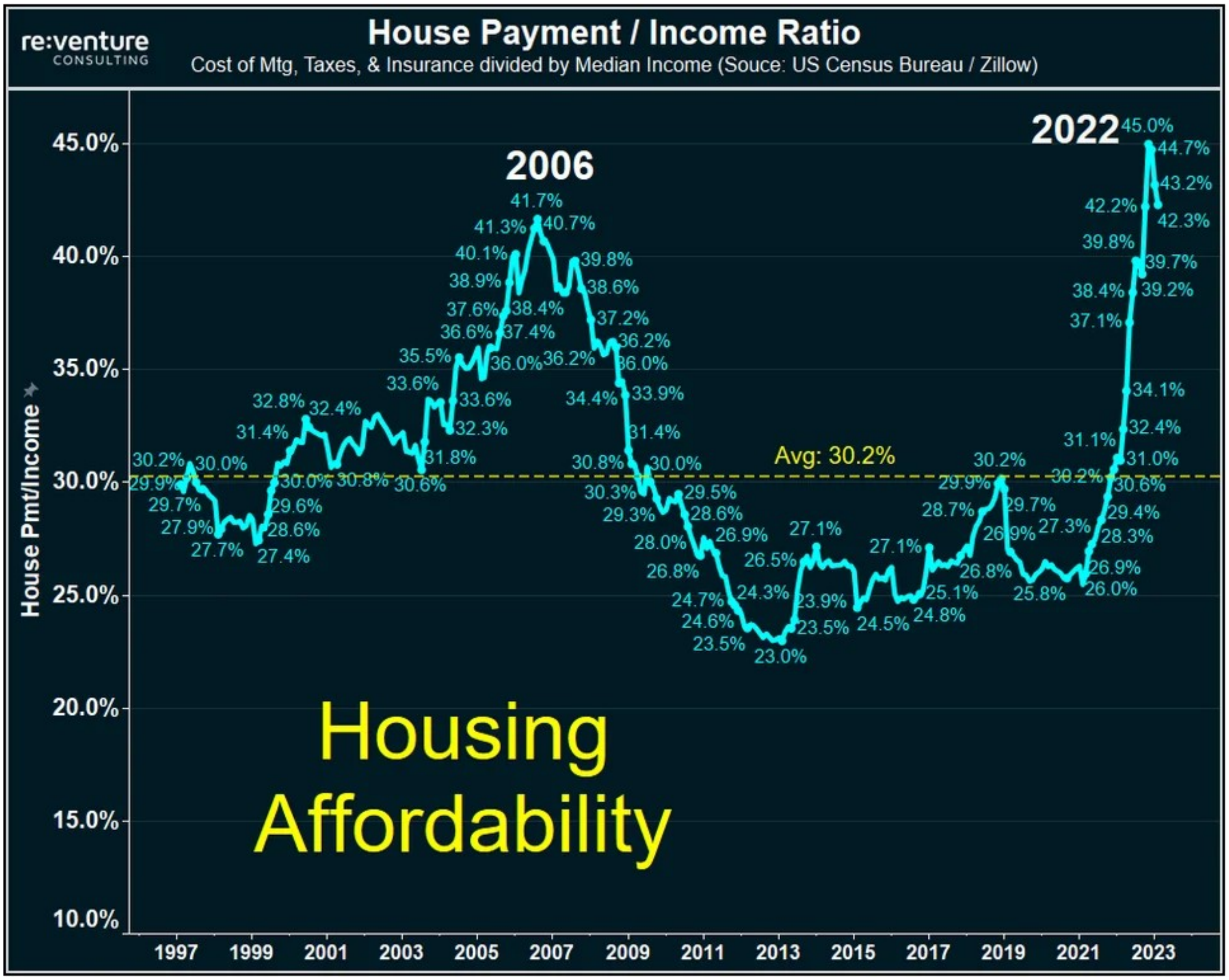
The commission alleged that Andress-Tobiasson stated publicly that she reached out to Valentine’s lawyer at the time and “told him to tell Valentine that if he called her daughter again, she would ‘take care of it herself,'” and that one time she “went to Shane Valentine’s house and kicked in the door.”

Detectives learned of Andress-Tobiasson’s activity, according to the charges, and launched an investigation into the judge, going as far as tracking her phone records.

They also alleged that she had links to a man called “Anthony Danna” who was a “known and documented organized crime figure.”

Andress-Tobiasson lived with her husband, Todd, in a $2 million mansion with a pool at the time of her death.

A look at house payments vs income ratio. Housing market has never been this unaffordable (in history)



Tech, government: **Google announced the largest round of layoffs in the company's 25-year history**

A list of top-rated inquiries from employees, viewed by CNBC, contained pointed questions for executives.

"How were the layoffs decided? Some high performers were let go from our teams," one top-rated question read. "This negatively impacts the remaining Googlers who see someone with high recognition, positive reviews, promo but still getting laid off."

"What metrics were used to determine who was laid off?" another top-rated question read. "Was the decision based on their performance, scope of work, or both, or something else?"

Another asked: “How much runway are we hoping to gain with the layoffs?” and “Would you explain clearly what the layoff allows Google to do that Google could not have done without layoffs?”

Markets: **US earnings are still at a record high, well above their historical trend…**

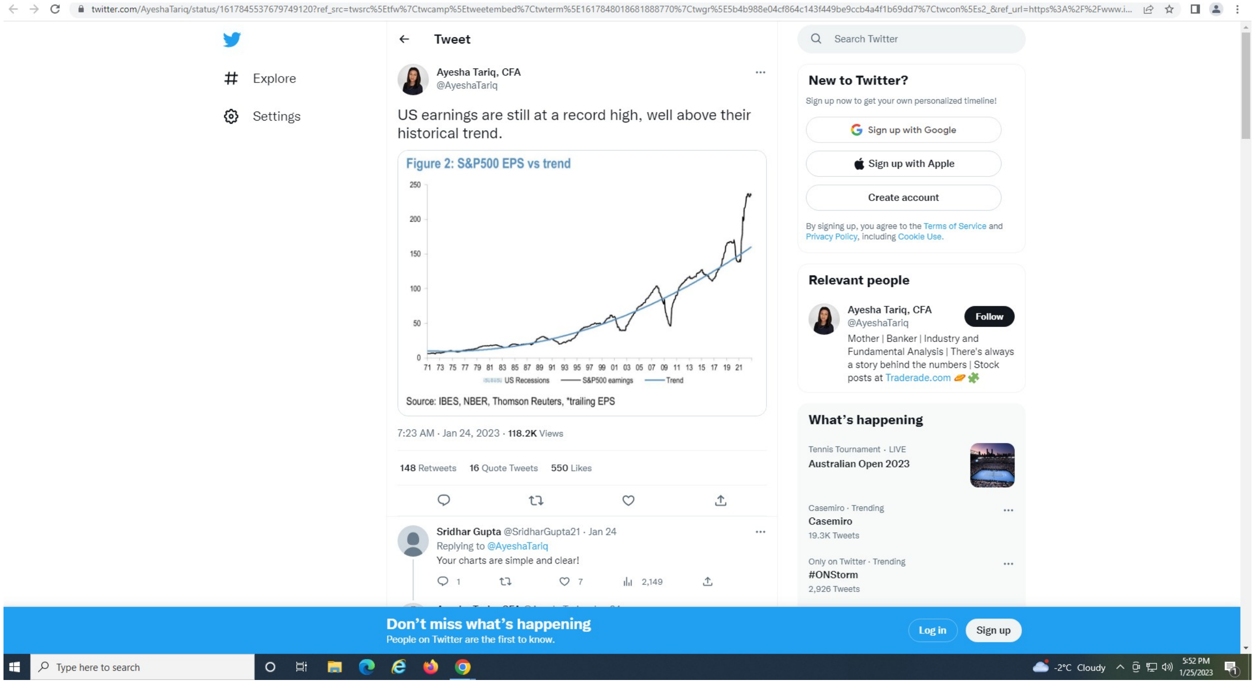

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Figure 2: S&P500 EPS vs trend
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Source: IBES, NBER, Thomson Reuters, *trailing EPS

twitter.com/AyeshaTariq/status/1617845537679749120?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1617848018681888770%7Ctwgr%5E5b4b988e04cf864c143f449be9ccb4a4f1b69dd7%7Ctwcon%5Es2_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.i...

Ayesha Tariq, CFA
@AyeshaTariq

US earnings are still at a record high, well above their historical trend.

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What’s happening

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Don’t miss what’s happening
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Tech: **OpenAI, the owner of ChatGPT, is the fastest tech company ever to hit a $30B valuation.**

Health: **mRNA flu shot coming this year. Pfizer CEO: "we've also started experiments to combine the mRNA flu & Covid vax together." Jan.25th**

Stats, censorship, government: **Jamaican Securities firm loses World Champion Olympic Sprinters $12 million in retirement saving. And this wasn't just any sprinter, it was the man himself, Usain Bolt—you know, that guy who holds the record for the 100 meter dash. Yeah him. Even he can't escape the rampant corruption in the tropical island of jamiaca, a country known for having one of the highest murder rates in the world.**

thestreetdotcom/personalities/bank-reportedly-loses-12-million-of-usain-bolts-life-savings

censorship, tech: **Whistleblower: Google Curates Data for AI**

theepochtimesdotcom/google-curates-data-for-ai-whistleblower_4999956.html?utm_source=partner&utm_campaign=TheLibertyDaily

tech: jan.25th, **CHATGPT CAN PASS U.S. MEDICAL LICENSING EXAM AND THE BAR, RECEIVED B GRADE ON WHARTON MBA PAPER**

tech: hacking the brain:**Nita Farahany led a session called "Ready for Brain Transparency?**

Farahany presented a hypothetical scenario in which an employer could spy on employees' thoughts to determine their performance in the workplace, as well as to identify any potential illegal activity in which they might be engaged.

"We can pick up and decode faces that you're seeing in your mind – single shapes, numbers, your PIN number to your bank account," Farahany fantasized before her globalist audience – *watch below*:

"Artificial intelligence has enabled advances in decoding brain activity in ways we never before thought possible," Farahany went on to state during the session. (Related: This is all part of WEF leader Klaus Schwab's continued efforts to "master the future".)
"What you think, what you feel: it's all just data – data that in large patterns can be decoded using artificial intelligence," Farahany added about the technology she and her tribe are developing.

Such technology is already out there in the form of things like the wearable Fitbit. In fact, Farahany called what is next on the agenda for human brain hacking a "Fitbit for your brain."

"We're not talking about implanted devices of the future; I'm talking about wearable devices that are like Fitbits for your brain," she explained.

"These are headbands, hats that have sensors that can pick up your brainwave activity, ear buds, headphones, tiny tattoos that you can wear behind your ear – we can pick up emotional states – like are you happy or sad or angry."

Farahany continued to revel during the sessions about "surveillance of the human brain," which she admitted can be "used to exploit and bring to the surface our most secret self."

Her statements echo those of fellow globalist Yuval Noah Harari, who has been saying for years at WEF annual meetings that “we are no longer mysterious souls,” but are rather “hackable animals” ....

“To hack human beings, you need a lot of biological knowledge, a lot of computing power, and especially a lot of data,” Harari stated in the past.

“If you have enough data about me and enough computing power and biological knowledge, you can hack my body, my brain, my life. You can reach a point where you know me better than I know myself.”

tech: **Thanks to AI and the Internet of Bodies (IoB) ecosystem, Five years after historian Yuval Noah Harari told the WEF that humans were hackable and that organisms were algorithms, Harari’s insights have been fully realized.**

The most profound statement in over 150 years of biological research since Charles Darwin can be summarized in just three words, “organisms are algorithms.”

This is the biggest insight to come out of modern life sciences, according to historian Yuval Harari at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Will the future of humanity be even human, or is our generation one of the last to be called homo sapien?

How to hack a human 101

According to Harari there are two simultaneous revolutions taking place that have led scientists to the brink of hacking humans.

1. Advances in computer science and machine learning
2. Advances in biology and brain science

With the breakthroughs coming forward in these two revolutions occurring on this planet at the same time, we now have the tools at our disposal to hack humans.

So, what does it take to hack a human?

Again, according to Harari, there are only two necessary ingredients to hacking humanity:

1. A lot of computing power
2. Biometric data

With machine learning, this level of computing power has been achieved. Biometric sensors have launched us into age where we can monitor every aspect of biological life to the point that the computers more know about us than we do ourselves.

Data is the most important asset in the world

What do all of these processes have in common? Data. “Data is the most important asset in the world,” said Harari.

In the past the most important assets used to be land and then later machines, but now it is data. But who owns this data? If it is your personal, biological data, do you really own it, or is it the property of corporations, governments, or the elite?

“Those who control the data, control the future of humanity and life itself,” the historian postulated, adding, “If too much of the data becomes concentrated in too few hands, humanity will split, not into classes, it will split into different species.”

Think about that. If humans can be hacked, and they certainly can be, then those who control their data are the hackers.

Machines know us better than we know ourselves

Right now, the big concern over privacy mostly relates to how companies are collecting our data, so they can sell us more junk we don’t need. We all know that our governments are surveilling us constantly, but we just accept it without putting up much of a fight.

"I've got nothing to hide, so why should I care?" is the common argument.

Turns out there is plenty to be concerned about. To give an example from Harari, he said that machines know us better than we know ourselves. At age 21, he came out as gay after struggling with his sexuality all his life. But now the technology exists to build machines that can track eye movement, blood pressure, heart rate, and brain activity, so that an actual 'gaydar' can be used to find out where people lay on the gay/straight spectrum.

Emotional manipulation

It seems harmless at first, if not awkward, but what if you take the same data and give it to corporations or the ruling class?

They would be able to manipulate your emotions. Instead of a commercial displaying scantily-clad girls in bikinis, the machines would know your sexual orientation and thus show you ads of hunks squirting oil on their popping pecks.

Take this a step further, and hand over this information to governments and they will know everything that makes you tick and how to control you.

Referring back to the gaydar analogy, where will we be when governments can supposedly predict what decisions we make before we make them? Will there be such a thing as free will, or will the computers label us as criminals-in-the-future in some Minority Report-like nightmare?

Towards a digital dictatorship

In a democracy information and decision making is distributed across institutions and individuals. In a dictatorship information and decision making is concentrated among a select few, as there is no real dictatorship in the absolute sense, all dictators have their advisers and counselors, so they are more like oligarchies in disguise.

A digital dictatorship will be one where information and decision making is concentrated to just one entity, the machine. If this happens, where would democracy play in?

“AI and machine learning might swing the pendulum,” says Harari, towards making centralized data processing more efficient. If democracy can’t adapt, we become under the rule of the machines.

This will lead to a surveillance state, more so than it already is. If left unchecked and unregulated with the power of computing and biohacking, the elites will be able to re-engineer the future of life itself.

Bioengineering a new species of human

According to Harari, once you hack something, you can definitely re-engineer it. That is why he believes that within a century or two, “earth will be dominated by entities that are more different than us than we are different from neanderthals or from chimpanzees.”

The transhuman agenda is happening now. It’s being programmed into our subsconsciousness through movies, art, and the media.

“Science is replacing evolution by natural selection with evolution by intelligent design. Not by God, but by our intelligent design and our clouds — these are the new driving forces of evolution,” said Harari.

We are entering an era of inorganic life, and if this technology is not regulated, a tiny elite can shape the lifeforms of the future. Those who have the money and the power to infuse their bodies with AI will become a new species, capable of feats we cannot even imagine at this time.

None of this would be possible without big data and how to process and make sense of it through machine learning.

Who should regulate data ownership?

The elite are not ready to be entrusted with the future of life. “They seem incapable of producing meaningful versions of the future,” Harari said.

So, what’s the solution? Who should regulate ownership of the data? Unfortunately, not even the good historian has an answer, but he left a clue.

Apart from calling upon scientists, philosophers, lawyers, Harari believes there is one group above the rest, more qualified and more conscious about the human condition than all the others — poets.

These music makers and the dreamers of dreams are humanity’s best hope. John F. Kennedy understood this best when he remarked:

> ***When power leads man towards arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations. When power narrows the areas of man’s concern, poetry reminds him of the richness and diversity of his existence. When power corrupts, poetry cleanses, for art establishes the basic human truths which must serve as the touchstones of our judgement. The artist, however faithful to his personal vision of reality, becomes the last champion of the individual mind and sensibility against an intrusive society and an officious state.***

https://sociable.co/technology/hack-human-algorithms-davos-wef/

If you thought freedom of speech was worth preserving, next comes freedom of thought: perspective

Thanks to AI and the Internet of Bodies (IoB) ecosystem, decoding the human brain is already well underway, according to a World Economic Forum (WEF) presentation.

Five years after historian Yuval Noah Harari told the WEF that humans were hackable and that organisms were algorithms, Harari’s insights have been fully realized.

Thursday’s WEF Annual Meeting 2023 session on “**Ready for Brain Transparency**?” opened with a short video showing a dystopian scenario where employees’ brainwaves were not only decoded to determine their performance in the workplace, but also to determine whether they participated in illegal activity.

While the scenario in the video below is fictional, the technological framework is already in place.

> ***“We can pick up and decode faces that you’re seeing in your mind — simple shapes, numbers, your PIN number to your bank account” — Nita Farahany, World Economic Forum, 2023***
> ***“Artificial intelligence has enabled advances in decoding brain activity in ways we never before thought possible” — Nita Farahany, World Economic Forum, 2023***

The above video illustrates just one of the many dystopian scenarios that can occur when the human brain is no longer autonomous.

In her presentation at Davos on Thursday, Nita Farahany from Duke University explained that the technology to decode brainwaves already existed and was currently being rolled out in some use cases.

Nita Farahany

“What you think, what you feel — it’s all just data — data that in large patterns can be decoded using artificial intelligence” — Nita Farahany, World Economic Forum, 2023

“Artificial intelligence has enabled advances in decoding brain activity in ways we never before thought possible,” said Farahany.

“What you think, what you feel — it’s all just data — data that in large patterns can be decoded using artificial intelligence,” she added.

And the devices to decode the human brain don’t have to be as invasive as a brain implant.

The devices can be as non-invasive as a “Fitbit for your brain.”

“We’re not talking about implanted devices of the future; I’m talking about wearable devices that are like Fitbits for your brain” — Nita Farahany, World Economic Forum, 2023

“We can pick up emotional states — like are you happy or sad or angry” — Nita Farahany, World Economic Forum, 2023

“We’re not talking about implanted devices of the future; I’m talking about wearable devices that are like Fitbits for your brain,” said Farahany.

“These are headbands, hats that have sensors that can pick up your brainwave activity, ear buds, headphones, tiny tattoos that you can wear behind your ear — we can pick up emotional states — like are you happy or sad or angry.

“We can pick up and decode faces that you’re seeing in your mind — simple shapes, numbers, your PIN number to your bank account.”

“Surveillance of the human brain […] has a dystopian possibility of being used to exploit and bring to the surface our most secret self” — Nita Farahany, World Economic Forum, 2023

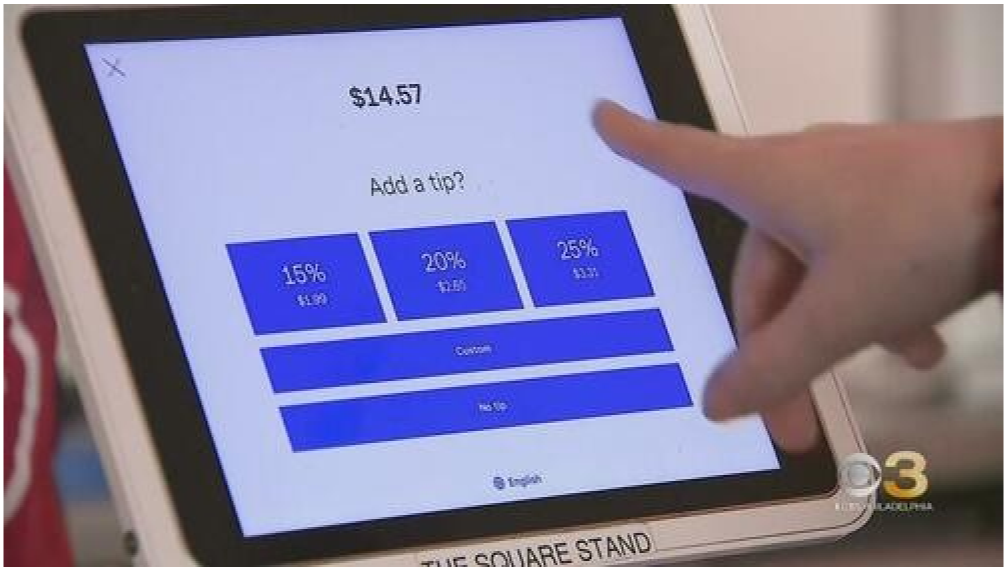
Farahany would go on to say that while decoding the human brain had its benefits, it could also be used for very nefarious purposes.

“***Surveillance of the human brain*** can be powerful, helpful, useful, transform the workplace, and make our lives better,” she said, adding, “***It also has a dystopian possibility of being used to exploit and bring to the surface our most secret self***.

“***It threatens fundamentally what our own self-identity is in some ways, and threatens to become a tool of oppression***.”

https://sociable.co/government-and-policy/hackable-humans-wef-decode-mind-pin-number-bank-account/

markets: 'Tipflation':The culprit behind it is the boom in the use of digital kiosks after the pandemic.



Media: Seattle Medical Examiner Running Out Of Space To Store Bodies Due To Fentanyl Overdoses: Official; "More than double the number of lives lost compared to just three years ago..."

War: German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock bluntly states in parliament that, "we are not fightign a war against each other, we are fighting a war against russia" jan.25th

The Foreign Office was established within the North German Confederation in 1870 and its head, first appointed in 1871, had the rank of Secretary of State. As the German constitution of 1871 installed the Chancellor as the sole responsible government minister and since the Chancellor generally also held the position of Foreign Minister of Prussia, the Secretary of State fulfilled a more subject role as an assistant to the Chancellor, acting largely to draft correspondence rather than to actually direct the formation of foreign policy. This was especially true during the chancellorships of Otto von Bismarck (1871–1890) and Bernhard von Bülow (1900–1909), both of whom had considerable prior experience with foreign affairs, while secretaries at other times wielded more influence over the foreign policy.

former foreign minister
Gustav Ernst Stresemann (German pronunciation: [ˈɡʊstaf ˈʃtʁeːzəˌman] (listen); 10 May 1878 – 3 October 1929) was a German statesman who served as chancellor in 1923 (for 102 days) and as foreign minister from 1923 to 1929, during the Weimar Republic.

His most notable achievement was the reconciliation between Germany and France, for which he and French Prime Minister Aristide Briand received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1926. During a period of political instability and fragile, short-lived governments, he was the most influential cabinet member in most of the Weimar Republic's existence. During his political career, he represented three successive liberal parties; he was the dominant figure of the German People's Party during the Weimar Republic.

During World War I, he gradually moved to the right, expressing his support of the Hohenzollern monarchy and Germany's expansionist goals. He believed that Germany would need to annex the Low Countries, Eastern Europe, parts of north-east France, and the French protectorate in Morocco in order to economically compete with the United States in the future. He was a vocal proponent of unrestricted submarine warfare.[11]

The collapse of the German Empire after its defeat in World War I and the German Revolution of 1918–1919 drove Stresemann into a mental and physical breakdown, which shocked him into totally abandoning his earlier militarism and annexationism.[11] When the Allied powers' peace terms became known, including a crushing burden of paying reparations for the war, Constantin Fehrenbach denounced them and claimed "the will to break the chains of slavery would be implanted" into a generation of Germans. Stresemann said of this speech: "He was inspired in that hour by God to say what was felt by the German people. His words, spoken under Fichte's portrait, the final words of which merged into **Deutschland, Deutschland über alles**, made it an unforgettably solemn hour. There was in that sense a kind of uplifting grandeur. The impression left on all was tremendous".[13]

The DVP was initially seen, along with the German National People's Party, as part of the "national opposition" to the Weimar Republic, particularly for its grudging acceptance of democracy and its ambivalent attitude towards the Freikorps and the Kapp Putsch in 1920. Beginning in 1919, Stresemann emphasized that Germany should try to regain its great-power status by leveraging the continued global economic influence and creditworthiness of its multinational corporations, pursuing peaceful economic expansion, and establishing friendly relations with the United States.[11] By late 1920, Stresemann gradually moved to cooperation with the parties of the left and centre — possibly in reaction to political murders like that of Walther Rathenau. However, he remained a monarchist at heart.

Weimar Republic[edit]

Chancellor 1923[edit]

On 13 August 1923, Stresemann was appointed chancellor and foreign minister of a grand coalition government in the so-called *year of crises* (1923). In social policy, a new system of binding arbitration was introduced in October 1923 in which an outside arbitrator had the final say in industrial disputes.[14]

On the 26 September 1923, Stresemann announced the end to the passive resistance against the Occupation of the Ruhr by the French and Belgians, in tandem with an Article 48 (of the Weimar Constitution) state of emergency proclamation by President Friedrich Ebert that lasted until February 1924.[15][16] In October 1923, the Stresemann government used Article 48 to replace the illegally-elected SPD-Communist coalition government of Saxony on 29 October, and that of Thuringia on 6 November, by commissioners. By this time, Stresemann was convinced that accepting the republic and reaching an understanding with the Allies on the reparations issue was the only way for Germany to gain the breathing room it needed to rebuild its battered economy.[16] He also wished to recover the Allied-occupied Rhineland, as he wrote to Wilhelm, the former German Crown Prince on 23 July 1923: "The most important objective of German politics is the liberation of German territory from French and Belgian occupation. First, we must remove the strangler from our throat".[17]

Hyperinflation in the Weimar Republic reached its peak in November 1923.[18] Since Germany was no longer able to pay the striking workers, more and more money was printed, which finally led to hyperinflation. Stresemann introduced a new currency, the Rentenmark, to end hyperinflation. He also persuaded the French to pull back from the Ruhr in return for a promise that reparations payments would resume. That was part of his larger strategy of "fulfillment." Although he, like nearly every other German politician, cursed the Treaty of Versailles as a *Diktat*, he had come to believe that Germany would never win relief from its terms unless it made a good-faith effort to fulfill them. To his mind, this would convince the Allies that the reparations bill was truly beyond Germany's capacity. The effort paid off; the Allies began to take a look at reforming the reparations scheme.[19]

In early November 1923, partly because of the reaction to the overthrowing of the SPD/KPD governments in Saxony and Thuringia, the Social Democrats withdrew from his reshuffled government and, after a motion of confidence, he was voted down on 23 November 1923, after which Stresemann and his cabinet resigned.

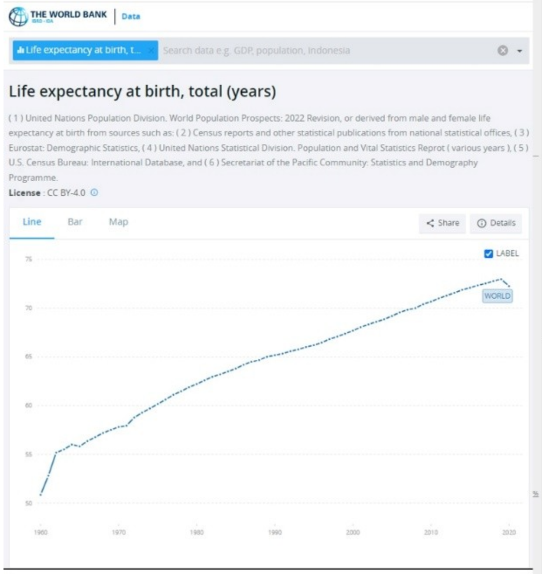
Foreign minister 1923–1929[edit]

Stresemann remained as foreign minister in the government of his successor, Wilhelm Marx from the Centre Party. He remained foreign minister for the rest of his life in eight successive governments ranging from the centre-right to the centre-left. As foreign minister, Stresemann had numerous achievements. His first notable achievement was the Dawes Plan of 1924, which reduced Germany's overall reparations commitment and reorganized the Reichsbank. He appointed Hjalmar Schacht as the new President of the Reichsbank, who implemented the Dawes Plan and ended Weimar hyperinflation despite his reservations over Germany's growing foreign debt under Stresemann's economic policies.[11] The successful negotiation of the Dawes Plan provided hope for Streseman's foreign policy strategy emphasizing Germany's remaining economic soft power, since the creator of the plan Owen D. Young was the chairman of General Electric and a major trading partner with the German firm AEG.[11]

After Sir Austen Chamberlain became British Foreign Secretary, Stresemann wanted a British guarantee to France and Belgium, as the Anglo-American guarantee had fallen due to the United States' refusal to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. Stresemann later wrote: "Chamberlain had never been our friend. His first act was to attempt to restore the old Entente through a three-power alliance of England, France and Belgium, directed against Germany. German diplomacy faced a catastrophic situation".[20]

Stresemann conceived the idea that Germany would guarantee her western borders and pledge never to invade Belgium and France again, along with a guarantee from Britain that they would come to Germany's aid if attacked by France. Germany was in no position at the time to attack, as Stresemann wrote to the Crown Prince: "The renunciation of a military conflict with France has only a theoretical significance, in so far as there is no possibility of a war with France".[21] Stresemann negotiated the Locarno Treaties with Britain, France, Italy, and Belgium. On the third day of negotiations, Stresemann explained Germany's demands to the French Foreign Secretary, Aristide Briand. As Stresemann recorded, Briand "almost fell off his sofa, when he heard my explanations". Stresemann said that Germany alone should not make sacrifices for peace; European countries should cede colonies to Germany; the disarmament control commission should leave Germany; the Anglo-French occupation of the Rhineland should be ended; and Britain and France should disarm as Germany had done.[22] The Treaties were signed in October 1925 at Locarno. Germany officially recognized the post-World War I western border for the first time,[23] was guaranteed peace with France, and was promised admission to the League of Nations and evacuation of the last Allied occupation troops from the Rhineland.

……… https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav_Stresemann



Life expectancy at birth, total (years)

(1) United Nations Population Division. World Population Prospects: 2022 Revision, or derived from male and female life expectancy at birth from sources such as: (2) Census reports and other statistical publications from national statistical offices, (3) Eurostat: Demographic Statistics, (4) United Nations Statistical Division. Population and Vital Statistics Reprot (various years), (5) U.S. Census Bureau: International Database, and (6) Secretariat of the Pacific Community: Statistics and Demography Programme.

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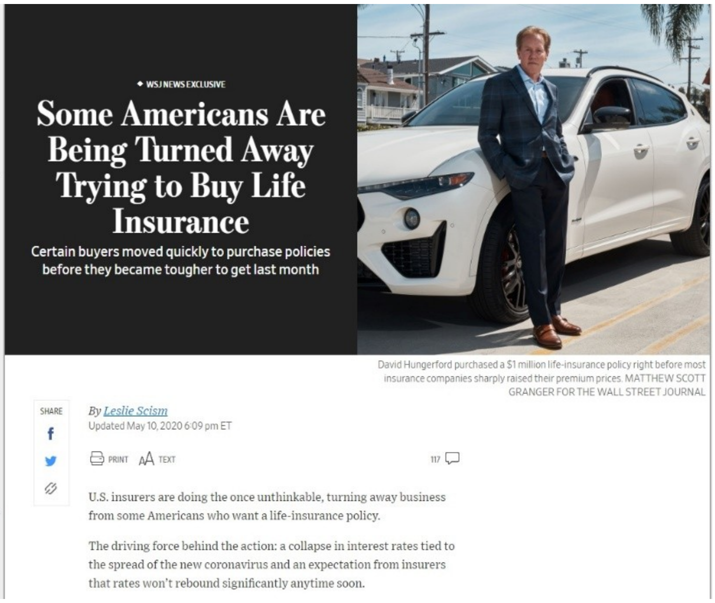


◆ WSJ NEWS EXCLUSIVE

Some Americans Are Being Turned Away Trying to Buy Life Insurance

Certain buyers moved quickly to purchase policies before they became tougher to get last month

David Hungerford purchased a $1 million life-insurance policy right before most insurance companies sharply raised their premium prices. MATTHEW SCOTT GRANGER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

By Leslie Scism
Updated May 10, 2020 6:09 pm ET

U.S. insurers are doing the once unthinkable, turning away business from some Americans who want a life-insurance policy.

The driving force behind the action: a collapse in interest rates tied to the spread of the new coronavirus and an expectation from insurers that rates won't rebound significantly anytime soon.

For now, a wave of stopgap measures is hitting potential buyers even as some companies say more consumers are seeking out life insurance during the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to suspending sales of some popular products and raising prices, insurers are also scaling back policy sizes and reducing benefits.

“In 33 years, I have never seen more changes come more quickly to the life-insurance products we sell,” said Lawrence Rybka, chairman of ValMark Financial Group, an insurance brokerage in Akron, Ohio. “It is unprecedented how fast and widespread—it is across lots of carriers.”

His staff has had a hard time keeping up with insurers’ bulletins, and they have less time to redirect business to insurers still willing to issue certain types of large policies, he said. Historically, insurers would give a month or 60 days before a change became effective. Now, two weeks is common.

Some insurers are reacting directly to the new coronavirus.

Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co., among others, has temporarily halted life-insurance sales to people 70 and older and who are in poor health. Insurance-industry executives say that analysis shows older people with underlying medical problems are dying at much higher rates from Covid-19 than younger people.

In a memo to brokers, Penn Mutual said it expects “to revisit these and other changes as we gain better insight into the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Among those prompted to move quickly amid the changes was David Hungerford, 72 years old, who bought a $1 million policy from Prudential Financial Inc. PRU -1.17%▲ last month.

Mr. Hungerford, an owner of a package-design company in southern California, said his broker advised him to act fast because of looming premium hikes. Calling life-insurance buyers “collateral damage” of ultralow interest rates, he said he hustled to wrap up a medical exam. “I was concerned about my overall bucket of assets in the stock market, and I wanted another bucket to depend on” for his wife’s financial protection, he said about his desire to purchase the policy.

Prudential, the nation’s biggest life insurer by assets, told brokers in a March missive that its late-April rate increases of 8% to 12% on the type of policy bought by Mr. Hungerford, and other actions, “put us in a much better position to withstand the low interest-rate environment.”

The insurer also temporarily suspended sales of 30-year “term-life” policies, an offering popular with young families, a spokeswoman confirmed. Such policies provide a basic death benefit during the years in which they rear their children. Prudential also reduced the amount of interest it is crediting to certain combination savings-and-death-benefit “universal life” policies.

Typically, life insurers hold about 70% of their general investment account in long-term bonds. In general, the yields on these holdings, many of them corporate securities, follow the 10-year U.S. Treasury. Its annual yield has been mostly declining since the 1980s, when it peaked at nearly 16%.

The yield dove after the 2008-09 financial crisis and was as low as 1.366% in 2016 before rebounding to about 3% in 2018. In March, it plummeted again as coronavirus sparked a rush to safer assets and investors feared interest-rate cuts from the Federal Reserve.

The yield on Friday: 0.679%.

Corporate-bond yields have held up better than the 10-year of late, but the overall trend has been tough on life insurers. Life insurers’ net portfolio yield averaged 4.4% last year, down from 9.9% in the mid-1980s, according to ratings firm A.M. Best Co.

‘It is difficult for consumers to have a lot of empathy for the life-insurance companies, but I can imagine they’re really getting squeezed’ by low rates, says Mr. Hungerford.

PHOTO: MATTHEW SCOTT GRANGER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Some insurers now are turning away business they consider the riskiest. American International Group Inc., Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co., Pacific Life Insurance Co. and Principal Financial Group Inc. are among big insurers that have limited the size of so-called guaranteed universal-life policies, which are highly sensitive to low interest rates.

The guarantee is a promise that the annual premium bill won’t ever increase during the owner’s lifetime. That means the insurer is on the hook for any shortage of interest income over the years. Consumers bear the risk of premium hikes in other types of universal life to make up for such shortfalls.

A Nationwide spokesman said the insurer's pricing and product adjustments were motivated by "the extremely low interest rates and market volatility that drives up the cost of our hedging instruments, and [the] evolving landscape related to Covid-19."

Mark Chandik, president of FDP Wealth Management in Irvine, Calif., said many carriers held off raising prices and retooling offerings immediately after 2008-09 on a belief that rates would soon edge up. They gradually made changes when low rates persisted for years.

In this crisis, "they see no end in sight and they are all rushing to react to that," he said.

Over the past decade, life insurers offset some earnings pressure by deploying money into higher-yielding, triple-B debt, but potential downgrades in the worsened economy may make some insurers pause, said Tracy Dolin-Benguigui, a senior director for North American Insurance Ratings at S&P Global Ratings.

Certain insurance products that pay interest to consumers will experience a meaningful decline in sales, she forecasts. "It becomes extremely hard to provide a decent multiyear guarantee when you are facing the prospect of zero or even negative rates," she said.

In another example of how low interest rates are being passed on to consumers, payouts on "income annuities," also known as "immediate annuities," have dropped 24% since 2005, industry figures show. A 70-year-old man investing $100,000 into one of these contracts for lifetime payments would get $556 a month today, down from $730 a month in 2005.

Some industry executives are hopeful one positive outcome of the Covid-19 turmoil is a greater appreciation for life insurance.

"The superlow interest rates today are certainly not good for Americans looking to save nor broadly for the life-insurance industry, but the value of protection products with guarantees will increase in this unpredictable environment," said Theodore Mathas, chairman-elect of trade group American Council of Life Insurers and chief executive of New York Life Insurance Co.

Some insurers say they already are enjoying sales boosts. The 164-year-old Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. said April was one of its five best months ever as measured by number of new clients buying various types of insurance, up 33% from the year-earlier period. Haven Life, an online unit of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., reported a 42% jump in term-life sales in March.

Sales at some companies with product changes have been lifted by buyers trying to get ahead of the deadlines.

Alan Boudreau, a 51-year-old owner of an infrastructure pipe-laying business in southern California, said he was “a little leery” about committing in March to a multimillion-dollar Prudential policy, with Covid-19’s economic damage unfolding.

“I was dragging my feet,” he said. But with changes ahead, “we decided it was smart to move forward now rather than to wait for down the road.”

Write to Leslie Scism at leslie.scism@wsj.com

Corrections & Amplifications
Theodore Mathas is chairman-elect of the American Council of Life Insurers. An earlier version of this article incorrectly named the trade group as the American Council of Life Insurance. (Corrected on May 10)

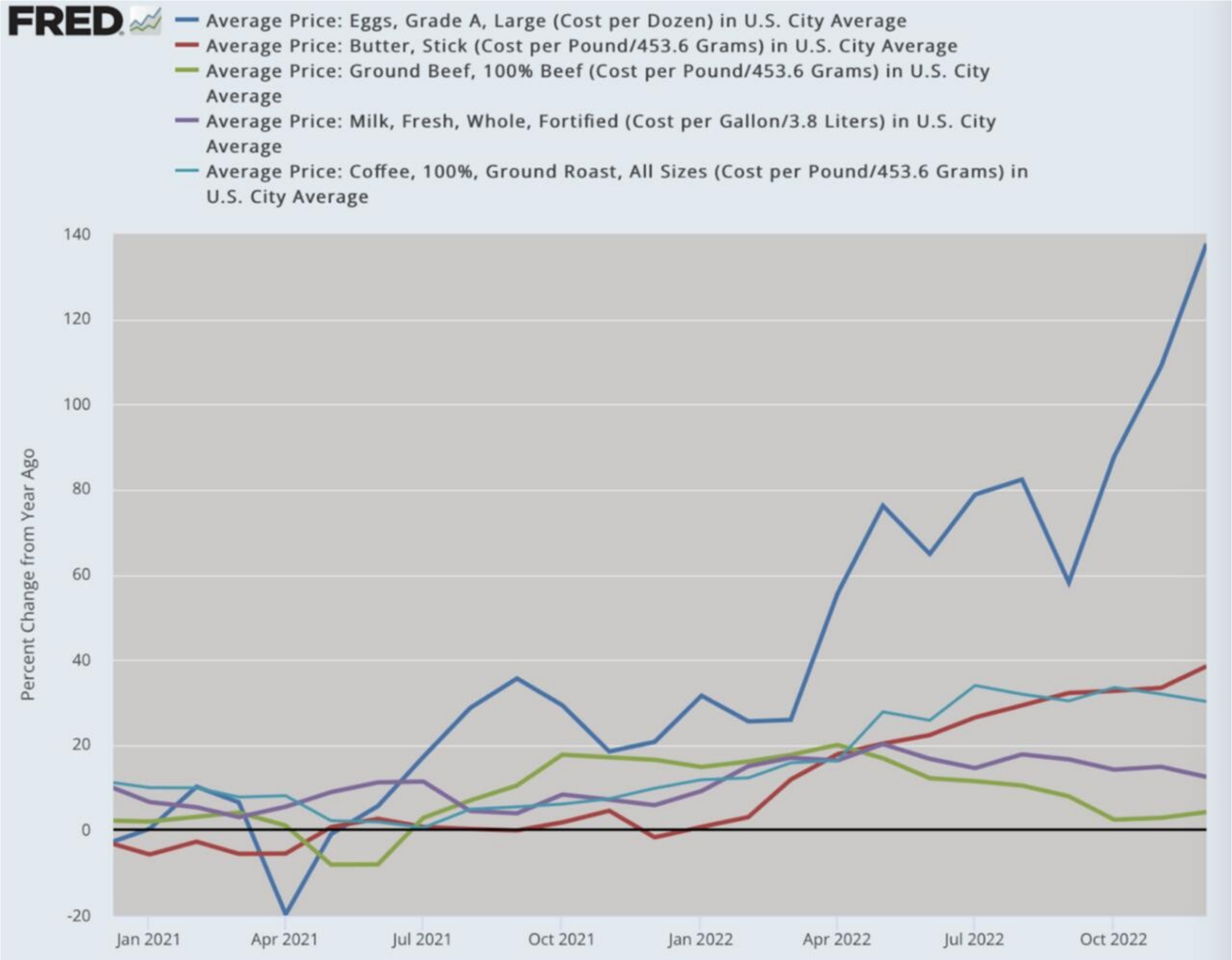
Markets: **The reality you see on the shelves of your local store. The grocery prices tell the truth that you are being pillaged.**

At first, there was just a shortage because grocery chains resisted price increases. Once they came back to the shelves, the cost dramatically rose. You are going to pay more for the worst eggs than the best egg cost only one year ago. Unless you know someone with chickens or have them yourself, you are stuck with thin shells and light-yellow yokes forever, while paying through the nose for them.

The bottom line is undeniable: ***in a mere two years, many of the things you loved, healthy food for your families—I’m not talking about the all-carb diet they want us to adopt—has now doubled in price.***

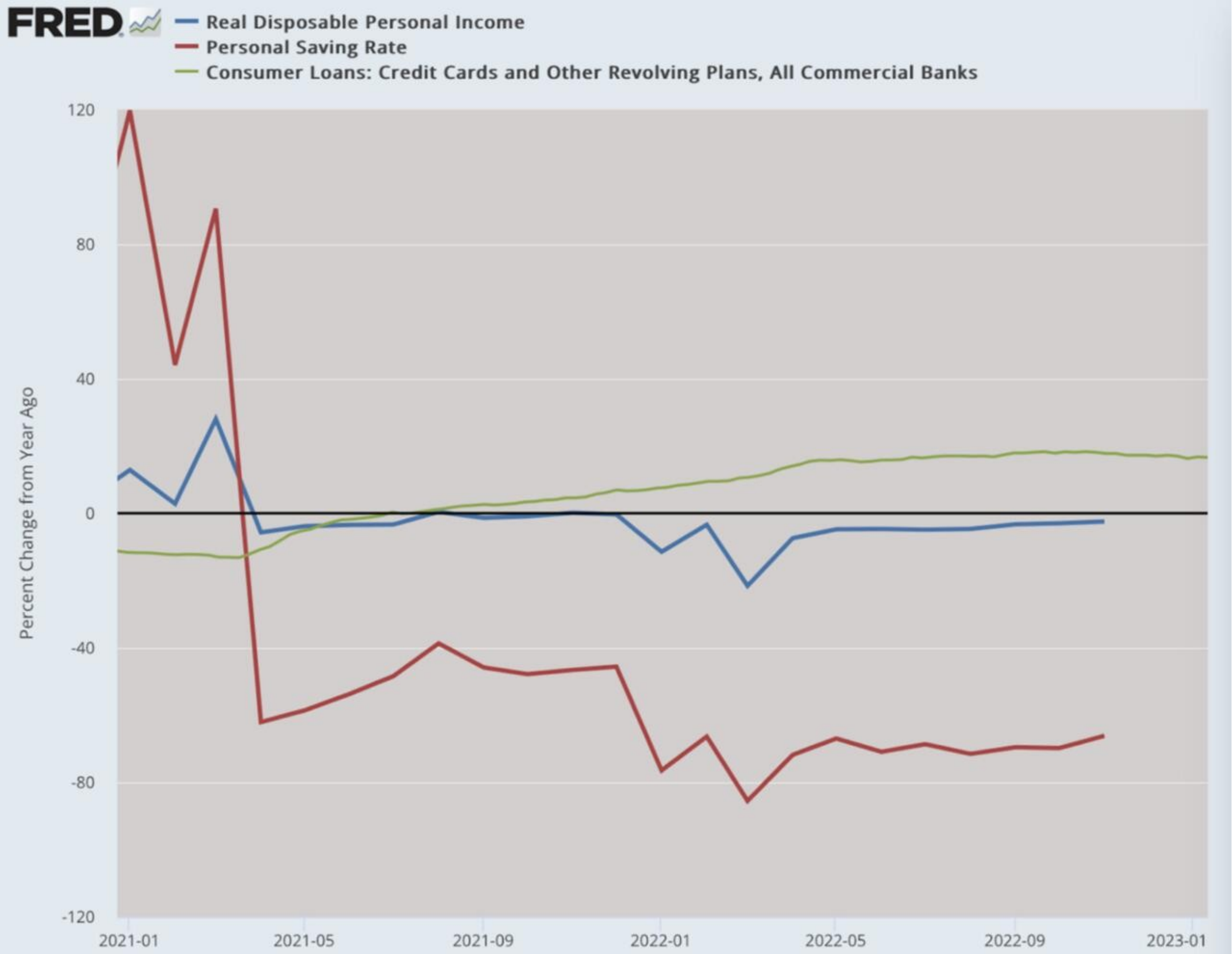
Some is up 50 percent and some is up 150 percent. This damage is absolutely not captured in the CPI, which has huge drawbacks by being calculated on an annual basis and for being a weighted index number that fails to capture the reality on the ground.

The reality you see on the shelves of your local store. The grocery prices tell the truth that you are being pillaged.



The pillaging is not limited to this problem however. And by the way, this is NOT going to improve. It would take a dramatic deflation to restore our living standards. The Fed will never permit that. At best, their intention is to take down the inflation rate to 2 percent per annum. It now stands at about 6 percent, maybe. So even if it happens to fall to zero, all prevailing prices will stick. That means that you have been robbed.

The fundamentals of household finance are even worse. Credit card balances are way up. Savings is way down. And real income (which is adjusted for inflation) has been falling now for 21 months straight. Truly, it’s panic time but people are so beaten down and exhausted that they are not panicking. Most people have acquiesced in exhaustion of the shock and awe to which they have been subjected.



(Data: Federal Reserve Economic Data [FRED], St. Louis Fed; Chart: Jeffrey A. Tucker)

These charts portend terrible things for our future. It truly means the end of prosperity. In fact, middle-class people barely remember what that was like even though we experienced it as recently as 2019. We didn't have to choose between eating good food and heating our homes, paying our cell phone bill and going on vacation, drinking good wine and joining a gym. We could do all of those things.

No more. Our living standards have been taken down a peg or several. Of course it doesn't affect the very wealthy that gathered this week in Davos for the World Economic Forum. They have all the resources they need and can continue to live as always. It's the rest of us who are being ground down into the dirt.

Note too the smaller packages of everything, with producers shaving off ounces every few weeks. Try to buy the big packages like three years ago and you are likely out of luck. My favorite Turkish coffee is the same price but half the size. Did humanity suddenly desire smaller quantities of things? No, this is just a way to disguise price increases without letting the consumer know.

The other day I bought movie tickets but the bottom-line price was higher than the units. That's because the software added a $5 "convenience fee." So great to know that now I have to pay an extra fee for delivery of an electronic good.

Remember when Uber and Lyft were cheap and even a good alternative to owning a car? Those days are long over. Now it costs $40 just to get across town in D.C. And New York City, forget it. **The prices are astronomical while the subways are more dangerous than ever. Might as well not go.**

This is what is happening to us.

Now, to the critical question. How was all this accomplished, this massive increase in taxation by surreptitious means? Please understand: this was accomplished not by Putin or greedy corporations but by the Federal Reserve. They have the legal power to counterfeit. They do it by buying government debt with money that had not previously existed. This new money makes it way through the economy, watering down the value of existing money.

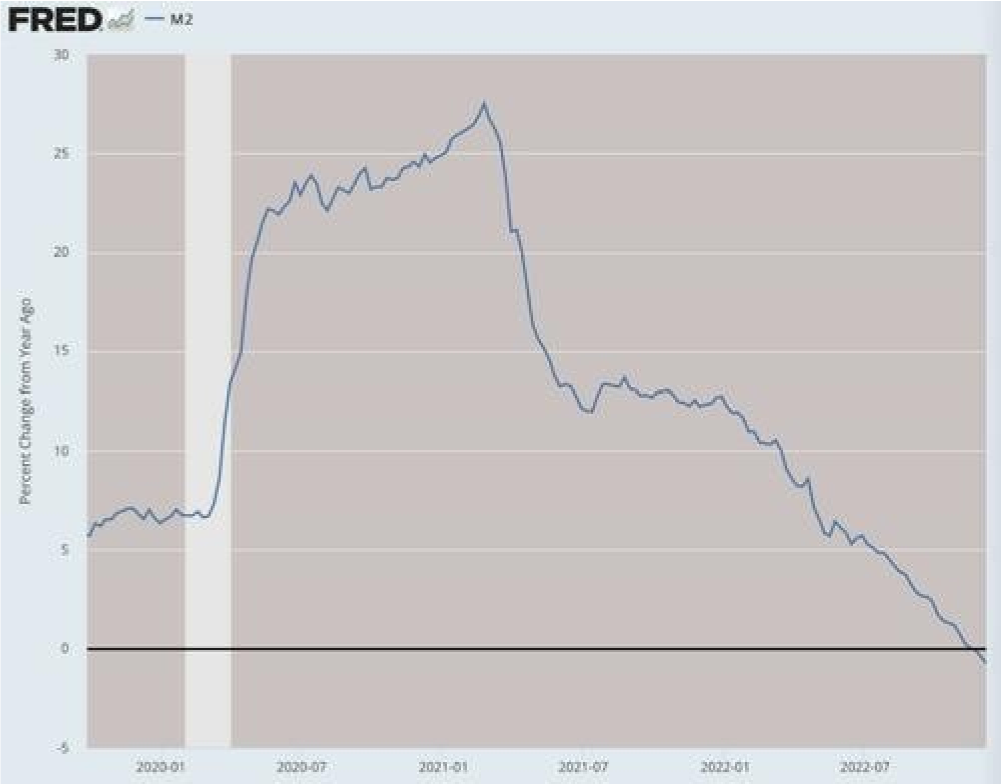
It's like this. Let's say you are holding a kids' birthday party and have only one can of frozen lemonade. But it turns out that 50 kids show up. You do what is possible to stretch the lemonade but each serving gets weaker. At some point it is just water. The kids start to notice. You have to explain that you bumped into the physical limits. The lemonade has become ever less valuable.

It's the same with the Fed. It does not matter that the dollar can buy more foreign currencies than ever. That has nothing to do with anything. What matters is not how much foreign currency it can buy but how many goods and services it can buy. The reason it buys far less traces to the outrageous monetary expansions of 2020 and 2021. That's the whole reason. At one point, monetary expansion was running 26 percent per year!

They robbed you to fund their outrageous lockdown experiment and put as many businesses and people on the payroll as possible. They might as well have dropped money from helicopters. Now we are paying the price for this monetary malfeasance.

And now?

For the first time ever, M2 is actually falling. How do you think that is going to work out? The mismanagement of our nation's money stock is breathtaking.



(Data: Federal Reserve Economic Data [FRED], St. Louis Fed; Chart: Jeffrey A. Tucker)

And did you see the idea of a $1 trillion coin floating around again? This has to be the biggest monetary hoax in history. You can’t just mint a round coin, out of any material, even platinum, and cause new wealth to come into existence. The idea keeps popping up but nothing comes of it simply because the alchemy is too obvious even for the power elite to pull off.

Our rulers in D.C. have got themselves into a real fix. The people are furious about what is happening and everyone wants to know why. There is a growing populist movement out there that simply will not go along. We aren’t giving up our gas stoves. We aren’t going to eat bugs. And we aren’t going to give up our birthright to freedom just because a bunch of partying clowns in Davos tell us we have to.

We really do face a choice right now. If we do not act and do not choose wisely, **we face a future of growing impoverishment, ill-health, and deprecated living standards. We are not doing this to ourselves.** They are doing it to us, and they will continue on this path so long as they can get away with it.

Markets: **Inflation Is Still Here Despite Hype Over Broad Money's Collapse**

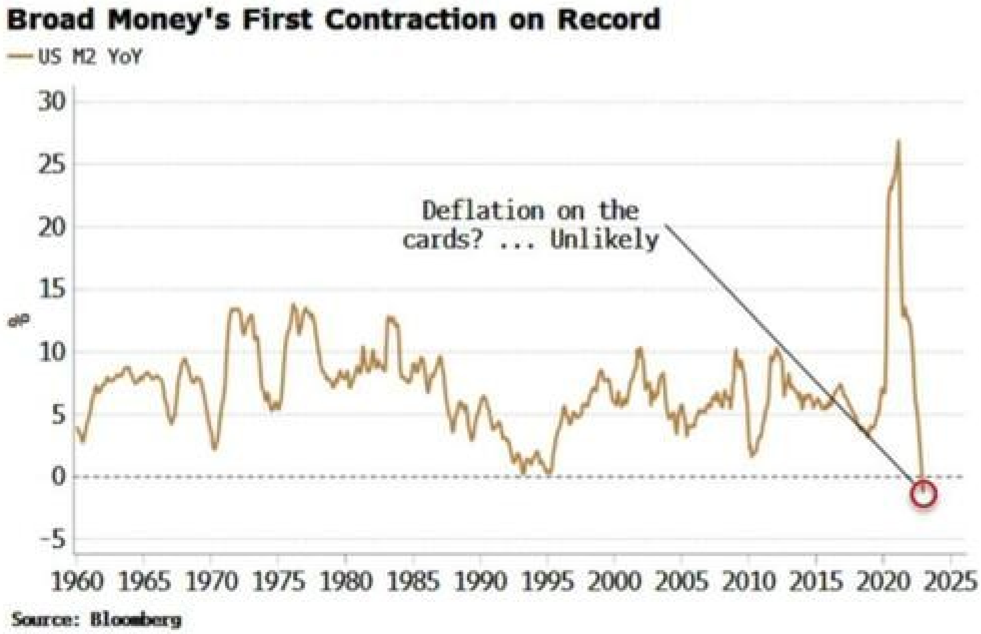
BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, JAN 25, 2023 - 10:39 AM

Authored by Simon White, Bloomberg macro strategist,

The first ever contraction in broad money should not be taken as a sign deflation is around the corner. **On the contrary, a closer look broad money's components shows inflationary forces are alive and well.**

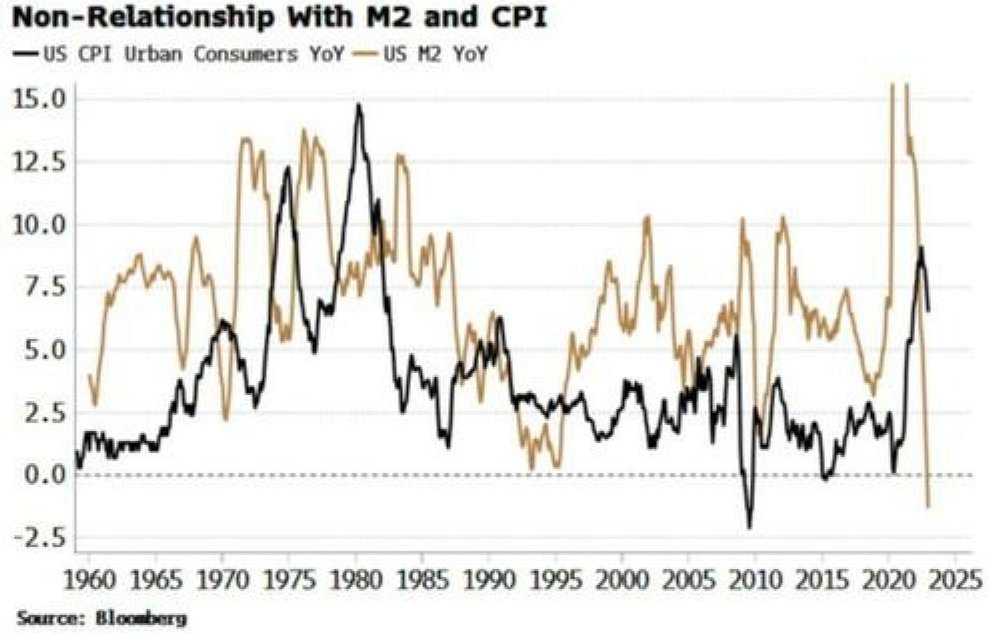
Underweights in real assets, low long-term yields and inverted yield curves show that the market continues to underestimate the long-term impact from persistent and entrenched inflation.

Broad money, or M2, just posted its first year-on-year decline in its 60-year history. But M2, and its narrow-money counterpart M1, are misunderstood in their impact on the economy.



Rises and falls in M2 are naively assumed to lead to rises and falls in inflation. But two variables that look correlated don't have to have a causative relationship, and the connection is in fact explained by a third variable.

M2 and inflation may look like they go up and down at similar times, but a closer inspection shows there is no strong relationship. **The fundamental issue with M2 that is frequently not appreciated is that it is counter-cyclical.**



The biggest constituent of M2 is savings deposits.

Unlike demand deposits, which is current-account money and deposit money created for loans, money tends to be moved into savings deposits when there is risk-aversion, or a perception of slowing growth.

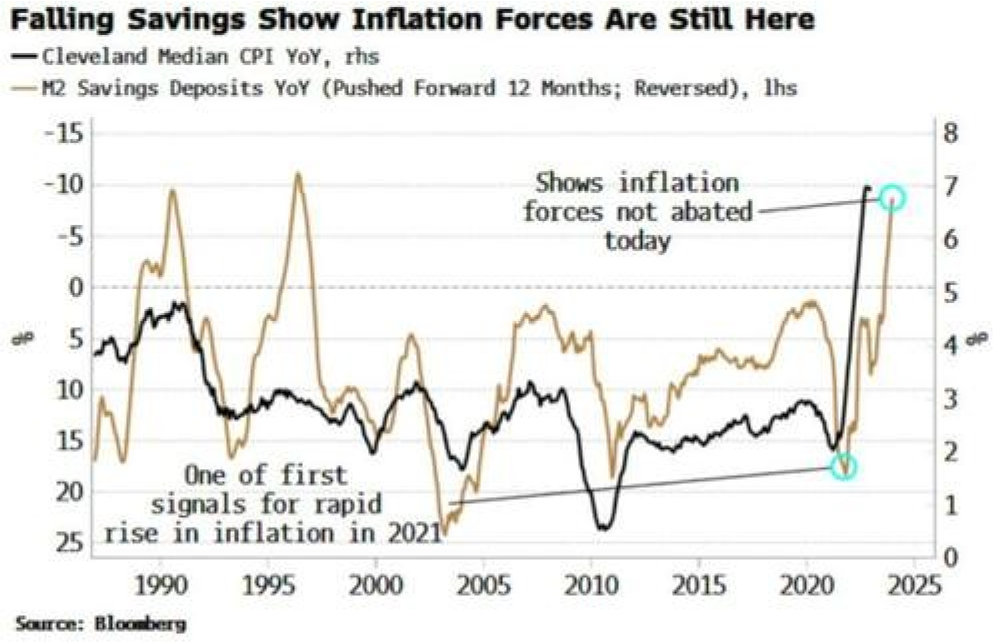
Vice-versa: money is often moved out of savings deposits and into current accounts when animal spirits are frothing. The rise in savings deposits in late 2020 was one of the first signs that a strong inflationary impulse in the US was coming in 2021.

There used to be a clear division between M1, which was mainly demand deposits, and M2, which was mainly savings deposits, until **May 2020 when the Fed decided that savings deposits would be swept into the Other Liquid Deposits component of M1**. *(This was due to an amendment to the Fed's Regulation D which made savings and demand deposits more fungible.)*

Nevertheless, we can reconstruct the savings-deposit data.

In the chart below it is reversed and pushed forward by 12 months, and we can see it clearly leads the inflation trend, as gauged by the Cleveland Fed’s Median CPI.

Growth in savings deposits has not started to rise yet, showing that underlying inflationary forces have not abated.



Falling Savings Show Inflation Forces Are Still Here

Source: Bloomberg

Headline inflation is likely to continue to fall due the lagged impact of commodity-price falls and base effects, but the contraction in M2 is not giving any signals that the inflationary regime is coming to an end.

Markets: Short-Seller Hindenburg Targets India's Richest Man For "Brazen Stock Manipulation"

War: Ukrainian Deputy defense minister steps down

Ukraine’s deputy infrastructure minister, Vasyl Lozynskyy, was dismissed and arrested over allegations of embezzlement.

War: **Turkey withdraws from over a dozen military bases in Duhok province: Sources, jan.25th**

Turkey has withdrawn troops from over a dozen military bases in Duhok province in a month, informed civilians and military sources in the area told Rudaw this week.

Turkey has established tens of military points in the Kurdistan Region in recent years in the framework of a series of offensives it has carried out against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Twenty-seven of these bases have been set up following the launch of the so-called Operation Claw-Lock in April, Rudaw has learnt.

Civilian and security sources in Duhok province told Rudaw's Naif Ramadan on Sunday that Turkey had withdrawn 13 of its 27 military bases it had established since April.

In 2020, the Turkish presidency published a map in a tweet which purportedly showed nearly 40 Turkish "military points" in the Kurdistan Region. The tweet was later deleted.

War: jan.25th **Iran, Syria Set to Conduct Joint-Military Drills, Expand Cooperation; Since the start of the Syrian war, Iran has provided military support to Damascus against the Nusra Front, ISIS and other external terror threats**

Baqeri added that Tehran is fully willing to support Damascus in its fight against terrorism and other external threats. In 2020, Iran and Syria signed a comprehensive agreement to enhance their cooperation in the military and defense sectors.

Since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011, Iran has provided Syria with military support against western-backed militant groups. After initially losing considerable territory to al-Qaeda affiliated groups, including the Nusra Front and ISIS, Russia and Iran have fought alongside the Syria Arab Army (SAA) to recover much of this territory.

Earlier this month, a report released by *Newsweek* citing an anonymous US official disclosed that Iran had stepped up deployment of its air defense systems to Syria over the past two years.

As part of the increased supply of defense technology to Damascus, the report states that these deliveries include the latest generation of the locally produced Iranian Bavar-373 system and are aimed at helping Syria defend against illegal Israeli airstrikes in its territory.

As far back as 2013, Israel has been launching attacks against alleged Iranian and Hezbollah targets in Syria. It has recently intensified attacks on Syria’s major airports to halt Tehran’s increasing use of aerial supply lines to deliver arms to its allies in Syria, Lebanon, and the occupied Palestinian territories, regional diplomatic and intelligence sources say.

In 2018, Syrian troops accidentally downed a Russian aircraft, mistakenly thinking it was an Israeli jet that had earlier infiltrated the country’s airspace to carry out strikes.

Moscow held Israel responsible for the incident, which left over a dozen Russian servicemen dead, prompting Russia to respond by delivering its renowned S-300 missile defense system to Syria.

History, church: : reformation, lutheranism: "The split between the Lutherans and the Roman Catholics was made public and clear with the 1521 Edict of Worms: the edicts of the Diet condemned Luther and officially banned citizens of the Holy Roman Empire from defending or propagating his ideas, subjecting advocates of Lutheranism to forfeiture of all property, half of the seized property to be forfeited to the imperial government and the remaining half forfeit to the party who brought the accusation."

The split between the Lutherans and the Roman Catholics was made public and clear with the 1521 Edict of Worms: the edicts of the Diet condemned Luther and officially banned citizens of the Holy Roman Empire from defending or propagating his ideas, subjecting advocates of Lutheranism to forfeiture of all property, half of the seized property to be forfeited to the imperial government and the remaining half forfeit to the party who brought the accusation.[3]

Lutheranism spread through all of Scandinavia during the 16th century, as the monarch of Denmark–Norway (also ruling Iceland and the Faroe Islands) and the monarch of Sweden (also ruling Finland) adopted Lutheranism. Through Baltic-German and Swedish rule, Lutheranism also spread into Estonia and Latvia.

The first complete Bible in Danish was based on Martin Luther's translation into German. It was published in 1550 with 3,000 copies printed in the first edition; a second edition was published in 1589.[15] Unlike Catholicism, the Lutheran Church does not believe that tradition is a carrier of the "Word of God", or that only the communion of the Bishop of Rome has been entrusted to interpret the "Word of God".[9][16]

The Reformation in Sweden began with Olaus and Laurentius Petri, brothers who took the Reformation to Sweden after studying in Germany. They led Gustav Vasa, elected king in 1523, to Lutheranism. The pope's refusal to allow the replacement of an archbishop who had supported the invading forces opposing Gustav Vasa during the Stockholm Bloodbath led to the severing of any official connection between Sweden and the papacy in 1523.[10]

Four years later, at the Diet of Västerås [sv], the king succeeded in forcing the diet to accept his dominion over the national church. The king was given possession of all church properties, as well as the church appointments and approval of the clergy. While this effectively granted official sanction to Lutheran ideas,[10] Lutheranism did not become official until 1593. At that time the Uppsala Synod declared Holy Scripture the sole guideline for faith, with four documents accepted as faithful and authoritative explanations of it: the *Apostles' Creed*, the *Nicene Creed*, the *Athanasian Creed*, and the unaltered *Augsburg Confession* of 1530.[17] Mikael Agricola's translation of the first *Finnish New Testament* was published in 1548.[18]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lutheranism

war: However, despite the growing number of countries sending armored vehicles to Kyiv, it is still waiting for German Leopard 2 tanks. A decision on whether or not Berlin would finally heed Ukraine’s request was supposed to be released last week, but German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said his country needs more time. “There are good reasons for the delivery and there are good reasons against it. And given the overall situation of a war that has been going on for almost one year now, all the pros and cons have to be weighed very carefully, and that assessment is explicitly shared by many allies,” Pistorius told reporters. Jan.24th

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War: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday said that Sweden should not expect support from Ankara on its NATO bid in response to anti-Islam protests that took place in Sweden over the weekend. Jan24

War: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz previously said he was not providing tanks to Ukraine because he wanted to avoid a direct clash between Russia and NATO. But the US and other NATO countries are less concerned about escalating the war and put heavy pressure on Berlin to send the tanks. Hawks in Congress have been pressuring the Biden administration to provide the Abrams, with Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX), the head of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, demanding the US send “just one” tank to get Berlin to oblige. Jan24

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The US providing its main battle tank would mark the latest significant escalation of military aid for Ukraine. In January alone, the US pledged over

$5.5 billion in military aid for Ukraine and started providing Bradley and Stryker fighting vehicles for the first time.

The funds for the military aid are being pulled from the latest aid package for Ukraine that was passed in December. At this point, the US has authorized about $113 billion to spend on the war since Russia’s February 2022 invasion.

War: **Russian Warship Armed With Hypersonic Missiles To Join China In South Africa-Hosted Drills**

History, Germany: **(paywall) Hate Speech and Identity Politics in Germany, 1848-1914**

https://www.jstor.org/stable/43965202

markets: jan24 **Investors Surge Back Into Oil At Fastest Pace In 5 Years**

By John Kemp, senior market analyst

media, stats, tech, censorship, journal: **nice deepsearched zh comment (suspect those are the only ones that are real): All social media resources, all media resources are 100% controlled, no matter who, law enforcement agencies, governments, the head of state, but they are controlled. You don’t have to search far, reach out to the keyboard and you are here... Having written absolute facts that reflect reality, you simply fall under the BAN, or at least under the pressure of smart BOT programs, hot-weave algorithms, etc. Moreover, all postal services, all e-mail services without exception, are controlled by the same structures... Even 30 years ago, I could not even imagine that the United States would turn from a country of democracy and freedom of speech into a country of autocracy with an authoritarian regime, with the highest rate of corruption in the upper echelons of power.**

Censorship: **scary comments from high lkevel eu bureaucrat about censorship and banning twitter**

EU Commissioner for Values and Transparency Věra Jourová makes a statement from the frozen doorstep of Davos **arguing that Twitter is subject to EU rules for preventing "harm to society".**

“The time of the Wild West is over,” Jourova told EuroNews.

“We will have the Digital Services Act [DSA]. We will have the Code of Practice as a part of this legislation.”

“So, after Mr Musk took over Twitter with his ‘freedom of speech absolutism,’ we are the protectors of freedom of speech as well,” she added.

“But at the same time, we cannot accept, for instance, illegal content online and so on. So, our message was clear: ***we have rules which have to be complied with, otherwise there will be sanctions.****”*

It should be noted that these same bureaucrats were defending Twitter operations as a private company only a year ago (as long as company policies fell in line with government messaging). As soon as Twitter started to allow more free speech, suddenly its operations as a private company became an international problem.

Again, the conflict is about one question - Should people be allowed say what they want and share the information that they want within the confines of constitutional law? For those that believe the answer is no, we have to then ask "Why?" What about free speech is so threatening to them? Can mere speech really do damage to society? Is this really about public safety? Or, is it about power, and the means to lie to the public while removing their ability to contradict?

Markets, war: **cool quote from current working european high level banker: "we see not only ‘Bretton Woods 3!” fist-pumping, but the Financial Times at Davos asking, ‘The Era of Markets Ended in 2019: What Comes Next?’, and Wolfgang Munchau noting, ‘As globalisation fragments, politics is again reigning supreme over economics.’"**

more from the same post...

With the emergence of neoclassical economics under Walras and Jevons, et al., *political*-economy was jettisoned and replaced with ‘equilibrium’ maths and ‘logical’ twaddle – as well as the historical record that the worst parts of Classical economics carried over into the neoclassical were the linked to Western imperialism: free trade (and colonialism) were spread by the British *literally* at gun point. In fact, as Adam Tooze underlined this week in a reference to Slobodian’s ‘Globalists’ this week, neoliberal, neoclassical economics, partially emerged from the collapse of the Habsburg Empire post-WWI, where: “*Austrian economists of the 1920s saw the democratic nation-state as a threat to the free flow of resources that had been previously secured by Imperial power. A new political economy was required to encase the economy* *and insulate it from democratic national sovereignty*.” In short, it was an excuse to keep political-economy vested-interest power structures in place before voters could get a say and redistribute any capital.

Censorship, tech: **Case 1:23-cv-00108:DOJ complaint, "Google controls more than a quarter of all US digital ads;Google keeps at least thirty cents—and sometimes far more—of each advertising dollar flowing from advertisers to website publishers through Google's ad tech tools"**

https://www.wsj.com/articles/google-critic-is-cleared-to-work-on-u-s-antitrust-matters-involving-search-giant-11673637343

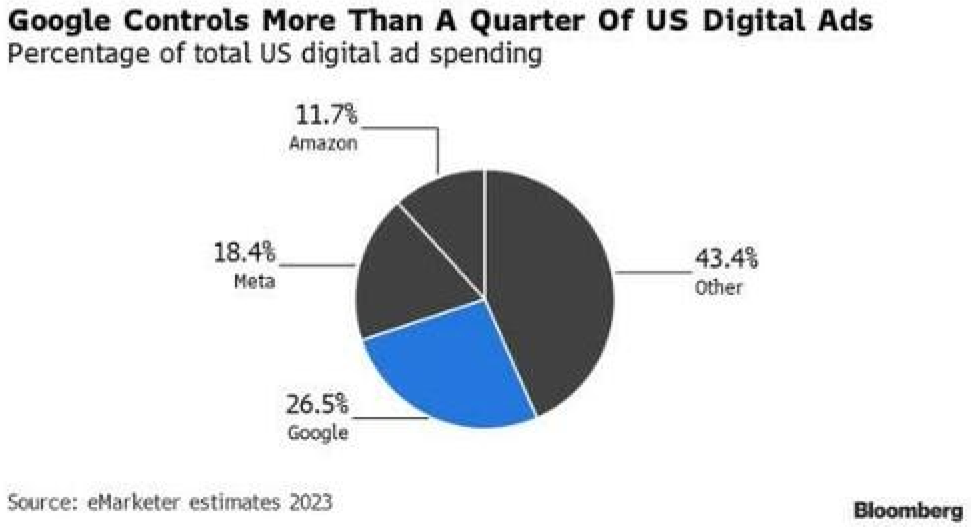
s3dotdocumentclouddotorg/documents/23584905/justice-department-lawsuit-against-google.pdf

*"**But competition in the ad tech space is broken, for reasons that were neither accidental nor inevitable. One industry behemoth, Google, has corrupted legitimate competition in the ad tech industry by engaging in a systematic campaign to seize control of the wide swath of high-tech tools used by publishers, advertisers, and brokers, to facilitate digital advertising**. Having inserted itself into all aspects of the digital advertising marketplace, Google has used anticompetitive, exclusionary, and unlawful means to eliminate or severely diminish any threat to its dominance over digital advertising technologies," the complaint said.*

And the DOJ complaint continued:

*"**The harm is clear: website creators earn less**, and advertisers pay more, than they would in a market where unfettered competitive pressure could discipline prices and lead to more innovative ad tech tools that would ultimately result in higher quality and lower cost transactions for market participants. **And this conduct hurts all of us because, as publishers make less money from advertisements, fewer publishers are able to offer internet content without subscriptions, paywalls, or alternative forms of monetization**. One troubling, but revealing, statistic demonstrates the point: on average, **Google keeps at least thirty cents—and sometimes far more—of each advertising dollar flowing from advertisers to website publishers through Google's ad tech tools. Google's own internal documents concede that Google would earn far less in a competitive market**."*

Google controls more than a quarter of all US digital ads, according to Bloomberg data.



Google Controls More Than A Quarter Of US Digital Ads

Percentage of total US digital ad spending

Source: eMarketer estimates 2023

Markets: Jeremy Grantham Doubles Down On Market Apocalypse, Warns Of 17% Crash, Doesn't Rule Out "Brutal Decline" To 2,000, jan24

War: U.S. and germany edge closer to agreement sending tanks; poland needs german permission first, but eager to support ukraine--doomsday clock breaks another record

"**The Biden administration is leaning toward sending a significant number of Abrams M1 tanks** to Ukraine and an announcement of the deliveries could come this week, U.S. officials said," the report indicates.

At the moment, a reluctant German government is coming under immense pressure to allow its Leopard 2 main battle tanks to be transferred to Ukrainian forces. Poland is leading the way in this pressure campaign.

"The announcement would be part of a broader diplomatic understanding with Germany in which Berlin would agree to send a smaller number of its own Leopard 2 tanks and would also approve the delivery of more of the German-made tanks by Poland and other nations," WSJ continues. "It would settle a trans-Atlantic disagreement over the tanks that had threatened to open fissures as the war drags into the end of its first year."

Earlier this month Berlin signaled that would authorize the Leopards if Washington made the first move and took the initiative on sending the Abrams.

As of Tuesday the Polish government says it has **formally submitted its request to Berlin to send the tanks**. Germany by law must first authorize these transfers of its German-manufactured military items by other nations.

"The Germans have already received our request for consent to transfer Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine," Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak confirmed on Tuesday. "I also appeal to the German side to join the coalition of countries supporting Ukraine with Leopard 2 tanks."

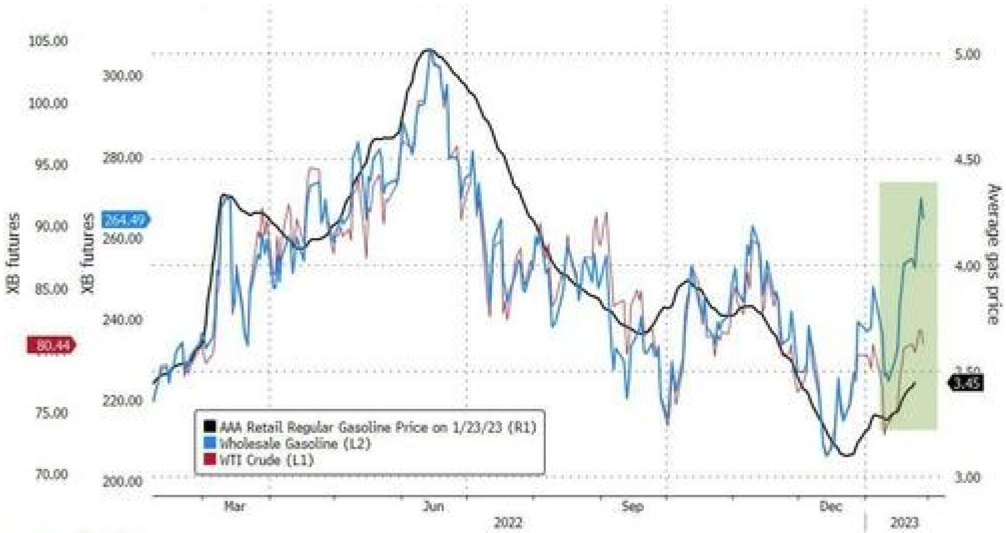
Despite prior signals that Berlin would not be approving the transfer anytime soon for stated reasons of wishing to avoid escalation with Russia, as predicted it looks as if Germany is weakening under pressure.

Bloomberg reports Tuesday that "**Germany is expected to give Poland approval as soon as Wednesday to re-export** its German-made Leopard tanks to Ukraine, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified because the decision is private."

This despite repeat warnings from Russian officials this week that 'global catastrophe' could be unleashed if the West keeps pumping heavier weapons in the conflict, also amid nuclear escalation warnings.

Markets, war: **Gasoline prices continue to climb for the fourth straight week, rising 32.7 cents over the last month as crude oil prices rise, data from AAA showed on Monday. Jan24**

Gasoline prices are rising along with the rise in WTI crude oil prices, which are up $3 per barrel from a week ago, and up $2 per barrel from a month ago... and given the lags of the supply chain, pump prices are set to go considerably higher...

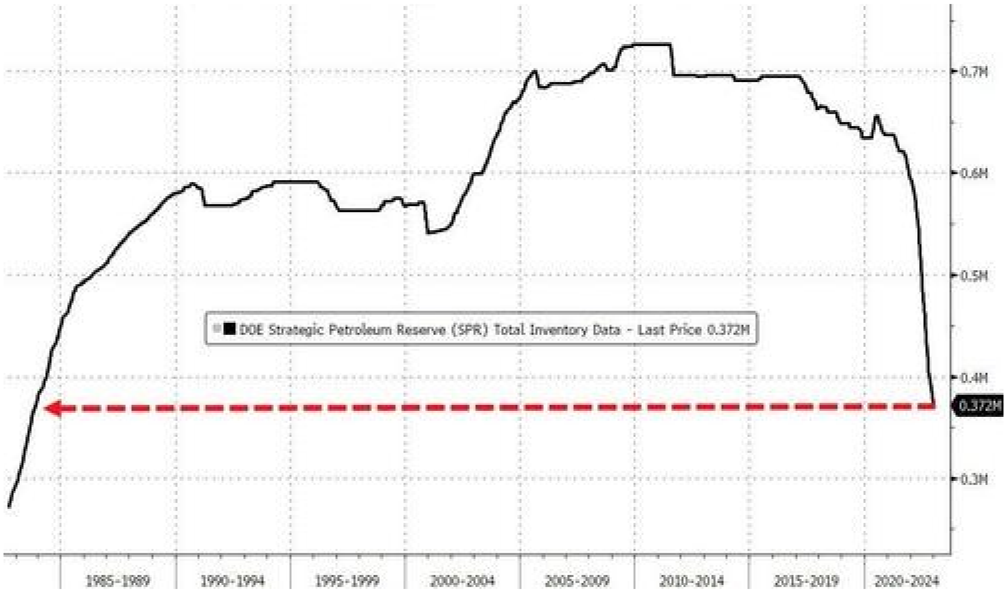


Source: Bloomberg

In addition to rising crude oil prices, gasoline prices are rising as “continued refinery challenges kept supply of gasoline from rising more substantially,” Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy said in a Monday note.

“Macroeconomic factors have continued to weigh on oil and refined products, as strong demand in China hasn’t been slowed much by a surge in new Covid cases.

In addition, releases of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve have wrapped up.



Concerns are increasing that without additional oil, supply will tighten in the weeks ahead, *especially as the nation starts to move away from softer demand in the height of winter. Moving forward, it doesn't look good for motorists, with prices likely to continue accelerating," DeHaan added.*

U.S. crude oil inventories have risen over the last two weeks by leaps and bounds, while gasoline inventories also grew, but by a lesser amount. **Still, gasoline inventories are below the five-year average for this time of year.**

Markets, war:

Inflation has not peaked. And the data confirms this.

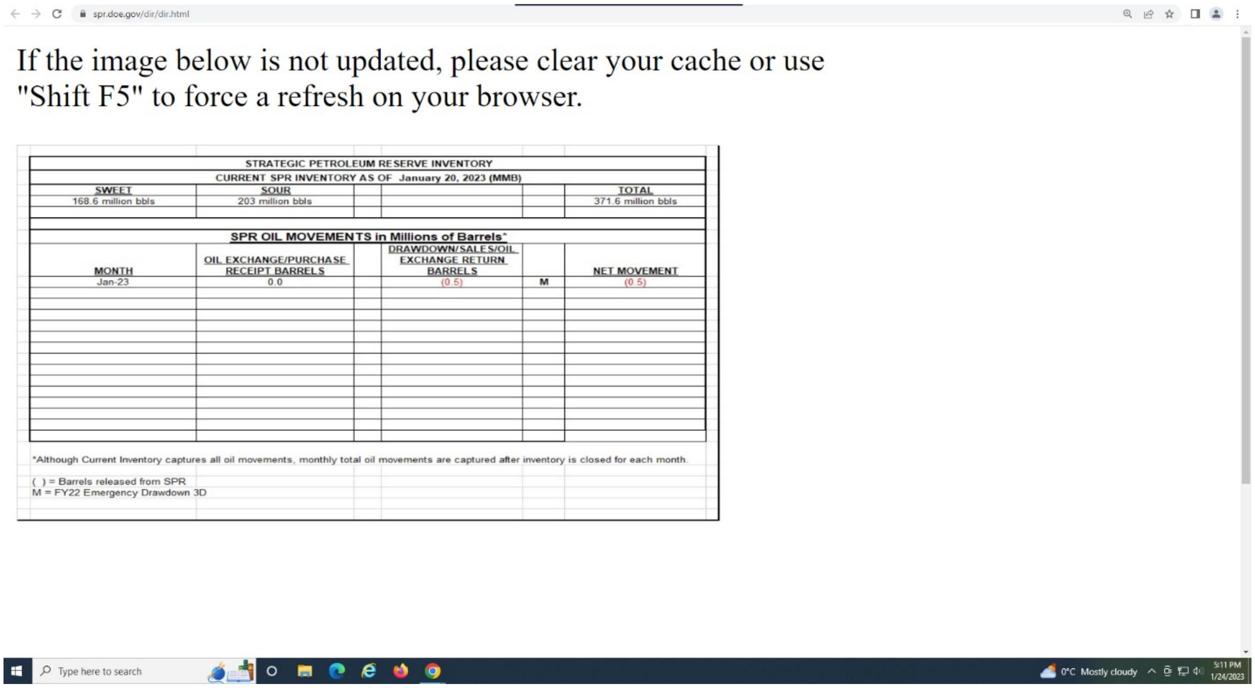
Almost ALL of the drop in inflation data has come from energy prices falling. And energy prices have fallen because the Biden administration dumped over 250 MILLION barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

Chair Rodgers Applauds Passage of H.R. 22 to Prevent the Sale of SPR Oil to China

"To cover up his failed policies driving our energy and inflation crisis, President Biden is draining our nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserves at an alarming rate. America's SPR – once the world's largest stockpile – has been depleted to the lowest levels since 1983. To date, President Biden has released more from the SPR than all U.S. presidents in history combined.Jan 12, 2023

Washington, D.C. — House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) released the following statement on the passage of H.R. 22, the *Protecting America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve from China Act*, out of the House, out of the House by a bipartisan vote of 331-97:

"To cover up his failed policies driving our energy and inflation crisis, President Biden is draining our nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserves at an alarming rate. America's SPR – once the world's largest stockpile – has been depleted to the lowest levels since 1983. To date, President Biden has released more from the SPR than all U.S. presidents in history combined. Millions of barrels of that oil have gone to China, which now has the world's largest government-controlled stockpile of oil. Draining our strategic reserves for political purposes and selling it to China is a significant threat to our national and energy security. This must be stopped, which is why I'm proud to join my Republican colleagues in passing H.R. 22, one of the most bipartisan votes on an energy bill in many years and multiple Congresses. There's more to come. This is just the beginning."



If the image below is not updated, please clear your cache or use "Shift F5" to force a refresh on your browser.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE INVENTORY

CURRENT SPR INVENTORY AS OF January 20, 2023 (MMB)

SWEET	SOUR				TOTAL
168.6 million bbls	203 million bbls				371.6 million bbls

SPR OIL MOVEMENTS in Millions of Barrels*

MONTH	OIL EXCHANGE/PURCHASE RECEIPT BARRELS		DRAWDOWN/SALES/OIL EXCHANGE RETURN BARRELS		NET MOVEMENT
Jan-23	0.0		(0.5)	M	(0.5)

*Although Current Inventory captures all oil movements, monthly total oil movements are captured after inventory is closed for each month.

( ) = Barrels released from SPR
M = FY22 Emergency Drawdown 3D

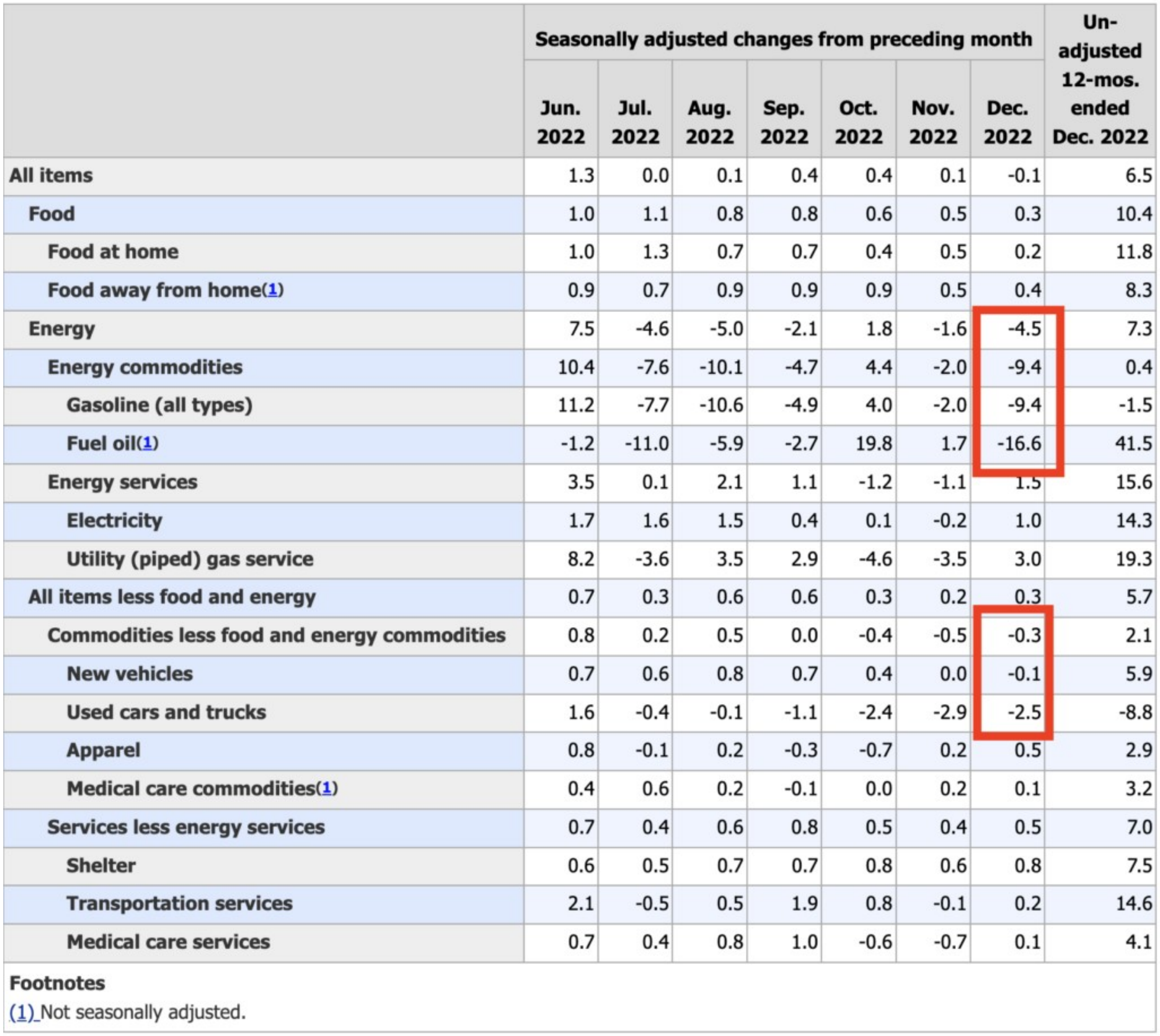
"The longer I'm in this business, the clearer it becomes that no one actually reads anymore. Everyone simply trumpets headlines, or retweets articles, without looking at the data.

The latest and most glaring example of this is the claim that "inflation has peaked." Everywhere you look in the media (and on social media) people repeat this statement as if it is a fact.

"Almost ALL of the drop in inflation data has come from energy prices falling. And energy prices have fallen because the Biden administration dumped over 250 MILLION barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

To put this into perspective, it's nearly 40% of the SPR. And the Biden admin dumped it in the span of less than two years. *THAT* is why energy prices dropped, which accounts for almost ALL of the drop in inflation data.

See for yourself. Outside of the drop in energy prices, the only significant drop in prices occurred in used car vehicles. Everything else is still RISING in price year over year.



	Seasonally adjusted changes from preceding month							Un-adjusted 12-mos. ended Dec. 2022
	Jun. 2022	Jul. 2022	Aug. 2022	Sep. 2022	Oct. 2022	Nov. 2022	Dec. 2022	
All items	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	-0.1	6.5
Food	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.3	10.4
Food at home	1.0	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.2	11.8
Food away from home(1)	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.4	8.3
Energy	7.5	-4.6	-5.0	-2.1	1.8	-1.6	-4.5	7.3
Energy commodities	10.4	-7.6	-10.1	-4.7	4.4	-2.0	-9.4	0.4
Gasoline (all types)	11.2	-7.7	-10.6	-4.9	4.0	-2.0	-9.4	-1.5
Fuel oil(1)	-1.2	-11.0	-5.9	-2.7	19.8	1.7	-16.6	41.5
Energy services	3.5	0.1	2.1	1.1	-1.2	-1.1	1.5	15.6
Electricity	1.7	1.6	1.5	0.4	0.1	-0.2	1.0	14.3
Utility (piped) gas service	8.2	-3.6	3.5	2.9	-4.6	-3.5	3.0	19.3
All items less food and energy	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	5.7
Commodities less food and energy commodities	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.0	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3	2.1
New vehicles	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.0	-0.1	5.9
Used cars and trucks	1.6	-0.4	-0.1	-1.1	-2.4	-2.9	-2.5	-8.8
Apparel	0.8	-0.1	0.2	-0.3	-0.7	0.2	0.5	2.9
Medical care commodities(1)	0.4	0.6	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	3.2
Services less energy services	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.5	7.0
Shelter	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	7.5
Transportation services	2.1	-0.5	0.5	1.9	0.8	-0.1	0.2	14.6
Medical care services	0.7	0.4	0.8	1.0	-0.6	-0.7	0.1	4.1

Footnotes
(1) Not seasonally adjusted.

See not sure if this is real lol. It obviously is, but it's just what he's saying is completely the opposite of what practically everybody in the msm business media is reporting right now, so I have to just...double check to be sure. He continues on below.

"I bring all of this up because now that the Biden admin is no longer dumping tens of millions of barrels of oil on the open market, energy prices are bottoming.

Oil has bottomed and is starting to turn up.

So, unless President Biden wants to empty the SPR to zero, this “inflation has peaked” narrative is over. Inflation is coming back in a big way. And NO ONE is positioned for it."

AND ADDED THIS LATER BECAUSE I FORGOT TO ADD TO FIRST MESSAGE

The sudden turn around seems to have been driven by a combination of low initial positioning and a sudden increase in confidence about the outlook for the global economy and oil consumption. **Recent inflation data have shown the rate of price increases is moderating, which has raised hopes for an early peak in the interest rate cycle.**

Markets, war: A Financial Times investigation based on leaked emails and documents, as well as corporate records, export certificates and interviews, demonstrates how Prigozhin has used leading corporate lawyers around the world to try to keep western governments at bay.

War: jan24

more escalation, THINGS AT MAJOR TURNING POINT. VERY SCARY. GERMANY KNOWS THAT ITS DECISION TO SEND THE TANKS WILL BE WW3

US, Israel Launch 'Most Significant' Drills in History

Netanyahu Vows to Bring Fired Minister Dery Back Intro Govt

Poland to Seek Berlin's OK to Send Ukraine Tanks

DM Reznikov Under Fire as Corruption Probes Rock Ukraine

Russia Says Still No Plans for New START Talks

Lavrov Says the West's 'Hybrid War' on Russia Becoming a 'Real War'

House Speaker McCarthy Plans to Visit Taiwan

Erdogan Says Turkey Won't Support Sweden's NATO Bid

Mission Creep? How the US Role in Ukraine Has Slowly Escalated

by Branko Marcetic

Frontline

- US Military Vets in Ukraine Are Fighting Each Other in Court
- Saudi-Led Coalition Shelling Kills Two, Injures Four in Northern Yemen
- Turkey Exploring Massive UK Arms Deal Involving Planes, Ships and Tank Engines

Ukraine

- Head of Russian-Occupied Parts of Ukraine's Donetsk Says Visited Soledar
- Italy Confirms Samp-T Missile-Defense Donation to Ukraine
- EU Agrees Extra $540 Million to Arm Ukraine
- Zelensky Ally Threatens Jailings After High-Profile Graft Allegations
- Hungary Won't Veto EU Arms Funding to Ukraine, Official Says
- Russia Presses Attack in Ukraine's South While Kyiv Waits for Arms

Tanks for Ukraine?

Rheinmetall Could Deliver 139 Leopard Tanks to Ukraine

A Look at Leopard 2 Tanks That Could Soon Be Sent to Ukraine

Finland Says It Is Awaiting Germany's Decision to Send Leopard Tanks

Morocco First African Nation to Provide Tanks to Ukraine: Report

Explainer: How to Correctly Re-Export German Tanks

Russia

Russia Declares US Sakharov Foundation 'Undesirable'

Russia Says Ukraine Storing Arms at Nuclear Plants, Kyiv Denies

Russia, Estonia Expel Ambassadors Amid 'Destroyed' Relations

In Moscow, Quiet Antiwar Protest With Flowers, Plush Toys

Russian Crude Exports From Baltic Ports See 50% Hike in January

Tokyo to Pursue Peace Treaty With Moscow Despite Strained Ties: PM

Russia Says Held Air Defense Training in Moscow Region

Italy

Italy to Wean Itself Off Russian Gas Within Two Years

Documents Reveal Italy as Customer of Hero-30 Kamikaze Drones

Nagorno-Karabakh

EU Greenlights Armenia Mission to Ease Border Tensions

US Seeks Immediate Reopening of Key Corridor to Ease Armenia-Azerbaijan Tensions

Europe

Bulgaria Destroys Mine Drifting Near Its Black Sea Coast

US Says Finland, Sweden Are Ready to Join NATO Alliance

Germany Starts Deploying Patriot Air Defense Units to Poland

Norway Arrests Former Wagner Fighter Who Seeks Asylum

President Vucic Says Serbia Faces International Isolation Over Kosovo

UK Grid to Pay Households for Using Less Energy During Cold Snap

Afghanistan

Families Leave Homes in Afghanistan's Farah District Over Lack of Schools

UN Continues to Support Afghan Women: Official

Afghanistan Faces Unprecedented Humanitarian Crisis: UN Agency

Iran Seeks Commitment to Water Treaty With Afghanistan

Pakistan

Pakistan Hit by Nationwide Power Outage After Grid Failure

IED Attack Kills Soldier in Pakistan

Asia

Philippines President Marcos Seeks Foreign Minister Talks With China on Sea Feuds

Taiwan President Tells Pope War With China Not an Option

Japanese PM Kishida Prioritizes Arms Buildup, Reversing Low Birthrate

Latin America

Cuba Begins London Court Battle Over Unpaid Castro-Era Debt

Mexico's Former Safety Chief Goes on Trial in US Drug Case

New Israeli Government

Israel's AG Denies Considering Declaring Netanyahu Unfit for Office

Israeli Coalition to Destroy New Palestinian Homes in Area C

Central Bank Policymaker Quits

to Fight Israel's Judicial Overhaul

Former Israeli Defense Legal Adviser Warns Against Planned Government Moves in West Bank

Palestine/Israel

Protests After Israeli Threats to Remove Palestinian Village

Israeli Army Admits to 'Unnecessary' Killing of Palestinian

HRW Warns Israeli Rules in West Bank Risks 'Another Gaza'

Israeli Occupation Forces Arrest 16 Palestinians, Including 13-Year-Old Child

Israel Outraged by 'Irresponsible' Visit of Western Envoys to Al-Aqsa Mosque

Israel Formally Requests 25 F-15 EX jets From the US: Sources

Iraq

Iraq Daily Roundup: 11 Killed

Sadr Stages Unexpected Political Comeback Through Iraq's Gulf Cup Victory

Iraqi PM Walks Diplomatic Tightrope in Crackdown on Dollars Smuggled to Iran

Iraqis Injured in Anti-Sweden Protest in Baghdad After Koran Burning

Iraqi PM Replaces Central Bank Governor Over Currency Drop

Iran

Iran, Syria Set to Conduct Joint-Military Drills, Expand Cooperation

More Sanctions as Iran and EU Clash Over IRGC 'Terror' Label

Syria

Russia, Syria Restore Syrian Air Base for Joint Use

Turkey-Backed Fighters Cut Olive Trees in Afrin

Lebanon

Investigation Into Beirut Explosion Resumes After 13 Months of Stalemate

Border Tensions Between Lebanese Army, Israel Escalate

Middle East

UK Royal Navy Takes Over Middle East Maritime Security Task Force

Jordan OKs Purchase of 12 Block 70 F-16s From Lockheed Martin

Egypt Lawyers End Strike After Colleagues Released Over Court Altercation

Kuwait's Government Resigns Amid Struggle With Assembly

Africa

Algeria, Italy Look to Broaden Ties Beyond Coveted Energy

Morocco Votes to Review Ties With European Parliament

Burkina Faso Ends French Military Accord, Says It Will Defend Itself

Cameroon Denies Asking for Help to Mediate Separatist Conflict

Suspected ADF Rebels Kill 23 in East DR Congo Attack

Governor Declares Emergency in Sudan Province After Four Killed

'The Crocodile Has Not Changed': Zimbabwe Opposition Warns of Election Violence

The War at Home

Military Probing Whether Cancers Linked to Nuclear Silo Work at Malmstrom AFB

US and Japan Team Up for Indo-Pacific Training Exercise

US Drops Case Against Marine Veteran Cop Accused of Spying for China

US: Ex-FBI Counterintelligence Agent Aided Russian Oligarch

Brazil

Lula Says Brazil and Argentina Will Study Common Currency for Trade

Venezuela Calls Off Maduro Meeting With Lula, Brazil Govt

Markets, war: US NatGas Prices Soar After Freeport "Completed Repairs" Of Damaged Terminal, Aims For Partial Restart

US natural gas futures jumped late in the session after news hit that Freeport LNG, a major liquefied natural gas export terminal on the Texas coast which has been closed since an explosion last summer, said repairs to the terminal are complete and is seeking approval for restart.

Freeport wrote a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requesting permission to restart the terminal that accounts for about 15% of all US LNG exports.

Pursuant to your letter dated June 30, 2022, Freeport LNG Development, LP ("Freeport") ***must obtain written approval from FERC before restarting*** *any non-emergency operations in existing facilities, constructing new or modified facilities, and commissioning and placing any facilities back into service.*

As further described herein, ***Freeport has completed repairs*** *to the Export Facility on Quintana Island, Texas, performed safety reviews, revised various procedures, implemented new safety systems and performed necessary training in order to* ***safely begin to resume initial operations at its Export Facility****.*

NatGas surged 9% to $3.45 per million British thermal units.

In recent weeks, we've pointed out Freeport flows were indications the plant was nearing a restart:

- *NatGas Flows Start To Freeport LNG's Long-Shut Export Plant*
- *Freeport LNG Export Facility's Power Flows Surge For First Time Since Explosion*

However, Houston-based energy firm Criterion Research had this to say:

Criterion's weekly analysis of progress at Freeport LNG indicated that repair work was still taking place as of last week, so it's unclear what Freeport means when it cited that they have "completed repairs." We don't believe feed gas will be flowing in January, and February still seems to be an optimistic time frame for strong nominations. Based on prior announcements, once they get the green light to restart, Freeport's timeline pinned down a ramp from zero to 2 Bcf/d over an approximately two-month period.

Here's Freeport's full letter to FERC:

Any February cold weather across the Lower 48, plus the Freeport export restart, could be bullish catalysts for reversing months of sliding NatGas prices.

Policy: Go to first pageGo to previous pageGo to page 11Go to page 22Go to page 33Go to next pageGo to last page

Use your mouse to resize the view. If you're using your keyboard, you can use left and right arrow keys to resize.

Social Security Will Be Bankrupt By 2033 On Current Trajectory: CBO Report jan24

Health, masks: Australians Were Once Prosecuted For Claiming Face Masks Worked Against Viruses

Australians who tried to sell surgical face masks on the back of claims they worked against viruses were once threatened with prosecution and massive fines by the government.

Yes, really.

An article titled ‘Farce mask: it’s safe for only 20 minutes’ published by the Sydney Morning Herald in 2003 explained how, “Retailers who cash in on community fears about SARS by exaggerating the health benefits of surgical masks could face fines of up to $110,000.”

The article quotes a public health experts who said that face masks are largely useless at stopping the spread of viruses and could even worsen the situation.

“Those masks are only effective so long as they are dry,” said Professor Yvonne Cossart of the Department of Infectious Diseases at the University of Sydney.

“As soon as they become saturated with the moisture in your breath they stop doing their job and pass on the droplets.”

Twenty years ago Australians were prosecuted for saying masks work against viruses. Now they get arrested for not wearing masks during viral outbreaks.

As Mencken said, our governments are dishonest, insane and intolerable. @smh https://t.co/wIGcvbW2OH https://t.co/XWVIEoNlpy pic.twitter.com/coaGDxa1SZ

— Tony Heller (@TonyClimate) January 23, 2023

Professor Cossart said that the masks would need to be changed every 15-20 minutes to be in any way effective.

Her sentiments were echoed by John Bell from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, who said that masks only offered “marginal benefit” and were largely psychological in their level of protection.

The story is noteworthy because during the COVID pandemic, the Australian government imposed one of the strictest lockdowns in the world and used face mask mandates as a brutal tool of population control.

As we previously highlighted, authorities in Melbourne used high-tech surveillance drones to catch people outside not wearing masks.

At the height of the hysteria, there were numerous instances of police in Australia physically attacking people for not adhering to mask wearing rules, including one incident when a woman was placed in a chokehold by a male police officer.

Another video showed an elderly woman being arrested for not wearing a mask while sitting on a park bench.

Yet another clip showed police pepper spraying pre-teen children for not wearing face masks.

Another clip showed an elderly man suffering a suspected heart attack after he was arrested by police for not wearing a mask outside while exercising.

During the early months of the COVID pandemic, health authorities advised against wearing masks, only to subsequently do a 180 once face coverings became a convenient psychological tool of population control.

China, war, health: China Says Over 80% Of Population Infected With COVID, No Risk Of Virus Rebound

Remember when rational voices asked why, instead of locking down its economy every time there was even a small breakout of the Wu-flu, China (or the US for that matter) didn't simply do the right thing and allow covid to sweep through the land, creating a buffer of natural immunity and burn out on its own? Well, after bizarrely resisting the inevitable (one day we hope to have an answer why Xi Jinping pushed so hard for the now defunct Covid-zero policy) for so long, that's precisely what China has now down and on Saturday, a prominent government scientist said that **the possibility of a big COVID-19 rebound in China over the next two or three months is remote as 80% of people have now been infected, reaching the herd immunity threshold.**

While the mass movement of people during the ongoing Lunar New Year holiday period may spread the pandemic, boosting infections in some areas, a second COVID wave is unlikely in the near term, Wu Zunyou, chief epidemiologist at the China Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said on the Weibo social media platform, according to Reuters.

Hundreds of millions of Chinese are traveling across the country for holiday reunions that had been suspended under recently eased COVID curbs, raising fears of fresh outbreaks in rural areas less equipped to manage large outbreaks.

To ease widespread if groundless fears which had been mercilessly stoked by Beijing for the past three years, a National Health Commission official also addressed the nation on Thursday saying that China has passed the peak of COVID patients in fever clinics, emergency rooms and with critical conditions.

According to "government data", which in China means propaganda, nearly 60,000 people with COVID had died in hospital as of Jan. 12, roughly a month after China abruptly dismantled its zero-COVID policy. But some experts said that figure probably vastly undercounts the full impact, as it excludes those who die at home, and because many doctors have said they are discouraged from citing COVID as a cause of death.

While over a billion Chinese having survived covid is good news, it's terrible news for those pharma companies that held the world hostage for the past three years: after all, just how will Pfizer and Moderna be able to afford more yachts if they can't sell their constantly changing, taxpayer-funded mRNA cocktail to the world's (now 2nd) largest population. As for the world's most populous country, India, it knew what was up more than a year ago when in Sept 2021 its government said it would not buy any shots from Pfizer and Moderna, thus depriving its population of countless complications from myocarditis and pericarditis.

stats, markets: Mexican nationals are sending nearly $60 billion a year in remittances from the United States to Mexico to aid friends and families who do not find enough succor from their government in Mexico City

American overdoses due to fentanyl and other opioids are nearing 100,000 deaths per year.

Since Biden took office in January 2021, America has allowed some 5-6 million illegal entries across its southern border.

"Just imagine: There are 40 million Mexicans in the United States - 40 million who were born here in Mexico, (or) who are the children of people who were born in Mexico!"

China, war: China's Northernmost City Sees Lowest Temperatures Ever Recorded

China's "North Pole" recorded its lowest temperature since records began.

The Chinese city of Mohe dropped to minus 53 degrees Celsius Sunday, according to China Daily, citing data from the country's local weather bureau.

The frigid temperatures broke a previous record of minus 52.3 degrees Celsius. Temperatures have been below minus 50 degrees Celsius for three consequence days.

"As a new round of extreme cold hit Heilongjiang, a number of areas in the Greater Khingan Range have recorded their coldest ever temperatures," China Daily said.

Earlier this month, we pointed out a cold air mass swirling in the Arctic was shattering records. The rural northern Siberian town of Zhilinda recorded temperatures of minus 62.1 degrees Celsius.

Arcfield Weather's Paul Dorian explained recently that winter isn't over and called for a significant change in North American weather.

On Monday, the weather blog Severe Weather Europe outlined:

The Polar Vortex is starting to weaken as a strong Stratospheric Warming event is about to unfold. As the forecast indicates, the Polar Vortex will be heavily deformed but will not fully collapse. These important events can have a significant impact on the rest of winter in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Some meteorologists continue to tweet long-term weather models that suggest a polar vortex could result in colder weather for the US and Europe at the end of the month or early February.

Markets, stats, war: Netherlands To Shut Down Europe's Largest Gas Field

Production from Groningen has been curtailed substantially, and there were plans in place to phase out production altogether because of increased seismic activity in the vicinity of the field even before the energy crisis began in 2021.

“It’s very, very simple: everybody who has some knowledge of earthquake danger tells me that it’s really very dangerous to keep on producing there. I’m quite convinced it’s wise to close it down,” Vijbrief told the FT.

War: jan24 German Intelligence "Alarmed" Ukraine Losing Hundreds Of Soldiers Every Day

War, history: soros predicted nato would use eastern countries as fighters in 1993 in a piece that he titled, "The New World Order"

In the piece, he outlines how Eastern Europeans could be used as the “manpower” in coming conflicts in an effort to reduce the number of deaths in Western countries, which Soros argues the West would not politically tolerate, unlike the east of Europe.

“The United States would not be called upon to act as the policeman of the world. When it acts, it would act in conjunction with others. Incidentally, the combination of manpower from Eastern Europe with the technical capabilities of NATO would greatly enhance the military potential of the Partnership because it would reduce the risk of body bags for NATO countries, which is the main constraint on their willingness to act. This is a viable alternative to the looming world disorder,” wrote Soros in the article.

Soros acknowledges that the NATO countries have no appetite for “body bags,” but his statement implicitly indicates that Eastern Europeans can fill this role.

What Soros described appears to be unfolding exactly as he predicted regarding the war in Ukraine. Armed with high-end NATO weapons, Ukrainian soldiers are actively countering Russia, which Soros had already feared would become a nationalist nation opposed to the global order he was promoting in 1993. The powerful Western countries have the necessary weapons, and Ukraine has the manpower. Given that Soros already saw the potential of what this symbiotic match could produce on the battlefield decades in advance will likely bolster his reputation as a calculating — and perhaps ruthless — strategic thinker.

As Soros predicted, Ukrainian society appears to be tolerating the high death toll in its current conflict with Russia. During the Vietnam War, the U.S. lost 58,220 over the course of approximately 10 years, and yet, the war saw strong opposition from the American public. Despite a far higher death toll in a far shorter period of time, Ukrainian society has seen little in terms of protests.

The lack of protest in Ukraine may also be helped by the fact that Ukraine has suspended most of civil society, banned opposition parties and media, and even outlawed the Russian Orthodox Church. Another key factor in society's perspective on the conflict is that the war is taking place on Ukrainian soil, which is a highly motivating factor for Ukrainian soldiers.

All those Ukrainian bodies, of course, have come with a major price tag for Russia, with the country's cemeteries also filling up as quickly or even more so. Exact figures on casualties for either side remain unofficial and are likely inexact, but the war is costing both nations dearly in terms of life.

In the same article, Soros called for a "new world order." The term is often derided in establishment media as a conspiracy theory, but Soros openly uses it. In addition, in the piece, the new world order he calls for is remarkably globalist and centralized. In other words, exactly the type of new world order critics of his, such as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, have been warning about for over a decade.

"Therefore, the only basis for action is collective security. And that is where the problem lies. The collapse of the Soviet empire has created a collective security problem of the utmost gravity. Without a new world order, there will be disorder; that much is clear. But who will act as the world's policeman? That is the question that needs to be answered," *Soros wrote.*

Soros outlines a number of his theories in the piece, referring to open and closed societies as well as the "theory of revolutionary change," which he said he had also applied to financial markets. The billionaire describes how the dissolution of the Soviet Union presented new global security challenges but also opportunities.

The original mission was to defend the free world against the Soviet empire. That mission is obsolete; but the collapse of the Soviet empire has left a security vacuum which has the potential of turning into a "black hole." This presents a different kind of threat than the Soviet empire did. There is no direct threat from the region to the NATO countries; the danger is within the region, and it concerns conditions within states as much as relationships between states. Therefore, if NATO has any mission at all, it is to project its power and influence into the region, and the mission is best defined in terms of open and closed societies.

Closed societies based on nationalist principles constitute a threat to security because they need an enemy, either outside or within. But the threat is very different in character from the one NATO was constructed to confront, and a very different approach is required to combat this threat. It involves the building of democratic states and open societies and embedding them in a structure which precludes certain kinds of behavior.

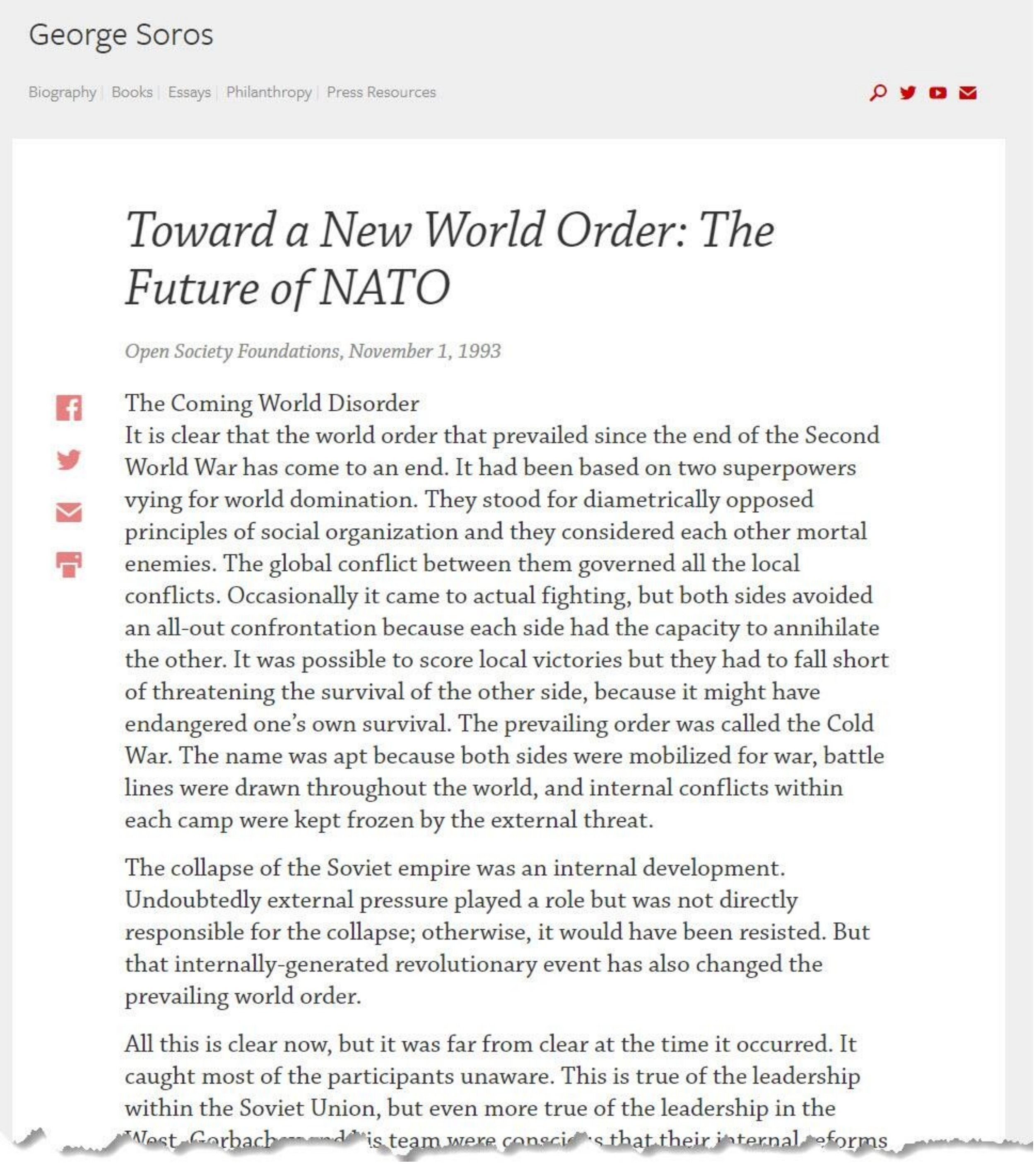
Soros also writes in his piece that NATO was racing to grant membership to countries in Central and Eastern Europe before “Russia recovers.” **Soros appears to see NATO as actively transgressing against Russia during a time the country was still in chaos following the fall of communism.**

“The countries of Central Europe are clamoring for full membership of NATO as soon as possible, preferably before Russia recovers. Russia objects, not because it harbors any designs on its former empire but because it sees no advantage in consenting. Its national pride has been hurt and it is sick and tired of making concessions without corresponding benefits,” writes Soros.

The billionaire activist also makes a number of other proposals in the piece, including offering NATO membership to Japan, his goal being the creation of a “new world order.”

“**Japan should be asked to join NATO.** Then we would have the beginnings of an architecture for a new world order. It is based on the United States as the remaining superpower and on open society as the organizing principle. It consists of a series of alliances, the most important of which is NATO and, **through NATO, the Partnership for Peace which girds the Northern Hemisphere,”** he writes.

History, war: **nice account of the geopolitical condition existing 2 years after the cold war written by the man himself,. George Soros, 1993**



Toward a New World Order: The Future of NATO

Open Society Foundations, November 1, 1993

The Coming World Disorder

It is clear that the world order that prevailed since the end of the Second World War has come to an end. It had been based on two superpowers vying for world domination. They stood for diametrically opposed principles of social organization and they considered each other mortal enemies. The global conflict between them governed all the local conflicts. Occasionally it came to actual fighting, but both sides avoided an all-out confrontation because each side had the capacity to annihilate the other. It was possible to score local victories but they had to fall short of threatening the survival of the other side, because it might have endangered one's own survival. The prevailing order was called the Cold War. The name was apt because both sides were mobilized for war, battle lines were drawn throughout the world, and internal conflicts within each camp were kept frozen by the external threat.

The collapse of the Soviet empire was an internal development. Undoubtedly external pressure played a role but was not directly responsible for the collapse; otherwise, it would have been resisted. But that internally-generated revolutionary event has also changed the prevailing world order.

All this is clear now, but it was far from clear at the time it occurred. It caught most of the participants unaware. This is true of the leadership within the Soviet Union, but even more true of the leadership in the West. Gorbachev and his team were conscious that their internal reforms

War, markets: Only 8.5 percent of all EU and G7 companies have actually left Russia, according to research from the University of St. Gallen and the IMD business school in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Before the outbreak of war, there were more than 2,400 company branches and 1,400 companies from the EU and G7 operating in Russia. By the end of November last year, **only 120 companies had left Russia or sold their company there.**

The research indicates that **the news of a mass exodus of Western firms from Russia has been largely exaggerated.**

In fact, businesses have resisted calls from governments, media, and civil society, according to the Belgian daily newspaper Het Laatste Nieuws.

Companies remain skeptical and reluctant about leaving Russia over fears of losing their business and staff.

Those who have left have ended up transferring assets into Russian hands, even for a single symbolic ruble or euro, as was the case with Renault and Nissan.

According to Forbes, the biggest beneficiary was oligarch Wladimir Potanin, whose Interros company bought Rosbank from Societe Generale, making nearly 50 billion rubles (€667 million) in the process.

The second-biggest earner was Vladyslav Sviblov, whose Highland Gold Mining bought the assets of Canada’s Kinross corporation, which netted him almost 40 billion rubles.

Not far behind was Ivan Tirishkin from SPB, who bought 49.5 percent of the shares in HKF-Bank LLC, making over 35 billion rubles.

Fourth on the list was the state research center FSUE NAMI, which took over the plants owned by Renault and Nissan, gaining assets worth just under 35 billion rubles.

War: jan24 US Bristles As South African Ally To Host Joint Naval Drills With Russia, China

War, china: US Confronts China Over State-Owned Companies Supplying Russian Military

Biden admin probes whether it goes beyond non-lethal aid, raising issue with Chinese officials...

war: US Military Says 30 Al-Shabaab Killed in Somalia Airstrike: "US Africom Command said it launched an airstrike in Somalia on Friday against al-Shabaab in support of the US-backed Mogadishu-based government." Jan23

war: important, read more: Al-Tanf (U.S. military base)

Al-Tanf (Arabic: ٱلتَّنْف, romanized: *al-Tanf*), also known as the **Al-Tanf garrison** (**ATG**),[2] is a United States military base within territory controlled by the Syrian opposition in Homs Governorate, Syria. It is located 24 km (15 mi) west of the al-Tanf border crossing in the Syrian Desert. The surrounding deconfliction zone is located along the Iraq and Jordan–Syria border. The garrison is located along a critical road known as the M2 Baghdad–Damascus Highway.

A significant United States Armed Forces presence at the outpost began in early 2016 during the American-led intervention in the Syrian Civil War in order to train anti-Islamic State fighters of the New Syrian Army rebel group, which was dissolved and reemerged as the Revolutionary Commando Army (Maghawir al-Thawra) in December 2016. As of 2023, the al-Tanf base continues to serve as the headquarters for the Revolutionary Commando Army and a contingent of at least 200 U.S. soldiers operating on behalf of the CJTF-OIR Coalition.

The government of Syria[3][4] deems the U.S. military presence in al-Tanf illegal and "considers the presence of Turkish and US troops on its territory as an aggression and demands immediate and unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from its territory."[5] The Iranian[6] and Russian governments[7] have publicly supported the Syrian government's position and have regularly criticized the American presence in southeastern Syria whereas the United States government states that its presence at al-Tanf is legal. The U.S. has called the al-Tanf base a counter to the Russia–Syria–Iran coalition's residual influence in the area.[8]

The Rukban refugee camp for internally displaced Syrians is located within the deconfliction zone.

War, censorship, lavant: **Moshe Ya’alon, former defense minister and former Israel Defense Forces chief of staff: “A country where the prime minister appoints all the judges and is responsible for promoting and firing them has a name. It’s called a dictatorship. When this prime minster is also a defendant whom the State of Israel is accusing of serious crimes, it has a name. It’s called a dictatorship of criminals.”**

Referring to Justice Minister Yariv Levin’s plan to weaken the judiciary, Ya’alon said, “This is legislation with a black flag flying over it,” adding, “Legislation that turns Israel into a dictatorship where a criminal defendant appoints judges is patently illegal legislation.”

Ya’alon continued, “The Jewish people paid a heavy price for the fact that in democratic elections in Germany a government came to power that eliminated democracy, and the first thing that it eliminated was the basic democratic principle of the independence of the judicial branch.”

Former justice minister and former Netanyahu ally Gideon Sa’ar spoke at the demonstration in Haifa. “In the fight against corruption there is no right or left,” Sa’ar said. “Mr. Prime Minister, you are not above the law. Uphold the High Court’s ruling, fire Dery,” he added, referring to Arye Dery, who the top court ruled last week could not serve in Netanyahu’s government due to a recent criminal conviction.

War, middle east:

Referring to Justice Minister Yariv Levin’s plan to weaken the judiciary, Ya’alon said, “This is legislation with a black flag flying over it,” adding, “Legislation that turns Israel into a dictatorship where a criminal defendant appoints judges is patently illegal legislation.”

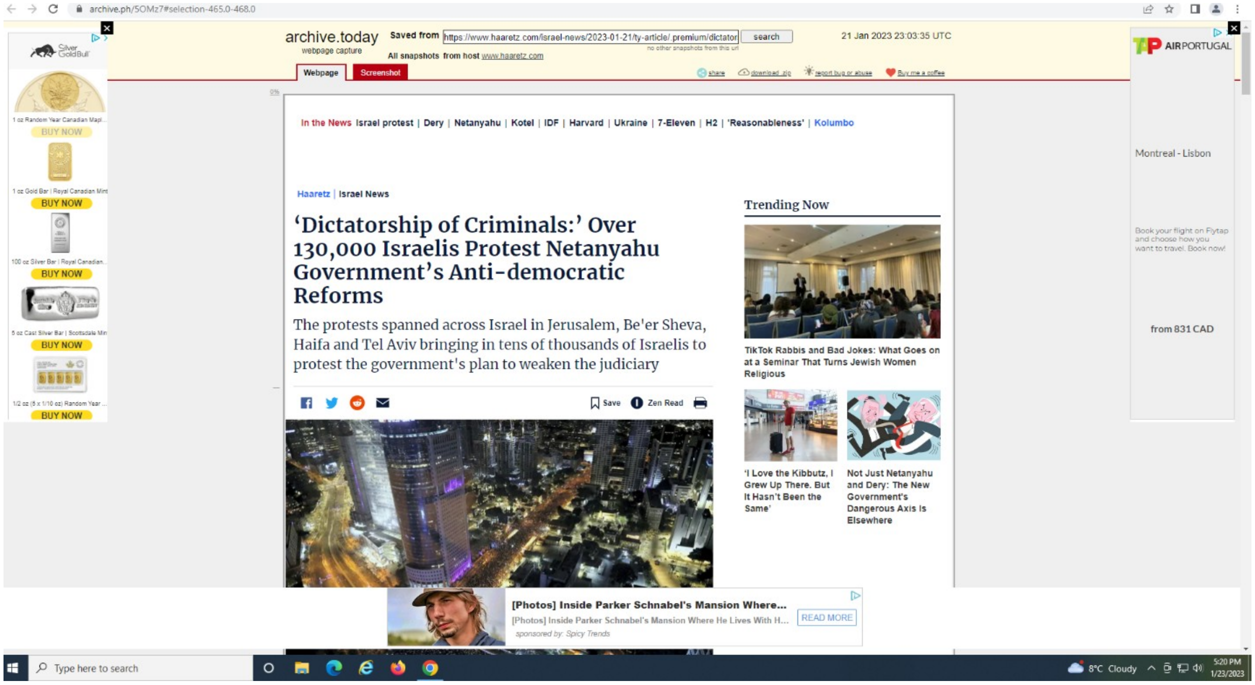
Ya’alon continued, **Saudi Arabia won’t normalise Israel ties until Palestinian statehood: "Kingdom's foreign minister affirms position at Davos after Netanyahu spoke of bringing Riyadh into 'circle of peace'"**

Israel and Saudi Arabia do not have official diplomatic relations, but Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met secretly with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the kingdom in 2020, according to several Israeli media reports at the time.

“True normalisation and true stability will only come through giving the Palestinians hope. Through giving the Palestinians dignity, and that requires giving the Palestinians a state,” said Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, speaking to Bloomberg on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

A short video of the comments, in which the minister speaks English, was shared on the Saudi foreign ministry’s official Twitter account.

Censorship, journal: **archive.is has now added ads to both sides. If I remember correctly, the ads started with just one at the bottom of the page. This makes me think that the service is going to get shutdown at some point. It’s literally profiting off of every page on the internet, even through bypassing paywalls to expensive subscription content.**



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‘Dictatorship of Criminals:’ Over 130,000 Israelis Protest Netanyahu Government’s Anti-democratic Reforms

The protests spanned across Israel in Jerusalem, Be'er Sheva, Haifa and Tel Aviv bringing in tens of thousands of Israelis to protest the government's plan to weaken the judiciary

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War, Erdogan: **Erdogan Tells Sweden: Don't Expect To Join NATO After Quran Burning Incident.."No individual has freedom to insult the faith of Muslims..." jan23**

Markets, war: **Brazil, Argentina Holding Talks Over Possible Common Currency, jan23**

Media, policy: **Liberal Elites Lose It Over Proposed Nantucket Low-Income Housing Project jan23**

Liberal elites spend their summers on Nantucket, an isolated island off Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Many year-round residents live in homes worth millions of dollars and are furious about the plans to build an affordable housing complex on the island.

Surfside Crossing is planning to build 156 homes on a 13-acre affordable housing development has sparked a flurry of lawsuits and protests. A record amount of residents have turned out at hearings to object to the low-income housing development amid the worst affordability crisis for homeownership ever.

Residents claim the new housing development "will damage the environment and strain resources, and that the developers are using the subsidized housing angle to skirt zoning restrictions," according to The Daily Beast.

Meanwhile, the developers say most elite residents are just furious that a low-income housing project will be in their own multi-million backyard.

On an island where some homes are listed for sale between $30 and +$50 million, and the median listing home prices are above $3 million -- it should make sense why residents don't want these affordable homes priced between $261,000 and $373,000.

Tucker Holland, the town's housing director, said it was "the biggest controversy that I can recall in recent years."

Meghan Perry, a year-round resident and opponent of the low-income housing project, said:

"I think the developers underestimated our community."

However, the rich liberals don't want the working poor in their backyards. These workers clean their [rich people] pools, mow their grass, police their neighborhoods, and serve them food -- are forced to live off the island and commute to work because of affordability housing woes.

Residents, such as Perry, claim the low-income development isn't a case of NIMBY-ism but instead about protecting the environment.

She added: "It's going to weaken our infrastructure, it's going to put our first responders at risk, it's going to put the community at risk."

The Daily Beast said residents are slamming the low-income development with lawsuits at every avenue they can get:

The Housing Appeals Committee gave Surfside Crossing its final seal of approval in September 2022, but the fight didn't stop there. Less than a month later, the developers were hit with three lawsuits challenging the decision, including a filing from the nonprofit Nantucket Land Council that claimed the construction would threaten its work on behalf of public lands.

And about a 1.5-hour ferry ride away is another liberal enclave of elites in Martha's Vineyard -- where National Guard units were called in last fall to transport dozens of migrants out of the town.

A pattern is emerging of NIMBY-ism in elite liberal New England towns. These are examples of hypocrisy at its finest.

War: **Poland’s deputy foreign minister:"Germany will be completely isolated if it does not give in and hand over the tanks," ;Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on Monday confirmed that his country is about to seek formal permission from the German government to send Leopard main battle tanks to Ukraine jan23**

Poland Seeking Permission To Send Ukraine Leopard Tanks While Warning Germany Faces "Isolation"

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday mocked the clear "anxiety" and "legal balancing act" on display

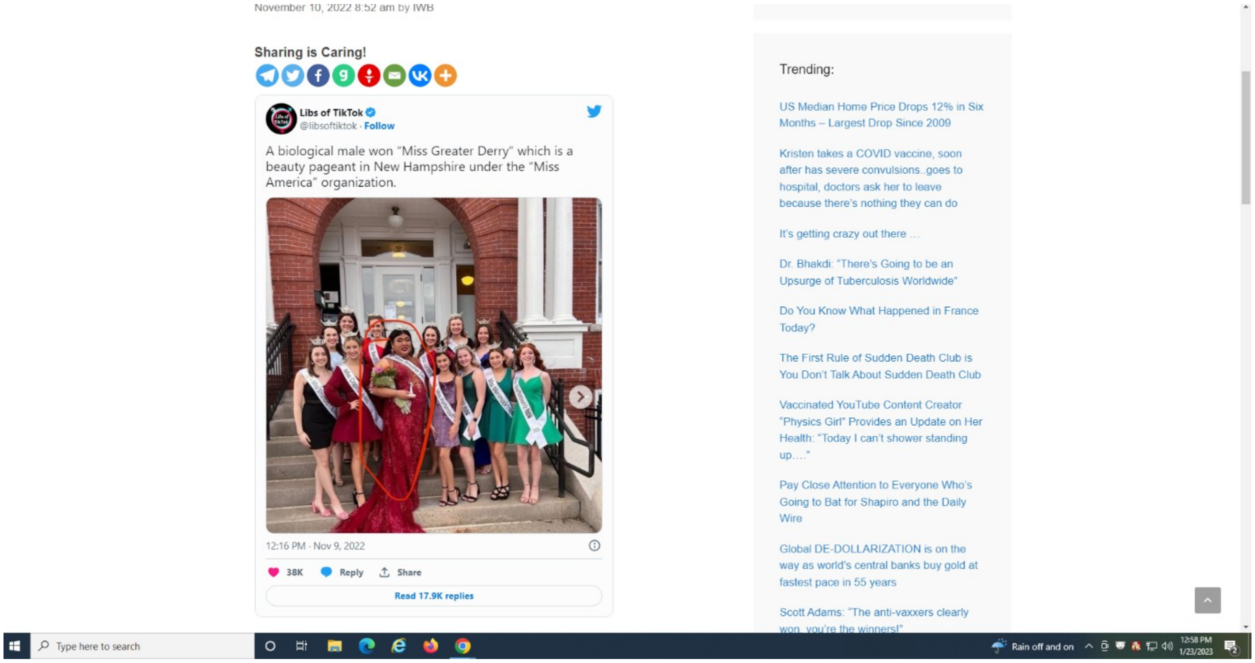
"This whole legal balancing act that we see now, and the exchange of statements between European capital cities… European capitals, including Warsaw, are now threatening Berlin with international exclusion and much more," he said. "All this suggests that anxiety among the members of the alliance is increasing all the time, keeps growing. But here, of course, all the countries that are directly or indirectly involved in pumping weapons and in raising the technological sophistication of Ukraine, they are all responsible for this in one way or another," the Kremlin spokesman added, according to TASS.

The Kremlin later in the day added...

POLAND MUST ENSURE CHANCELLOR BACKS GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY BEFORE EXPORTING LEOPARD TANKS TO UKRAINE -TASS QUOTES PUTIN SPOKESMAN

War: **Top FBI 'Russiagate' Official Arrested For Colluding With Russian Oligarch: DOJ jan23**

Censorship, sick, stats, journal: literal definition of an abomination wins beauty pageant as virtue signaling LQBTQ trend infects every faucet of society



November 10, 2022 8:52 am by IWB

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A biological male won "Miss Greater Derry" which is a beauty pageant in New Hampshire under the "Miss America" organization.

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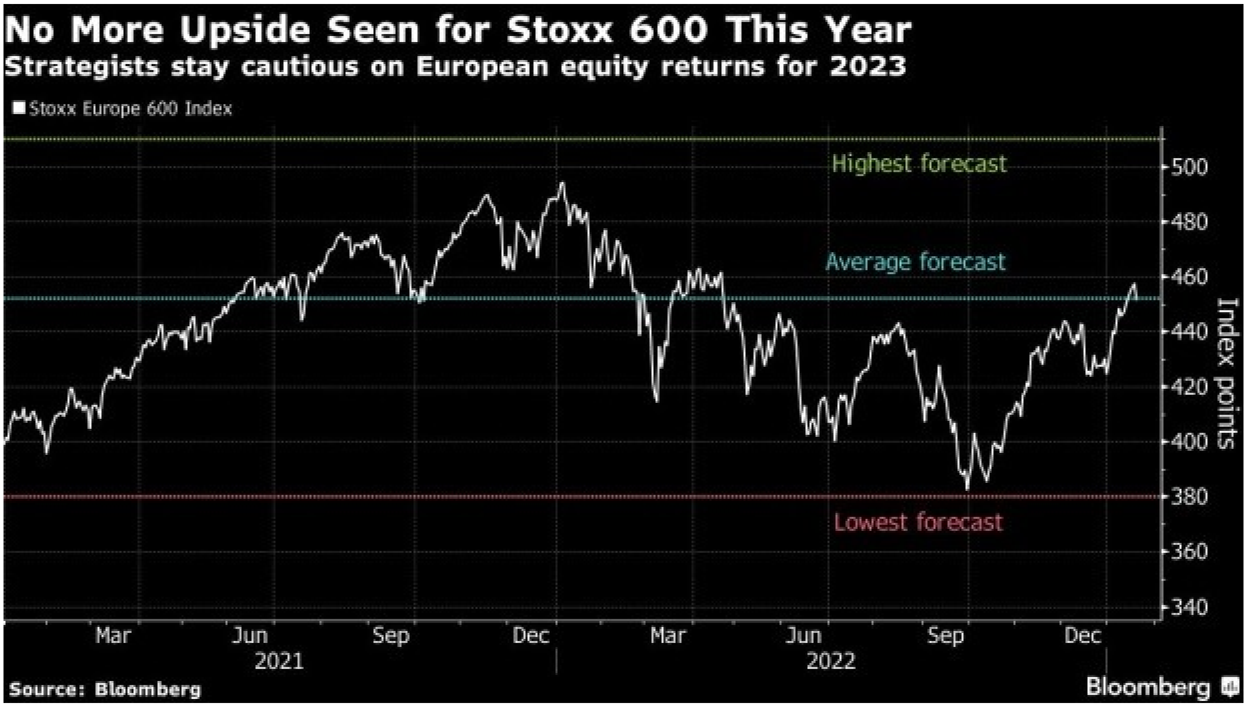
Pay Close Attention to Everyone Who's Going to Bat for Shapiro and the Daily Wire

Global DE-DOLLARIZATION is on the way as world's central banks buy gold at fastest pace in 55 years

Scott Adams: "The anti-vaxxers clearly won, you're the winners!"

Markets: **The Retail Exodus Continues: Nike's Flagship Store Closes In Seattle After 26 Years jan23**

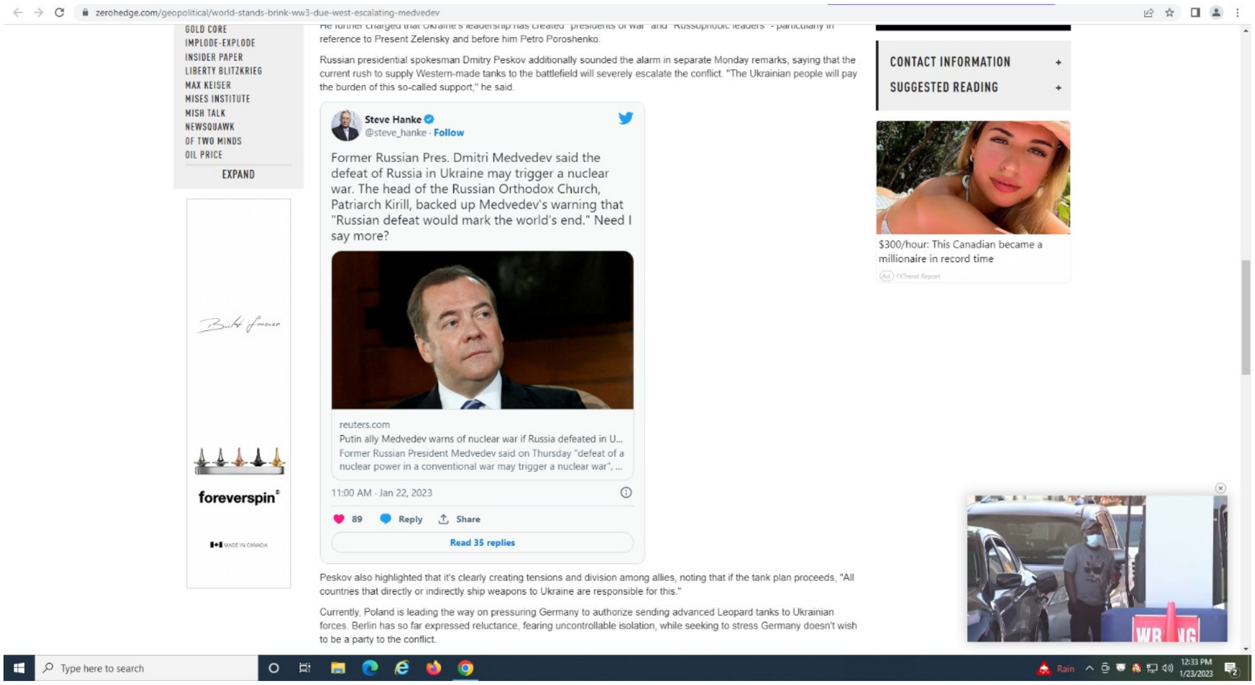
Markets: **missed this: european market start with best open ever due to cancelled putin's winter, china reopening early, and also slowed inflation, but that's still yet to be settled, as we still don't know the full impact of slowing inflation yet. Yes, inflation is slowing, but it's still sustained record levels for a long time.jan23**



Source: Bloomberg

War: jan23 World On Brink Of WW3 Due To West Escalating, Medvedev Warns; "The world has come close to the threat of World War III due to impending US aggression against the Russian Federation," Medvedev said in comments first reported by Sky News Arabia; "There are no conditions for negotiations between Russia and Ukraine now, either de facto or de jure," Medvedev said.

Days after he warned NATO of the likelihood of nuclear war if Russia is defeated in Ukraine, former Russian president and current deputy chairman of the security council Dmitry Medvedev on Monday said the world stands **on the brink of World War III due to US and Western aggression against Russia**.



zerohedge.com/geopolitical/world-stands-brink-ww3-due-west-escalating-medvedev

He further charged that Ukraine's leadership has created "presidents of war" and "Russophobic leaders" - particularly in reference to Present Zelensky and before him Petro Poroshenko.

Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov additionally sounded the alarm in separate Monday remarks, saying that the current rush to supply Western-made tanks to the battlefield will severely escalate the conflict. "The Ukrainian people will pay the burden of this so-called support," he said.

Steve Hanke @steve_hanke · Follow

Former Russian Pres. Dmitri Medvedev said the defeat of Russia in Ukraine may trigger a nuclear war. The head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, backed up Medvedev's warning that "Russian defeat would mark the world's end." Need I say more?

reuters.com
Putin ally Medvedev warns of nuclear war if Russia defeated in U...
Former Russian President Medvedev said on Thursday "defeat of a nuclear power in a conventional war may trigger a nuclear war", ...

11:00 AM · Jan 22, 2023

Peskov also highlighted that it's clearly creating tensions and division among allies, noting that if the tank plan proceeds, "All countries that directly or indirectly ship weapons to Ukraine are responsible for this."

Currently, Poland is leading the way on pressuring Germany to authorize sending advanced Leopard tanks to Ukrainian forces. Berlin has so far expressed reluctance, fearing uncontrollable isolation, while seeking to stress Germany doesn't wish to be a party to the conflict.

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MADE IN CANADA
$300/hour: This Canadian became a millionaire in record time
Ad FXTrend Report

Markets, crypto: **Cashless Society: Big Banks Prepare To Launch Digital Wallet To Compete With Apple Pay And PayPal jan23**

Instead, the new digital wallet is to be run by Early Warning Services (EWS), which is firm owned by banks and currently operates the Zelle

EWS says the as-yet unnamed new wallet will be separate from Zelle.

Unnamed sources say that the new wallet is also intended to compete with PayPal. It is being built in order to prevent banks ceding customer relationships to big tech, like Apple.

It's also a move to cut down on fraud, which Zelle [has reportedly] been prone to. A plan to extend Zelle into online purchases was cancelled over fraud and disputed transactions.

It's also a move to cut down on fraud, which Zelle [has reportedly] been prone to. A plan to extend Zelle into online purchases was cancelled over fraud and disputed transactions.

Recall the pivot toward a cashless society was clear as day. Perhaps the coin shortage during the pandemic was a test run. And anyone who dared mention a looming cashless society was deemed a 'conspiracy theorist.'

Just remember who is also shaping the world and influencing politicians and corporations away from a cash economy:

The dystopic view is that a cashless society could mean governments and corporations will have even more control over our wallets -- and that's frightening.

Markets: **Deutsche Bank To Cut Investment Banking Bonuses By 40% jan23**

Health, vaccine: **'Dilbert' Creator Scott Adams Admits Vax Critics Were Right, Still Doesn't Get Why jan23**

Censorship, media: **Musk's Father: "I'm Really Afraid Something Might Happen To Elon" jan23**

War: jan23 **just saving the whole page today. so much going on. we've reached a crescendo. too obvious ukraine be being used as a pawn. i saw ukrainian woman in bus terminal last night crying openly on the pphone. dont usually see peop[le crying on the phone.**

News

Updated January 23, 2023 - 1:54 AM EST

Germany: Ukraine Losing 100s of Soldiers

Daily

Pressure Mounts on Germany to Disclose Nord Stream Findings

US Extends 101st Deployment in SE Romania

Nations Push to Break German Stalemate Over Tanks to Ukraine

Russia Official: Western Support for Ukraine Could Bring 'Catastrophe'

130,000 Israelis Protest Govt's Anti-Democratic Reforms

Netanyahu Removes Senior Minister Deri After Supreme Court Ruling

Saudi Arabia Won't Normalize Israel Ties Until Palestinian Statehood

US Military Says 30 Al-Shabaab Killed in Somalia Airstrike

Multiple Drone Attack Hits US Base in Southern Syria

Britain's Former PM Boris Johnson Visits Kyiv, Pledges Help

Germany and France Vow Support for Ukraine, Including Military

AWOL Navy SEAL Killed Fighting in Ukraine

Russia Increases Shelling in Regions Outside Ukraine's Donbas: Official

Russia Claims More Progress in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Region

US Requests Forces in South Korea Provide Equipment to Ukraine

Donated Sea King Helicopter Makes Debut Near Black Sea

Tanks for Ukraine?

Poland Ready to Build 'Smaller Coalition' to Send Tanks to Ukraine Without Germany

Germany Would Not Block Poland From Sending Tanks to Ukraine: German Minister

Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania Urge Germany to Send Tanks to Ukraine

American Lawmakers Urge US to Ship Abrams Tanks to Ukraine

Macron 'Does Not Rule Out'

Sending Leclerc Battle Tanks to Ukraine

UK Says It Still Wants Ukraine to Get German-Made Tanks

Russia

Kremlin Stays Silent on Missile Systems Seen on Moscow Rooftops

US Targets Russian Private Military Group Wagner for Sanctions for Fighting in Ukraine

Russia's Lukoil Keeps on Pumping in Europe – for Now

France

Macron Raises France's Military Budget 40%

France, Germany Renew Alliance Strained Amid War in Ukraine

RT France to Shut Down After Accounts Frozen

Spain

Barcelona to Vote on Severing Ties With Tel Aviv Over 'Israeli Apartheid'

Spain Says Germany to Join Hydrogen Pipeline Project

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Tensions High Over Isolated Nagorno-Karabakh Region

Italy's Meloni Eyes Boost in Strong Energy Ties With Algeria

Slovakia's Former Coalition Heads Agree to Early Parliamentary Elections

Afghanistan

Blinken Says US Has Not Seen Upsurge in Terrorism in Afghanistan

Russian Envoy Says US 'Secretly Supports' Armed Groups in Afghanistan

UN Envoy Says 'Progress' Made on Afghan Women's Rights

Pakistan

Zardari: Pakistan 'Not Interested' in Cross-Border Operation in Afghanistan

Pakistan Will Purchase Russian Oil Despite Western Threats of Sanctions

Asia

China's Biggest Oil Trading Firm Goes on a Buying Spree

First North Korean National Ever Extradited to US Sentenced for Money Laundering

Turkmenistan's President Appoints His Father to Powerful Post

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso Demands Departure of French Troops

Macron Wants Burkina Faso 'Clarifications' on Call for French Troops to Leave

Kidnapped Women and Children Freed in Burkina Faso

Egypt

Egypt Meat Prices Skyrocket 25% as Inflation Surges

Egyptian Pound Added to Russian Exchange Rate List in Bid to Facilitate Trade

Tunisia

Opposition Party Leader Rejects Foreign Intervention in Tunisia Crisis

Tunisia Man Sets Himself Alight Over Living Conditions

Africa

US Ambassador Heading to Africa as Part of Biden's Big Push

Arab States Boycott Regional Meeting Hosted in Libya

Gunmen Kill Eswatini Opposition Politician

Prominent Cameroon Journalist Found Dead After Abduction

US Hails 'Withdrawal' of Eritrean Troops Seen Leaving Ethiopia's Tigray Region

At least Five Killed in Bomb, Gun Attack in Mogadishu

Iran

- Thousands Protest in Brussels Demanding Release of Belgian Aid Worker in Iran
- Canada Barring Entry to IRGC Members in New Iran Sanctions Push
- Iran's Currency Hits Record Low Amid Tensions With the West
- Iran's Unrest Triggers Explosion of Fake News
- Iran Condemns EU Vote Over 'Terrorist' Designation for IRGC

Turkey

- Muslims Protest in Turkey Over Quran-Burning in Sweden
- Turkey, UK Discuss Major Weapons Deal
- Turkey Cancels Swedish Defense Minister's Visit Over Decision to Allow Protests
- Turkish Elections to Be Held on May 14: Erdogan

Iraq

- Iraq Daily Roundup: 11 Killed
- Iraqi Police Raid Exchange Companies to Regulate Market Rates
- Iraq's Sudani Issues Several Decisions to Stabilize Dinar Value
- US Dollar-Smuggling Crackdown Leaves Baghdad Struggling to Pay Wages
- Iraq Urges 'Urgent' Probe After Five Citizens Shot and Killed While on Trip to Turkey

Syria

- Kurdish Delegation Leaves Damascus on 'Positive' Note
- US Military Says It Captured Two ISIS Members in Syria
- Syrian Democratic Forces Bombards Turkish Base as Opposition Infighting Escalates
- Saudi Goods Allowed in Syria After 11 Years of Trade Ban
- Canada to Repatriate 23 Citizens From US-Controlled Syrian Camp
- Mother of Detained Man Hails

'Rights Victory' as Canadians to Be Repatriated From Syria

Yemen

UN Needs More Funds to Remove Oil Tanker Moored Off Yemen's Coast

Explosion Kills Two Govt Soldiers in Yemen's Oil-Rich Shabwa

Middle East

Kuwait Signs $370m Agreement With Turkey for Bayraktar Drones

Lebanese Pound Crashes to 50,000 Against the Dollar

Peru

Dozens Injured as Deadly Protests Continue in Peru

Tourists Evacuated After Peru Closes Machu Picchu Amid Protests

Peru's Prime Minister and Interior Minister Summoned to Appear in Court Over San Marcos Raid

Brazil

Brazilian Defense Minister: Military Had No Direct Role in Riots

Brazil's Lula Fires Army Chief in Wake of Pro-Bolsonaro Riots

The War at Home

Watch: Belmarsh Tribunal on Assange Comes to Washington

NYPD Use 9/11 Terror Law to Pursue a Suspect Overseas

US Navy Won't Publicly Release Results of Amphibious Ship Study

Three Sailors Injured After US Navy Vessel Strikes Barrier and Sinks

Oceania

Chris Hipkins Confirmed as New Zealand's Next Prime Minister

Australia Buys 'Potent and Powerful' Sea Mines to Deter China

War, erdogan: Turkish Muslims protest Quran-burning in Sweden jan23

Outrage over a Quran-burning protest in Sweden produced a second day of protests in Turkey, reflecting tensions between the two countries.

Some 250 people gathered outside the Swedish Consulate in Istanbul, where a photo of Danish anti-Islam activist Rasmus Paludan was set on fire. Paludan burned Islam's holy book outside the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm on Saturday, sparking protests in Istanbul and Ankara that night.

Participants in Sunday's event carried green flags featuring the Islamic proclamation of faith and banner that said "We condemn Sweden's state-supported Islamophobia." A sign on a window of the Swedish Consulate read, "We do not share that book-burning idiot's view."

The protests have renewed concerns about Turkey holding up Sweden and Finland's bid to join NATO. Turkey has not yet ratified the Nordic nations' memberships in the military alliance, saying Sweden needs to address Ankara's security concerns.

Turkish officials slammed Sweden for allowing the Quran-burning protest but President Recep Tayyip Erdogan did not comment on it during his weekend speeches.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson tweeted late Saturday that freedom of expression was crucial to democracy but added that "what is legal is not necessarily appropriate."

"BURNING BOOKS THAT ARE HOLY TO MANY IS A DEEPLY DISRESPECTFUL ACT. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY SYMPATHY FOR ALL MUSLIMS WHO ARE OFFENDED BY WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN STOCKHOLM TODAY," KRISTERSSON SAID.

MUSTAFA DEMIRCAN, ONE OF THE PEOPLE PROTESTING IN ISTANBUL ON SUNDAY, SAID THE ACT OF BURNING THE QURAN SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AN ACT PROTECTED BY THE RIGHT OF FREE EXPRESSION.

PROTESTERS ALSO GATHERED OUTSIDE THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN ANKARA FOR A SECOND DAY. IN SOUTHEASTERN SANLIURFA PROVINCE, MEN HELD THE QURAN HIGH AFTER PRAYERS IN A MOSQUE AND CHANTED "GOD IS GREAT" IN VIDEOS SHARED ONLINE. MORE PROTESTS WERE PLANNED FOR SUNDAY EVENING.

Rasmus Paludan, a Swedish-Danish politician who leads the right-wing Hard Line party, obtained permission to stage a demonstration outside the Turkish embassy in the Swedish capital, where he said he intended to "burn the Quran".

The protest went ahead as planned later on Saturday under heavy police protection, according to an AFP journalist.

Around 100 people - including a large number of journalists - gathered near the Turkish embassy in Stockholm.

Islamophobia levels in Europe a concern despite acquittal, Muslim academic warns
Read More »

Paludan set fire to the holy book with a lighter following a long diatribe of almost an hour in which he attacked Islam and immigration in Sweden.

"If you don't think there should be freedom of expression, you have to live somewhere else," he said.

Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom said that Islamophobic provocations were appalling.

"Sweden has a far-reaching freedom of expression, but it does not imply that the Swedish government, or myself, support the opinions expressed," Billstrom said on Twitter.

Last year, violent riots broke out across Sweden after Paludan announced that he would go on a Quran-burning "tour" during the holy month of Ramadan.

Separately, another protest took place on Saturday outside Ankara's embassy in Stockholm against Sweden's efforts to join Nato.

"At this point, Swedish Defence Minister Pal Jonson's visit to Turkey on January 27 has lost its significance and meaning, so we cancelled the visit," his Turkish counterpart, Hulusi Akar, said on Saturday.

'It's a racist action'

> A small pro-Turkish demonstration also took place on the other side of the embassy.

> Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu vented fury at Swedish authorities' failure to ban the protest.

> "It's a racist action, it's not about freedom of expression," he said.

> ## Muslim children disconsolate as Sweden forces Islamic schools to shut
> **Read More »**

> Turkey's foreign ministry summoned Sweden's ambassador on Friday over the protests.

> Jonson said the visit had been postponed in a joint decision with Akar during a meeting in Ramstein, Germany, on Friday.

> "Our relations with Turkey are very important to Sweden, and we look forward to continuing the dialogue on common security and defence issues at a later date," he said.

> Turkish presidential spokesperson Ibrahim Kalin called the burning of the Quran "a clear crime of hatred".

> "Allowing this action despite all our warnings is encouraging hate crimes and Islamophobia," he tweeted. "The attack on sacred values is not freedom but modern barbarism."

> Several Arab countries including Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait denounced the Quran-burning.

> "Saudi Arabia calls for spreading the values of dialogue, tolerance, and coexistence, and rejects hatred and extremism," the Saudi Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

> ## Tension amid Nato bid

> Jonson was invited to Ankara as Stockholm continues to work to overcome Turkey's objections to its bid to join Nato, which requires approval from all 30 member states.

> Sweden and Finland, which have long maintained neutrality and military non-alignment, sought to join the alliance following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

> Turkey has stalled the two countries' requests over accusations that they are providing a safe haven to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and other groups linked to them.

Last week, Swedish officials said they needed more time to codify laws that would satisfy Ankara's conditions.

The proposed amendments would empower the Swedish government to crack down on recruitment, financing and activities of "terrorist organisations" such as the PKK, which has waged decades long warfare against the Turkish government over Kurdish rights.

Turkey, the EU and the US have designated the PKK as a terror group due to its attacks against civilian targets.

Earlier this month, Ankara said it expected firm action after an incident in Stockholm in which an effigy of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was strung up by its feet.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson told broadcaster TV4 that the act was "extremely serious" and he considered it a sabotage against the Nato application.

War: **As of January 2021, the estimated total population of the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol was at 2,416,856; 68% Russian jan23**

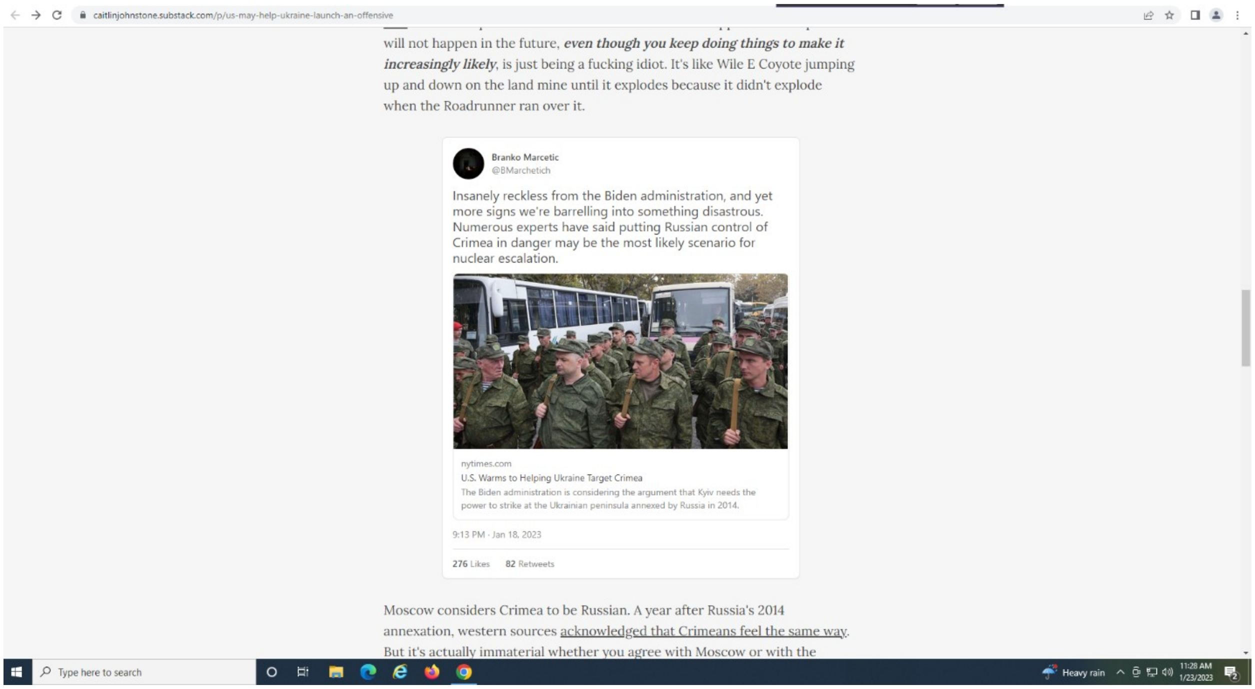
One Year After Russia Annexed Crimea, Locals Prefer Moscow To Kiev

Little has changed over the last 12 months. Despite huge efforts on the part of Kiev, Brussels, Washington and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the bulk of humanity living on the Black Sea peninsula believe the referendum to secede from Ukraine was legit. At some point, the West will have to recognize Crimea's right to self rule. Unless we are all to believe that the locals polled by Gallup and GfK were done so with FSB bogey men standing by with guns in their hands.

This week, the State Department's press secretary Jen Psaki said sanctions on Russia will continue until Crimea is returned to Ukraine. Both the State Department and Treasury Department did not clarify whether that was an actual policy statement, nor whether that included the sectoral sanctions which were applied in a third round of sanctions last July following the downing of Malaysian flight MH17 over east Ukraine.

A survey of residents of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in May 2013 found that:[28]

- 58% Orthodox
- 15% Muslim
- 13% Do not know, or not applicable
- 10% believed in God but did not belong to any religion
- 2% Atheist
- 2% Other


caitlinjohnstone.substack.com/p/us-may-help-ukraine-launch-an-offensive
Type here to search
Heavy rain
11:28 AM
1/23/2023

will not happen in the future, ***even though you keep doing things to make it increasingly likely***, is just being a fucking idiot. It's like Wile E Coyote jumping up and down on the land mine until it explodes because it didn't explode when the Roadrunner ran over it.

Branko Marcetic
@BMarchetich

Insanely reckless from the Biden administration, and yet more signs we're barrelling into something disastrous. Numerous experts have said putting Russian control of Crimea in danger may be the most likely scenario for nuclear escalation.

nytimes.com
U.S. Warms to Helping Ukraine Target Crimea
The Biden administration is considering the argument that Kyiv needs the power to strike at the Ukrainian peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014.

9:13 PM · Jan 18, 2023

276 Likes 82 Retweets

Moscow considers Crimea to be Russian. A year after Russia's 2014 annexation, western sources acknowledged that Crimeans feel the same way. But it's actually immaterial whether you agree with Moscow or with the

War, Erdogan: jan23 **Turkey Cancels Swedish Defense Minister's Visit Over Decision to Allow Protests**

War, iran, policy: jan23 **Iran Condemns EU Vote Over 'Terrorist' Designation for IRGC**

Iran, war, markets: jan23 **Iran's Currency Hits Record Low Amid Tensions With the West**

War: jan23 **- Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited Kyiv on a surprise trip on Sunday, meeting President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and pledging that Britain would "stick by Ukraine as long as it takes".**

During his trip, Johnson visited Borodyanka and Bucha, the suburbs of the Ukrainian capital that became a byword for atrocities in the West when Russian forces drove towards Kyiv in the first phase of the invasion before being repelled.

"I can tell you that the UK will be sticking by Ukraine for as long as it takes," Johnson told the mayor of Bucha.

"You're going to win and you're going to get all the Russians out of your country, but we will be there for the long-term. And we will also want to be helping you to reconstruct," he said speaking through an interpreter.

In Kyiv, Johnson was personally welcomed by Zelenskiy and a row of top officials including the foreign minister and the head of the president's office who lined up in a yard near the presidential administration in the heart of the city.

Last week Britain said it would supply Ukraine with 14 Challenger 2 tanks and other heavy weaponry.

War, germany: **Allies Angry At German 'Indecision' On Tanks For Ukraine Amid Russian Gains In East & South jan22**

Latvia’s foreign minister Edgars Rinkēvičs, announced the morning after officials failed to reach an agreement that his country alongide Estonia "call on Germany to provide Leopard tanks to Ukraine now. This is needed to stop Russian aggression, help Ukraine and restore peace in Europe quickly. **Germany as the leading European power has special responsibility in this regard**."

Several NATO countries have been on standby after expressing willingness to send the highly sophisticated German-made Leopard tanks to Ukraine, namely, Poland, Denmark and Finland - but Berlin has to sign off on it first.

Neither Washington nor Berlin are ready to take the lead on this, with Germany's new defense minister Boris Pistorius having stressed following the meeting that "**we have to be careful** because we have a duty to look carefully and intensively at **what might be the consequences** for anybody in that conflict."

Poland too is said to be waiting impatiently. "Poland's Defense Ministry did not immediately confirm Reznikov's assertion, but **Polish officials have been among the most vociferous** voices urging Germany to clear the way for Leopards," according to one US media report. "The Polish government has said it stands ready to send some of its own, though legally it needs Germany to sign off on any such move."

The reference was to Ukrainian defense minister Oleksii Reznikov's earlier assertion "Countries that already have Leopard tanks can begin training missions for our tank crews" **inside Poland**. "We will start with that, and we will go from there." But the Polish government didn't confirm this plan.

President Zelensky's office has been scathing in its critique of Germany and US slowness to move on the issue, with presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak saying "indecision is killing more of our people."

"You'll help Ukraine with the necessary weapons anyway and realize that there is no other option to end the war," he said on Twitter, adding: ***"Every day of delay is the death of Ukrainians. Think faster."***

German parliamentarian @SevimDagdelen on US pressuring Germany to send tanks to Ukraine, while the US refuses to do the same: the US is seeking "to prevent cooperation between Germany and Russia forever." https://t.co/QmgUFcCr0X

— Aaron Maté (@aaronjmate) January 19, 2023

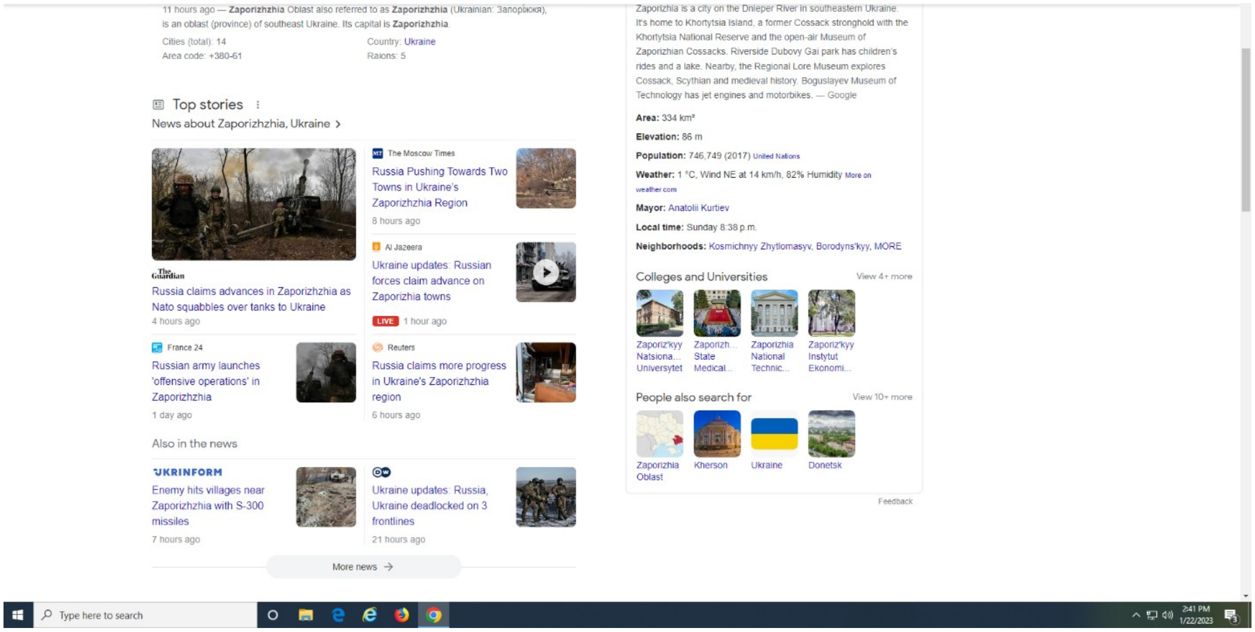
Zelensky in a weekend address said: "We will still have to fight for the supply of modern tanks, but every day we make it more obvious there is no alternative to making the decision on tanks." He then said, "The only thing worth emphasizing is the time, the delivery time. Each agreement must be implemented as quickly as possible."

Russia, meanwhile, continues to **make gains in the east and south of Ukraine**. Referencing the Zaporizhzhia region, the defense ministry cited "advantageous positions" in a Saturday statement."As a result of offensive operations, units of the Eastern Military District took more advantageous lines and positions," it said.

According to a summary of recent advances in *Newsweek*, "The reported ramped up fighting in Zaporizhzhia came as Russian and Wagner Group forces claim to be making gains in Eastern Donetsk, where Russia has been conducting a monthslong and grinding fight to capture the Ukrainian-controlled city of Bakhmut."

And further, "The Wagner Group's chief, Russian President Vladimir Putin's ally Yevgeny Prigozhin, announced Thursday on Telegram that his forces had taken full control of the village of Klishchiivka just south of Bakhmut."

War: jan22 Zaporizhzhia fighting ramps up



11 hours ago — **Zaporizhzhia** Oblast also referred to as **Zaporizhzhia** (Ukrainian: Запоріжжя), is an oblast (province) of southeast Ukraine. Its capital is **Zaporizhzhia**.

Cities (total): 14
Country: Ukraine
Area code: +380-61
Raions: 5

Top stories

News about Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine

The Guardian
Russia claims advances in Zaporizhzhia as Nato squabbles over tanks to Ukraine
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The Moscow Times
Russia Pushing Towards Two Towns in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Region
8 hours ago

Al Jazeera
Ukraine updates: Russian forces claim advance on Zaporizhia towns
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Zaporizhia is a city on the Dnieper River in southeastern Ukraine. It's home to Khortytsia Island, a former Cossack stronghold with the Khortytsia National Reserve and the open-air Museum of Zaporizhian Cossacks. Riverside Dubovy Gai park has children's rides and a lake. Nearby, the Regional Lore Museum explores Cossack, Scythian and medieval history. Boguslayev Museum of Technology has jet engines and motorbikes. — Google

Area: 334 km²

Elevation: 86 m

Population: 746,749 (2017) United Nations

Weather: 1 °C, Wind NE at 14 km/h, 82% Humidity More on weather.com

Mayor: Anatolii Kurtiev

Local time: Sunday 8:38 p.m.

Neighborhoods: Kosmichnyy Zhytlomasyv, Borodyns'kyy, MORE

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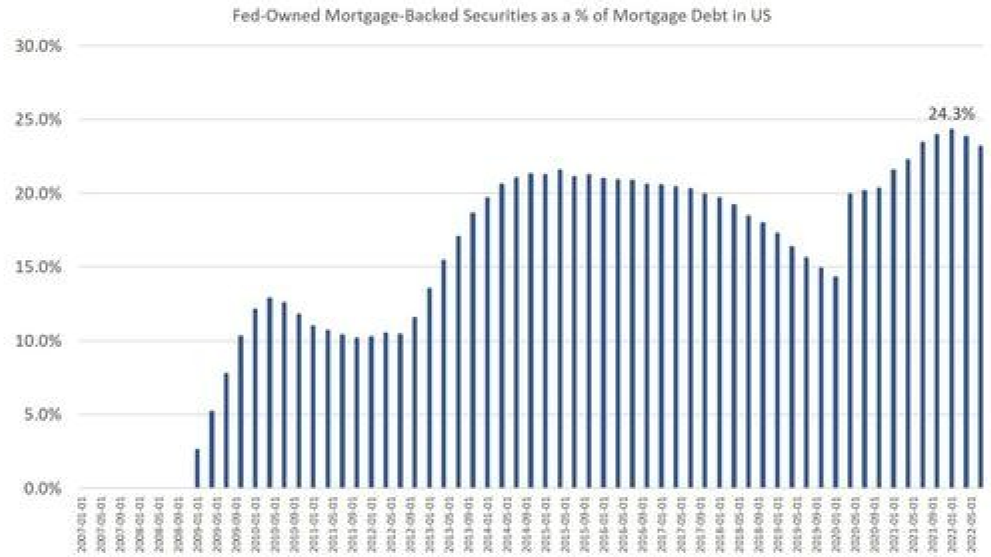
Censorship, stats, markets: it's not capitalism...it hasn't been for a long time, and anybody in the know would've been aware of this.

From 2009 to 2020, Fannie and Freddie's annual share of the total MBS market averaged 70 percent. If we include Ginnie Mae securities, those that are backed by FHA mortgages, the federal share of the MBS market averaged 92 percent per year. (These numbers are from SIFMA data and Ginnie Mae’s March 2021 release.)



There has been virtually no private market for MBS for the last thirteen years.

What’s just as troubling is that from 1996 to 2007, Fannie and Freddie’s annual share of the total MBS market averaged 60 percent. That’s only 10 percentage points lower than the post-crisis share, and it shows that they were responsible for more than the majority of the market in both time periods. The trend, of course, is moving in the wrong direction.

While neither of these numbers may seem problematic to anyone who wants the federal government standing behind the MBS market, they are extremely difficult to reconcile with the GSE’s federal charters. (Both of them, incidentally, are encoded in federal law).

Private institutional mortgage investors barely exist relative to the GSEs, and the notion that the GSEs have been meeting private investors’ standards during the last few decades is laughable.

So it seems like a good time to point out, once again, that Fannie and Freddie have done nothing to provide a durable increase in the U.S. homeownership rate. The starting point for this evidence is 1970.

Freddie Mac was created in 1970 and, at that time, was tied to the (soon to implode) Savings & Loan industry. Fannie Mae completed its transition to a GSE in 1970. Prior the start of this transition (in 1968), Fannie exclusively purchased federally insured mortgages, a function that was spun off to Ginnie Mae.

According to the Census Bureau, the homeownership rate was 64 percent in 1970. That's basically where it hovered for most of the 1980s and 1990s, higher than where it bottomed out in 2016, and almost exactly where it stood in the middle of 2019. (For anyone interested, evidence also shows that the federal backing of mortgages was not the major driver in the homeownership rate bump between 1940 and 1960).

The evidence is clear. Fannie and Freddie (along with the FHA) have helped fuel more mortgage debt, with less equity, for higher-priced homes. These policies have been particularly harmful for low-income families.

Naturally, you will not hear this sort of talk from trade groups such as the National Association of Realtors (NAR), or anyone else pushing for an explicit federal backstop for the MBS market.

The NAR's Bernard Fulton, for example, recently argued that Fannie and Freddie are "absolutely critical to the homeownership rate in America, and the job creation that supports," adding that "Without them, our market is significantly smaller, maybe catastrophically smaller for some businesses."

Urban's Jim Parrott and Moody's Mark Zandi have relied on similar fears. They have argued, for instance, that shrinking the mortgage giants' footprint or fully privatizing them would mean that "the housing and mortgage markets, and by extension the broader economy, could face significant disruption."

Oddly enough, even the types of reform proposals that Zandi has supported in the past – those that include explicit federal guarantees for the MBS market – assumed that "between a third and half of all mortgage loans will be covered by this catastrophic government backstop."

There simply is no way to implement such a proposal without shrinking the GSEs' footprint, but nobody in the Biden administration appears in a hurry to go that route. Nonetheless, *any* reform proposal will have to shrink the GSEs' market share if it is to adhere to federal law.

One of the only silver linings in the GSEs' lengthy conservatorship is that any *willing* administration can shrink their footprint. All Americans need now is an administration willing to complete the task.

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More than a decade after the Bank of Japan decided to buy up exchange traded funds as part of an ambitious quantitative easing programme it owns 63 per cent of all locally listed ETF assets, data for the year to July show. While the proportion is higher than the 58 per cent ownership recorded last year by ETFGI, a data provider, it is a reduction on the peak of nearly 77 per cent reached in 2017. Despite some fluctuations, however, one of the anomalies of the Japan ETF market is that the central bank has owned far more than 50 per cent of all Japanese ETF assets since 2016 — a fact that has drawn much scrutiny. One academic study, for example, found that afternoon returns of component stocks of the Nikkei 225 blue-chip index were significantly higher than those of non-Nikkei 225 stocks when the BoJ purchased ETFs. However, another study has suggested that the BoJ, as a large buy-and-hold equity ETF investor that participates in securities lending, has served to stabilise the stock market without causing strong distortions, despite the fact that the purchases have made it a significant owner of Japan’s largest listed companies. “The BoJ owning ETFs has provided additional credibility for ETFs in Japan and globally,” said Deborah Fuhr, founder of ETFGI. “With larger assets the annual fees on ETFs can be lower,” she added. Whether the huge presence of the central bank is seen as a positive or negative factor, however, the greatest question it casts over the market is the possibility that it will one day seek to unwind its positions.

Vail pointed out that the ETF programme had proved extremely profitable for the BoJ, both in terms of the dividend yield and long-term capital gains, and that the programme had not attracted any criticism from global central banks. “The ETF programme is likely far from the first aspect of any potential monetary tightening, which we do not foresee anyway for this year or perhaps for an extended period,” Vail said.

The New York Fed purchases agency mortgage-backed securities (MBS) guaranteed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or Ginnie Mae for the System Open Market Account (SOMA) portfolio as directed by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC). Operation results include all outright purchases and sales, dollar rolls and coupon swaps of agency MBS, including small value exercises.
Note: For TBA operations conducted after May 1st 2019, FNCL and FNCI tickers denote 30-year and 15-year Uniform MBS (UMBS) TBA contracts, respectively.

read later
https://mises.org/wire/six-graphs-showing-just-how-much-government-has-grown

war, vaccine, censorship: jan22 **elon, the king of esg and renewable energy, seems to also be playing into this whole antivax narrative: "“Felt like I was dying for several days. Hopefully, no permanent damage, but I don’t know.” Elon Musk Reveals "Major Side Effects" After 2nd COVID Booster** policy: **"The union membership rate of public-sector workers (33.1 percent) continued to be more than five times higher than the rate of private-sector workers (6.0 percent), BLS, Thursday, January 19, 2023**

blsdotgov/news.release/union2.nr0.htm

history, fall of rome: **In 711, a Muslim army conquered the Visigothic Kingdom in Hispania. Under Tariq ibn Ziyad, the Islamic army landed at Gibraltar and, in an eight-year campaign, occupied all except the northern kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula in the Umayyad conquest of Hispania. is the Arabic name given to Muslim Iberia. The Muslim conquerors were Arabs and Berbers; following the conquest, conversion and arabization of the Hispano-Roman population took place, a long process, spurred on in the 9th and 10th centuries, the majority of the population in Al-Andalus eventually converted to Islam.[43] The Muslims were referred to by the generic name Moors**

The Muslim population was divided per ethnicity (Arabs, Berbers, Muladí), and the supremacy of Arabs over the rest of group was a recurrent causal for strife, rivalry and hatred, particularly between Arabs and Berbers.[45] Arab elites could be further divided in the Yemenites (first wave) and the Syrians (second wave).[46] Christians and Jews were allowed to live as part of a stratified society under the *dhimmah* system,[47] although Jews became very important in certain fields.[48] Some Christians migrated to the Northern Christian kingdoms, while those who stayed in Al-Andalus progressively arabised and became known as *musta'arab* (mozarabs).[49] The slave population comprised the *Ṣaqāliba* (literally meaning "slavs", although they were slaves of generic European origin) as well as Sudanese slaves.[50]

Al-Andalus became a center of culture and learning, especially during the Caliphate of Córdoba. The Caliphate reached the height of its power under the rule of Abd-ar-

Rahman III and his successor al-Hakam II, becoming then, in the view of Jaime Vicens Vives, "the most powerful state in Europe".[53] Abd-ar-Rahman III also managed to expand the clout of Al-Andalus across the Strait of Gibraltar,[53] waging war, as well as his successor, against the Fatimid Empire.[54]

History, jews: **Massacre of 1391, considered one of the worst killings of jews in european history**

The **Massacre of 1391**, also known as **the pogroms of 1391**, was a display of antisemitism and violence against Jews in Spain. It was one of the Middle Ages' worst antisemitic outbreaks; Jews were ultimately given the choice of converting or leaving Spain in 1492.[1] Jews in the Iberian Peninsula at this time were generally disliked, and violence against them was common even until the 15th century.[2] The year 1391, however, marked a peak of anti-Jewish violence.[2]

Attitudes toward Jews in the 1300s[edit]

In the years leading up to the Massacre of 1391, Jews were not particularly liked by the Catholic church because they were believed to have crucified the Christ. However, there was tolerance as they were under the protection of Spain and had crucial roles in banking and finance that made them a financial asset.[3] In the early fourteenth century (1311–12) the general council of Vienne met and decided to censor the Moors' religious freedoms, and some would claim that the general council became aware of what their neighbors thought of their tolerance of Jews, and therefore returned to Spain with a newfound goal to damage the peaceful tolerance among Jews, Moors, and larger Spanish population.[3] However, while it is likely that this inspired ill feelings towards Jews, there was no drastic result because of the current tax on the Jewish people which contributed greatly to the kingdom and the church. Thus, Jews were too much of an economic asset to be violently discriminated against.[3]

Violence in the early 1300s[edit]

Peter (Pedro) I (known by his enemies as Peter the Cruel) was the king of Castile from 1350 to 1365.[2] Unlike the norm of abusing Jews financially, Peter was sympathetic to them.[2] Some would explain his Jewish sympathy by claiming that he was illegitimately Jewish himself.[2]

While a rebel against the church, Peter the Cruel had become a sort of protector of Jews against Henry of Trastamara, his half-brother.[3] Henry had killed around 1,200 Jews in 1355, ordered a Jewish massacre in 1360, and was involved in the murder of many other Jews in 1366.[3] When Peter's half-brother Henry killed him during a battle in a civil war in 1369, Jews lost their royal protection and became the subject of attacks in Castile.[2] They also were greatly taxed.[2] While Henry had criticized his brother for being in support of Jews, he himself became tolerant of them because of the financial burdens placed on them and the services they provided.[2] Because of Henry's violence toward them, the common people of Spain began to accept this violent antisemitism, but Jews were too important financially to be completely annihilated.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massacre_of_1391

censorship: **sick: "JSTOR told the Chronicle that each and every year, they turn away 150 million attempts to gain access to articles. That's right. 150 million attempts! "(i try to read their stuff all the time, and it always seems to be something really important, too)**

theatlanticdotcom/technology/archive/2012/01/every-year-jstor-turns-away-150-million-attempts-to-read-journal-articles/251382/

https://www.reddit.com/r/Piracy/comments/xjynxo/i_have_unlimited_access_to_jstor_how_can_i/

In late 2010 and early 2011, Aaron Swartz, an American computer programmer, writer, political organizer and Internet activist, used MIT's data network to bulk-download a substantial portion of JSTOR's collection of academic journal articles.[23][24] When the bulk-download was discovered, a video camera was placed in the room to film the mysterious visitor and the relevant computer was left untouched. Once video was captured of the visitor, the download was stopped and Swartz was identified. Rather than pursue a civil lawsuit against him, in June 2011 JSTOR reached a settlement wherein Swartz surrendered the downloaded data.[23][24]

The following month, federal authorities charged Swartz with several "data theft"-related crimes, including wire fraud, computer fraud, unlawfully obtaining information from a protected computer, and recklessly damaging a protected computer.[25][26] Prosecutors in the case claimed that Swartz acted with the intention of making the papers available on P2P file-sharing sites.[24][27]

Swartz surrendered to authorities, pleaded not guilty to all counts, and was released on $100,000 bail. In September 2012, U.S. attorneys increased the number of charges against Swartz from four to thirteen, with a possible penalty of 35 years in prison and $1 million in fines.[28][29] The case still was pending when Swartz committed suicide in January 2013.[30] Prosecutors dropped the charges after his suicide.[31]

wiki..

Scientific journals are the ticketmaster of academia. They contribute nothing but sit in between those providing content and those accessing it, siphoning off cash at every point. Peer review is done for free by other academics, institutions pay to publish and then pay *again* to access papers. These papers arrive ready-formatted and can't be edited so no work is required there, and these days they are largely online so the cost of printing volumes as they used to is vastly reduced. They do so little and take so much, all the while blocking public access to knowledge.
Swartz was a martyr, hit with draconian laws designed for acts of terrorism, the US government once again wielding its might to protect the wealth of private interests.
Science should be free for all.

https://www.reddit.com/r/Damnthatsinteresting/comments/z7leb7/aaron_swartz_cofounder_of_reddit_was_charged_with/

war, history: **Salvadoran Civil War**

the United Nations estimated that FMLN guerrillas were responsible for five percent of atrocities committed during the civil war, while 85 percent were committed by the Salvadoran security forces

The United Nations (UN) reports that the war killed more than 75,000 people between 1979 and 1992, along with approximately 8,000 disappeared persons. Violations of the most basic human rights – particularly the kidnapping, torture, and murder of suspected FMLN sympathizers by state security forces and paramilitary death squads – were pervasive.[31][32][33]

However, due to pressure from Colonel Gutiérrez Avendaño and the United States to step down, Colonel Majano Ramos resigned from the junta entirely on 13 December 1980, effectively ending the second junta

After the resignation of Majano Ramos on 13 December 1980, the Third Revolutionary Government Junta was formed.[40] It consisted of the members of the previous junta: Colonel Gutiérrez Avendaño, Duarte, Morales Ehrlich, and Ávalos Navarrete.[40] Duarte served as the President of the junta while Colonel Gutiérrez Avendaño served as Vice President.[40] The third junta continued the implementation of the agrarian reforms and promised democratization.[41] The United States, under President Ronald Reagan, continued economic aid and diplomatic support to the junta.[42][43][44]

The FMLN launched the "Final Offensive" to overthrow the government and take control of the country on 10 January 1981.[14][45] The junta contained the offensive, and by the end of January, the offensive ended in a strategic failure for the FMLN, but they did prove that they were a capable fighting force.[14] The junta responded to the offensive by launching their own scorched-earth offensive in March 1981 in northern El Salvador.[46]

On 17 March 1982, 4 Dutch journalists and 5 FMLN guerrillas were ambushed by the army near the town of El Paraíso, Chalatenango, with 8 being killed in the attack.[47] The attack outraged many, especially in the Netherlands, where people demanded the removal of the junta from power.[48] Duarte stated that it was not an attack but instead simply an accident and that the journalists were caught in the crossfire between army soldiers and FMLN guerrillas.[48]

From 1979 to 1982, the juntas committed various human rights violations and war crimes. Several deaths squads and paramilitaries were formed by junta soldiers and officers that attacked leftist militants and civilians.[52][53] Because the death squads were made up of army soldiers and the United States was funding the army, the United States was indirectly funding the death squads as well.[52][53]

The most notorious US-trained army battalion was the Atlácatl Battalion.[54] The battalion committed two of the deadliest massacres during the civil war: the El Calabozo massacre and the El Mozote massacre.[54][55][56] Meanwhile, the National Guard, the No. 1

Military Detachment, and paramilitaries that were formerly a part of ORDEN committed the Sumpul River massacre on the Honduran border.[57]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutionary_Government_Junta_of_El_Salvador

The United Nations (UN) reports that the war killed more than 75,000 people between 1979 and 1992, along with approximately 8,000 disappeared persons. Violations of the most basic human rights – particularly the kidnapping, torture, and murder of suspected FMLN sympathizers by state security forces and paramilitary death squads – were pervasive.[31][32][33]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Mozote_massacre

With tensions mounting and the country on the verge of an insurrection, the civil-military Revolutionary Government Junta (JRG) deposed Romero in a coup on 15 October 1979. The United States feared that El Salvador, like Nicaragua and Cuba before it, could fall to communist revolution.[53] Thus, Jimmy Carter's administration supported the new military government with vigor, hoping to promote stability in the country.[54] While Carter provided some support to the government, the subsequent administration significantly increased U.S. spending in El Salvador.[55] By 1984 Ronald Reagan's government would spend nearly $1 billion on economic aid for the Salvadoran government.[56]

In February 1980, Archbishop Óscar Romero published an open letter to US President Jimmy Carter in which he pleaded with him to suspend the United States' ongoing program of military aid to the Salvadoran regime. He advised Carter that "Political power is in the hands of the armed forces. They know only how to repress the people and defend the interests of the Salvadoran oligarchy." Romero warned that US support would only "sharpen the injustice and repression against the organizations of the people which repeatedly have been struggling to gain respect for their fundamental human rights".[72] On 24 March 1980, the Archbishop was assassinated while celebrating Mass, the day after he called upon Salvadoran soldiers and security force members to not follow their orders to kill Salvadoran civilians. President Carter stated this was a "shocking and unconscionable act".[73] At his funeral a week later, government-sponsored snipers in the National Palace and on the periphery of the Gerardo Barrios Plaza were responsible for the shooting of 42 mourners.[74]

On 7 May 1980, former army major, Roberto D'Aubuisson, was arrested with a group of civilians and soldiers at a farm. The raiders found documents connecting him and the civilians as organizers and financiers of the death squad who killed Archbishop Romero, and of plotting a *coup d'état* against the JRG. Their arrest provoked right-wing terrorist threats and institutional pressures forcing the JRG to release D'Aubuisson. In 1993, a U.N. investigation confirmed that D'Aubuisson ordered the assassination.[75]

In its effort to defeat the insurgency, the Salvadoran Armed Forces carried out a "scorched earth" strategy, and adopted tactics similar to those being employed in neighboring Guatemala by its security forces. These tactics were inspired and adapted from U.S. counterinsurgency strategies used during the Vietnam War.[82] An integral part of the Salvadoran Army's counterinsurgency strategy entailed "draining the sea" or "drying up the ocean," that is, eliminating the insurgency by eradicating its support base in the countryside. The primary target was the civilian population – displacing or killing them in order to remove any possible base of support for the rebels. The concept of "draining the sea" had its basis in a doctrine by Mao Zedong that emphasized that "The guerrilla must move amongst the people as a fish swims in the sea."[83]

Aryeh Neier, the executive director of Americas Watch, wrote in a 1984 review about the scorched earth approach: "This may be an effective strategy for winning the war. It is, however, a strategy that involves the use of terror tactics—bombings, strafings, shellings and, occasionally, massacres of civilians."[84]

Beginning in 1984, the Salvadoran Air Force was able to locate guerrilla strongholds reportedly using intelligence from U.S. Air Force planes flying over the country.[85][86]

Scorched earth offensives of 1981[edit]

On 15 March 1981, the Salvadoran Army began a "sweep" operation in Cabañas Department in northern El Salvador near the Honduran border. The sweep was accompanied by the use of scorched earth tactics by the Salvadoran Army and indiscriminate killings of anyone captured by the army. Those displaced by the "sweep" who were not killed outright fled the advance of the Salvadoran Army; hiding in caves and under trees to evade capture and probable summary execution. On 18 March, three days after the sweep in Cabañas began, 4–8,000 survivors of the sweep (mostly women and children) attempted to cross the Rio Lempa into Honduras to flee violence. There, they were caught between Salvadoran and Honduran troops. The Salvadoran Air Force, subsequently bombed and strafed the fleeing civilians with machine gun fire, killing hundreds. Among the dead were at least 189 persons who were unaccounted for and registered as "disappeared" during the operation.[87]

A second offensive was launched, also in Cabañas Department, on 11 November 1981 in which 1,200 troops were mobilized, including members of the Atlácatl Battalion. Atlácatl was a rapid response counter-insurgency battalion organized at the U.S. Army School of the Americas in Panama in 1980. Atlácatl soldiers were trained and equipped by the U.S. military,[88][89] and were described as "the pride of the United States military team in San Salvador. Trained in antiguerrilla operations, the battalion was intended to turn a losing war around."[90]

The November 1981 operation was commanded by Lt. Col. Sigifredo Ochoa, a former Treasury Police chief with a reputation for brutality. Ochoa was close associate of Major Roberto D'Aubuisson and was alleged to have been involved in the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero. D'Aubuisson and Ochoa were both members of La Tandona, the class of 1966 at the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military School.[91] From the start, the invasion of Cabanas was described as a "cleansing" operation by official sources.[92] Hundreds of civilians were massacred by the army as Col. Ochoa's troops moved through the villages. Col. Ochoa claimed that hundreds of guerrillas had been killed but was able to show journalists only fifteen captured weapons, half of them virtual antiques, suggesting that most of those killed in the sweep were unarmed.[93]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvadoran_Civil_War

censorship, media: **Sci-Hub was founded in Kazakhstan by Alexandra Elbakyan in 2011, in response to the high cost of research papers behind paywalls**

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Sci-Hub

Sci-Hub is a shadow library website that provides free access to millions of research papers and books, without regard to copyright, by bypassing publishers' paywalls in various ways. Sci-Hub was founded in Kazakhstan by Alexandra Elbakyan in 2011, in response to the high cost of research papers behind paywalls (see Serials crisis). The site is extensively used worldwide. In September 2019, the site's owners said that it served approximately 400,000 requests per day.

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9

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Pirate Party

From Wikipedia:

The court restricted the sites from uploading, publishing or making any article available until 6 January 2021. In response to the lawsuit, as well as to Elbakyan's claim that the FBI had requested data from her Apple account, Reddit users on the subreddit r/DataHoarder organized to download and seed backups of the articles on Sci-Hub, with the intention of creating a decentralized and uncensorable version of the site.

Looks like you should ask around in r/datahoarder

The way I see it, that's 150 million chances lost to improve the quality of the Internet. JSTOR, as the keeper of so much great scholarly work, should be one of the Internet's dominant suppliers of facts and serious research. But if something is not publicly

available, key gatekeepers like journalists and Wikipedians, move to the best available source, even if they know that there probably is a better source behind JSTOR's paywall. So, instead, JSTOR's vast troves of valuable information remain within academia and the broader Internet's immune system is that much weaker.
theatlanticdotcom/technology/archive/2012/01/every-year-jstor-turns-away-150-million-attempts-to-read-journal-articles/251382/

"Is JSTOR tiptoeing gingerly toward public access, or making a meaningless gesture to ward off critics? Take your pick."

Vaccine: jan21 "Citigroup to fire unvaccinated employees"

War, censorship: July 2022: German journalist faces three years in jail for Donbas reporting, appaently was reporting on ukrainian atrocities

By Geeta Mohan: German journalist Alina Lipp said she was facing three years in prison in her home country for her reporting on crimes committed by Ukrainian forces against civilians in the eastern Donbass region of the war-ravaged country.

The charges against her relate to coverage of her News from Russia Telegram channel where she shared information with its 175,000 subscribers in both German and Russian.

She explained that she did not misrepresent facts. She just filmed what she saw and does not spread fake information. "Will file a counter case in German courts against action taken by the government," she noted.

She is accused by the German authorities of supporting the Russian invasion of Ukraine and faces three years in prison under article 140 of the constitution or a monetary fine.

Lipp further added, “More and more Germans are now agreeing with her since they are suffering massive price hikes and inflation.”

Speaking on the human rights violation issue, she agreed that Germany should not speak of human rights violations in other countries (like India) while they persecute journalists in their own country.

Iran, crypto, markets: Jan 21, 2023 **Iran specifically started to look at bitcoin as an alternative monetary means to be used in trade after it became clear that European companies were failing to trade with Iran over fears that they would fall afoul of US primary sanctions.**

A top Iranian MP says Iran and Russia can use digital currencies to dodge the US sanctions that are to be re-instated against the Islamic Republic.

As Iran is facing the risks of returning US sanctions, one of the country’s parliamentarians has raised the idea for Tehran and Moscow to start using digital currencies to dodge the sanctions.

The idea was raised by MP Mohammad-Reza Pourebrahimi during a recent meeting in Moscow with Dmitry Mezentsev, the Chair of the Federation Council Committee on Economic Policy.

Pourebrahimi was quoted by media as saying that digital currencies could provide a way for both Iran and Russia to avoid US dollar transactions, as well as a possible replacement of the SWIFT interbank payment system.

He also added that the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) had been demanded by the Parliament to start developing proposals for using digital currencies.

Pourebrahimi – who chairs the Iranian Parliamentary Commission for Economic Affairs – was further quoted as saying that he had discussed this topic in the State Duma's Committee on Economic Policy and that Iran had established cooperation with Russia on this issue, according to a report by the Russian news portal RBC.

“They [Russia] share our opinion. We said that if we manage to move this work forward, then we will be the first countries that use digital currencies in the exchange of goods,” he said.

In turn, Mezentsev noted that “interbank relations between our countries should be of great importance” against the backdrop of international sanctions currently in place against both Russia and Iran.

The idea to use digital currencies such as bitcoin in international trade emerged in Tehran over the past few years particularly after the country’s officials complained that the US was “terrorizing” companies from doing business with the Islamic Republic.

Iran specifically started to look at bitcoin as an alternative monetary means to be used in trade after it became clear that European companies were failing to trade with Iran over fears that they would fall afoul of US primary sanctions.

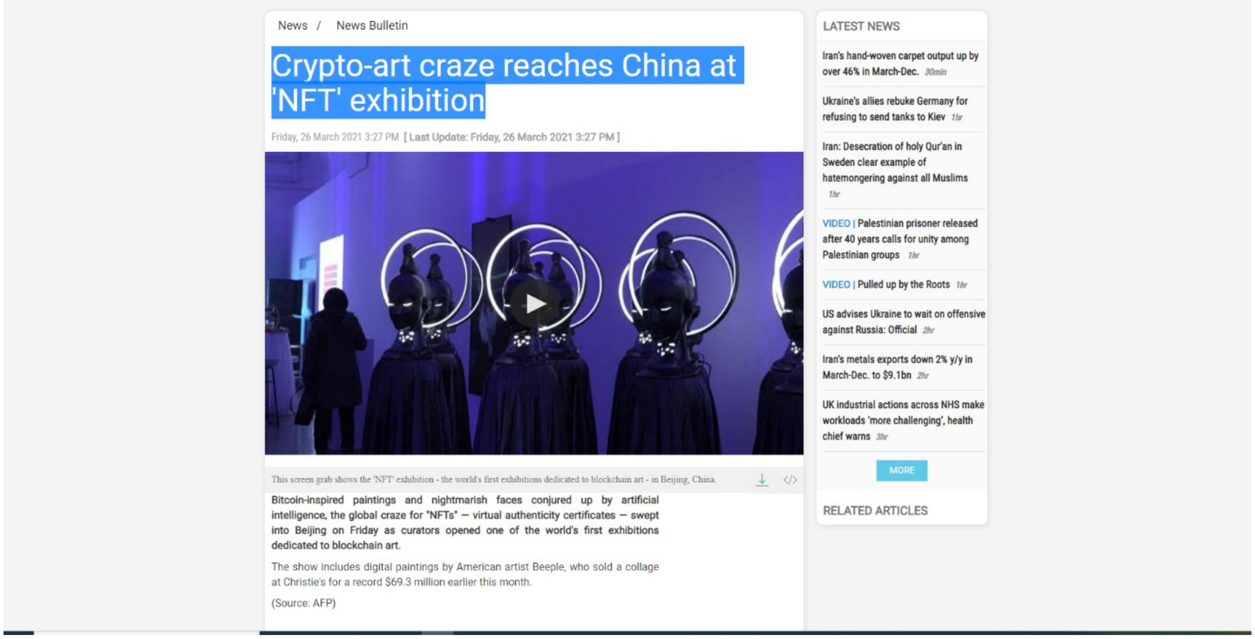
This was believed to have prevented Iran from reaping the benefits of the removal of sanctions in 2016.

To the same effect, a Swedish firm was reported last March to have come up with an innovative solution which would both help bypass US sanctions against Iran and also enable banks to do away with the need to process transactions with Iran.

The firm - Brave New World Investments AB – was reported to have started accepting deposits in bitcoin which it would convert to Iranian Rial and invest in equities on the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE).

China, crypto, markets:

Crypto-art craze reaches China at 'NFT' exhibition



Crypto-art craze reaches China at 'NFT' exhibition

Friday, 26 March 2021 3:27 PM [Last Update: Friday, 26 March 2021 3:27 PM]

This screen grab shows the 'NFT' exhibition - the world's first exhibitions dedicated to blockchain art - in Beijing, China.

Bitcoin-inspired paintings and nightmarish faces conjured up by artificial intelligence, the global craze for "NFTs" — virtual authenticity certificates — swept into Beijing on Friday as curators opened one of the world's first exhibitions dedicated to blockchain art.

The show includes digital paintings by American artist Beeple, who sold a collage at Christie's for a record $69.3 million earlier this month.

(Source: AFP)

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UK industrial actions across NHS make workloads 'more challenging', health chief warns 3hr

RELATED ARTICLES

Crypto,iran: **February 2021:A report by the semi-official Iranian news agency Tasnim estimates that daily trade volume for cryptocurrencies in Iran amounts to nearly $200 million.**

Public interest in cryptocurrencies like bitcoin is booming in Iran as a report estimates that unregulated exchanges are engaged in nearly $200 million worth of trade for digital currencies everyday.

The Sunday report by the semi-official Iranian news agency Tasnim showed that only a single Iranian trading platform for cryptocurrencies had carried out transactions worth 13.96 trillion rials (nearly $56 million) over 24 hours of trading for 12 different digital currencies.

The report said the platform, the largest in Iran with a 30-percent share of the market, had 600,000 registered investors.

The Iranian government has yet to recognize cryptocurrencies for local trade and platforms use normal authentication procedures to be able to process transactions.

The Tasnim report said that the number of investors with activity in the local crypto market had exceeded one million, adding that daily trading volume in a total of 20 platforms amounts to 50 trillion rials ($200 million).

Iran studying various options on official digital currency: CBI chief

Iran's central bank is studying various strategies on how it can issue an official digital currency.

The report said many of the people engaged in trade for cryptocurrencies were retail investors who have been discouraged by a recent drop in the value of trade in the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE).

It said people were taking the risk of buying a bitcoin to compensate for the losses they have suffered in the TSE, where main index TEDPIX has dropped to 1.22 million points, down from over 2 million recorded in mid-summer.

That comes as the global daily trading volume for cryptocurencies has reached nearly $200 billion in a market valued at around $1.4 trillion where the dominant currency bitcoin has surged to over $57,000.

More….

The Iranian government has yet to issue a verdict on bitcoin mining which is reportedly mushrooming across the country where subsidized power rates are attracting prospectors from countries as far as China, Ukraine and France.

The electricity-intensive process has recently been blamed for a surge in power consumption which has put the national grid under severe strain amid sizzling summer temperatures.

Saeed Zarandi, the deputy industry, mining and trade minister for planning, said Wednesday several government committees were examining the issue, with a number of ministries and the central bank about to make a final decision.

“With regard to bitcoin, we have to investigate its threats and opportunities and ultimately make an appropriate decision by taking these issues into account,” he told Tasnim news agency.

More…

Reports in local media on Wednesday suggested that the CEO of Tehran’s Stocks Exchange (TSE) had resigned a day after it became known that people had been illegally mining bitcoin in a basement of the TSE’s headquarters in northern Tehran.

According to a report from the country’s state-run media, the Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran Stock Exchange, or TSE, market vice president Mahmoud Goudarzi will be leading the company following the departure of Sahraee. The change in leadership seems to be the result of “a number of miners” being discovered in the basement of the TSE building located in the district of Sa'adat Abad.

Jul 10, 2019: Chinese cryptocurrency miners have officially requested to set up shop in Iran, taking advantage of the country's cheap energy.

Iran faces Chinese request for bitcoin mining - Press TV

https://www.presstv.ir › Detail › 2019/07/10 › Iran-bitc...

Jul 10, 2019 — Chinese cryptocurrency miners have officially requested to set up shop in Iran, taking advantage of the country's cheap energy.

october 24th, 2020: "Iran allows exclusive use of cryptocurrencies to fund imports"

Trading digital currencies like bitcoin became legal after the regulations were announced in August 2019 although the government has been keeping a cautious eye on the size of the trade and its potential impacts on the financial situation in Iran.

Using cryptocurrencies to fund imports could help the CBI evade restrictions imposed by the United States on Iran’s use of the dollar system.

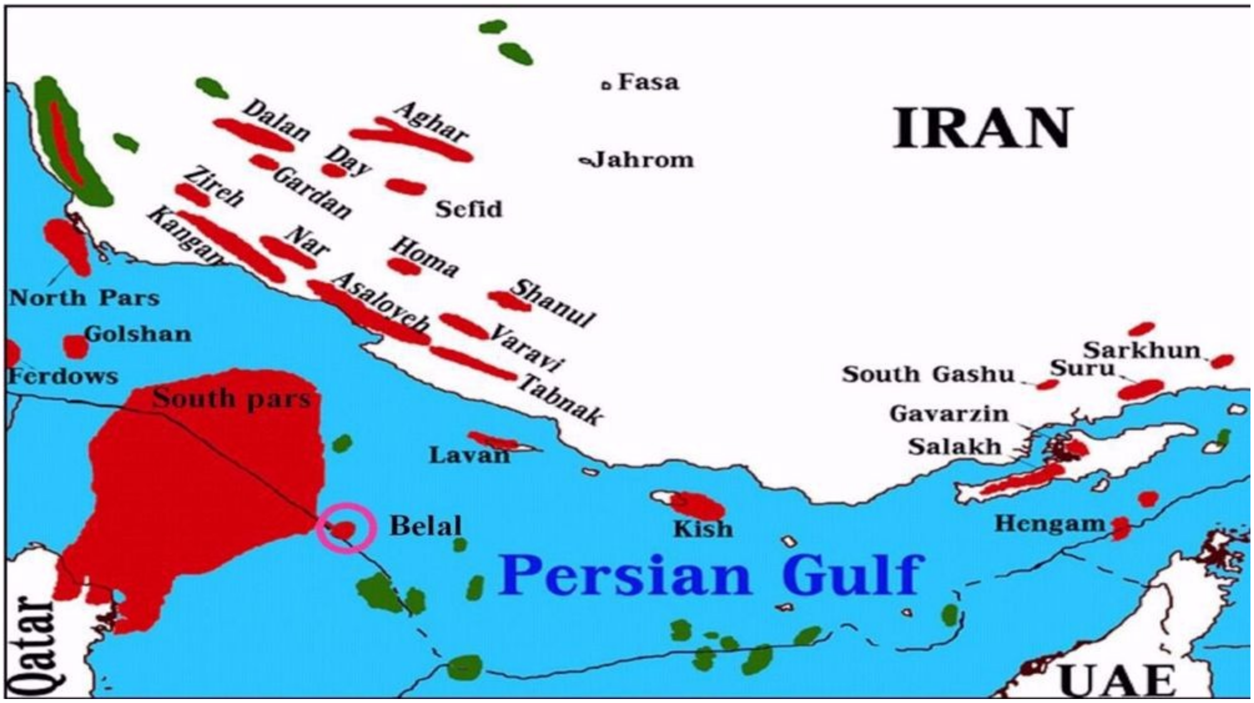
That comes as central banks in countries like China and Russia plan to introduce official cryptocurrencies to boost trade and economic exchanges with the rest of the world.

2019: Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, Iran’s minister for information and communications technology: "“Some of our top clerics have issued fatwas that say Bitcoin is money without a reserve, that it is rejected by Islamic and cybercurrencies are haram,” Jahromi said. “When we explain to them this is not a currency but an asset, they change their mind.”

https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/international-business/african-and-mideast-business/article-iranians-turn-to-bitcoin-as-us-sanctions-squeeze-national-economy/

Alexander Brazhnikov, executive director of the Russian Association of Crypto Industry and Blockchain.

Iran, energy, war: **cool image of iranian gas deposits**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War, Israel: **Abraham Accords saw Israel normalise relations with the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan,effective since September 15, 2020**

Israel's establishment of diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain marked the first instance of Arab–Israeli normalization since 1994, when the Israel–Jordan peace treaty came into effect

In December 2020, Morocco joined the accords and normalized relations with Israel after the Trump administration recognized Moroccan control over the disputed Western Sahara region.[9] In January 2021, Sudan joined the Abraham Accords and normalized relations with Israel after the Trump administration agreed to remove Sudan from the State Department list of "state sponsors of terrorism"[10] and provide a $1.2 billion dollar loan to help Sudan clear its debts to the World Bank.[11][

Among the representatives of the 70 nations in attendance were a number of Arab officials, creating the first situation since the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991 where an Israeli leader and senior Arab officials were all in attendance at the same international conference focused on the Middle East. The Madrid Conference at the time set the stage for the Oslo Accords.

Church, history: common belief of the Abrahamic religions—particularly Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—regarding the role of Abraham as a patriarch.

common belief of the Abrahamic religions—particularly Judaism, Christianity, and Islam —regarding the role of Abraham as a patriarch.

Media, Israel, war, censorship: Jordan Peterson signed up with the Daily Wire and immediately went on a trip to Israel to say it’s the greatest country in the world.

798,567 views Jul 12, 2022I'm very excited to announce that I have joined DailyWire+

Jordan Peterson, the controversial Canadian right-wing media personality and author of *12 Rules for Life*, will be coming to Israel on October 6th for a one-time lecture at Jerusalem's International Convention Center. This will be Peterson's first time in the Jewish state.

"The fact that the event is taking place in Jerusalem carries a deep personal meaning for Peterson and Shapiro, and it also carries a symbolic message,"

Amiad Cohen, co-publisher of the Shibolet Library, and CEO of the Tikva Fund

In July, he sparked backlash after he urged Sunni and Shia Muslims to get pen-pals of the opposite sect and for them to reach out to Christians and Jews to achieve religious coherence in the Middle East and North Africa.

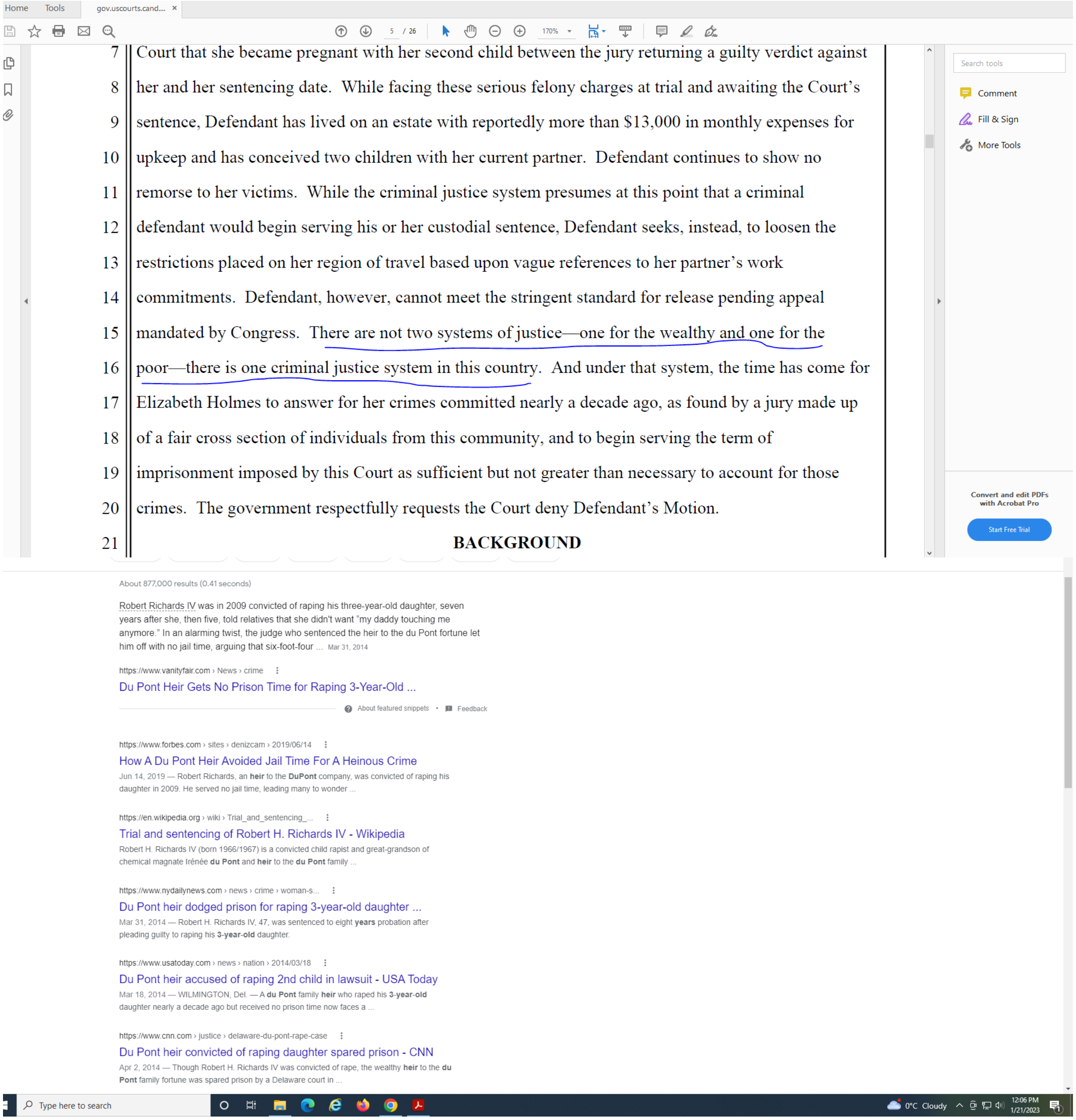
The message was condemned for appearing to ignore the demographics of the region - where Muslims, Christians, and Jews have lived together for centuries - and the inter-faith dialogue active in the region.

His comment came off the back of the so-called Abraham Accords that saw Israel normalise relations with the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan - although the accords are commonly thought to be part of a common strategic vision for the region rather than an ecumenical effort.

forgot this about jordan peterson: "In 2016, the University of Toronto professor declared his opposition to Canada's Bill C-16, which was intended to expand the country's anti-discrimination laws to include "gender identity or expression."

Censorship, stats, journal, government: **This statement from the UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN JOSE DIVISION is hilarious: "There are not two systems of justice—one for the wealthy and one for the poor—there is one criminal justice system in this country."**

Disgraced Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes attempted to flee the United States after her January 2022 fraud conviction, prosecutors said in a new court filing.



Court that she became pregnant with her second child between the jury returning a guilty verdict against her and her sentencing date. While facing these serious felony charges at trial and awaiting the Court's sentence, Defendant has lived on an estate with reportedly more than $13,000 in monthly expenses for upkeep and has conceived two children with her current partner. Defendant continues to show no remorse to her victims. While the criminal justice system presumes at this point that a criminal defendant would begin serving his or her custodial sentence, Defendant seeks, instead, to loosen the restrictions placed on her region of travel based upon vague references to her partner's work commitments. Defendant, however, cannot meet the stringent standard for release pending appeal mandated by Congress. There are not two systems of justice—one for the wealthy and one for the poor—there is one criminal justice system in this country. And under that system, the time has come for Elizabeth Holmes to answer for her crimes committed nearly a decade ago, as found by a jury made up of a fair cross section of individuals from this community, and to begin serving the term of imprisonment imposed by this Court as sufficient but not greater than necessary to account for those crimes. The government respectfully requests the Court deny Defendant's Motion.

BACKGROUND

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Robert Richards IV was in 2009 convicted of raping his three-year-old daughter, seven years after she, then five, told relatives that she didn't want "my daddy touching me anymore." In an alarming twist, the judge who sentenced the heir to the du Pont fortune let him off with no jail time, arguing that six-foot-four ... Mar 31, 2014

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How A Du Pont Heir Avoided Jail Time For A Heinous Crime

Jun 14, 2019 — Robert Richards, an **heir** to the **DuPont** company, was convicted of raping his daughter in 2009. He served no jail time, leading many to wonder ...

https://en.wikipedia.org › wiki › Trial_and_sentencing_...

Trial and sentencing of Robert H. Richards IV - Wikipedia

Robert H. Richards IV (born 1966/1967) is a convicted child rapist and great-grandson of chemical magnate Irénée **du Pont** and **heir** to the **du Pont** family ...

https://www.nydailynews.com › news › crime › woman-s...

Du Pont heir dodged prison for raping 3-year-old daughter ...

Mar 31, 2014 — Robert H. Richards IV, 47, was sentenced to eight **years** probation after pleading guilty to raping his **3-year-old** daughter.

https://www.usatoday.com › news › nation › 2014/03/18

Du Pont heir accused of raping 2nd child in lawsuit - USA Today

Mar 18, 2014 — WILMINGTON, Del. — A **du Pont** family **heir** who raped his **3-year-old** daughter nearly a decade ago but received no prison time now faces a ...

https://www.cnn.com › justice › delaware-du-pont-rape-case

Du Pont heir convicted of raping daughter spared prison - CNN

Apr 2, 2014 — Though Robert H. Richards IV was convicted of rape, the wealthy **heir** to the **du Pont** family fortune was spared prison by a Delaware court in ...

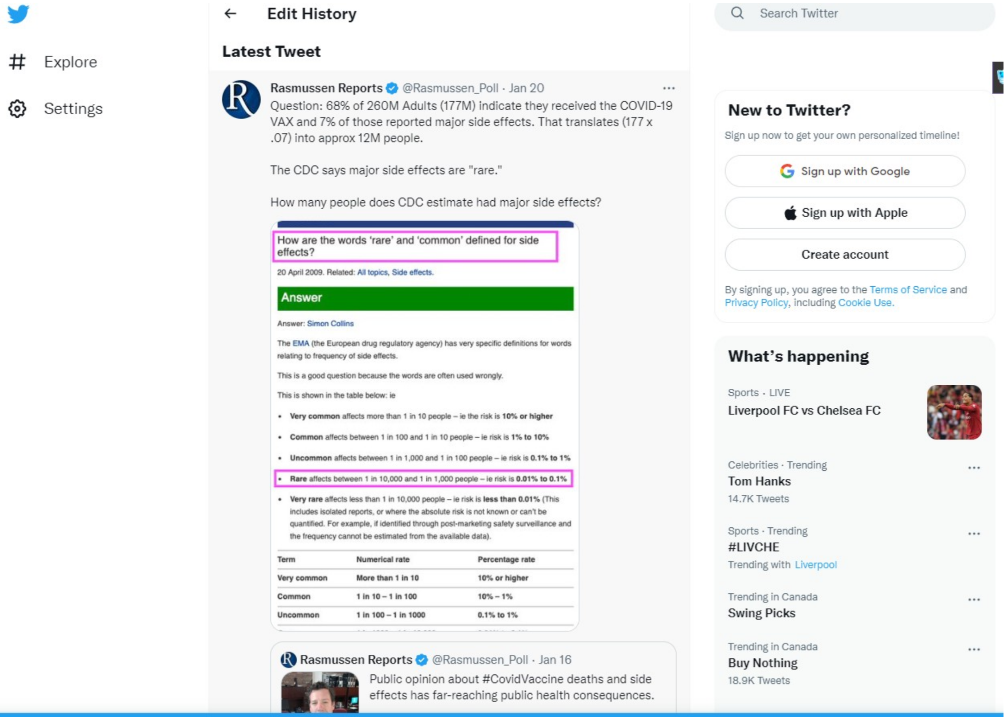
Markets, war: **IMF tells zimbabwe, stop using gold, use interest bearing instruments instead"**

The International Monetary Fund urged authorities last month to wind down the use of the gold coins and to use appropriate interest-bearing instruments to carry out monetary policy bnnbloombergdotca/zimbabwe-s-gold-coins-sell-above-2-000-each-for-the-first-time-1.1870740

war: **Viktor Orban is Buckling to EU Sanctions jan21**

investmentwatchblogdotcom/viktor-orban-is-buckling-to-eu-sanctions/

vaccine, war, media, censorship: **rasmussen doing poll finally on vaccine adverse reactions: just more evidence that the big one is coming, and that this is just more primer**



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Rasmussen Reports @Rasmussen_Poll · Jan 20

Question: 68% of 260M Adults (177M) indicate they received the COVID-19 VAX and 7% of those reported major side effects. That translates (177 x .07) into approx 12M people.

The CDC says major side effects are "rare."

How many people does CDC estimate had major side effects?

How are the words 'rare' and 'common' defined for side effects?

20 April 2009. Related: All topics, Side effects.

Answer

Answer: Simon Collins

The EMA (the European drug regulatory agency) has very specific definitions for words relating to frequency of side effects.

This is a good question because the words are often used wrongly.

This is shown in the table below: ie

- **Very common** affects more than 1 in 10 people – ie the risk is **10% or higher**
- **Common** affects between 1 in 100 and 1 in 10 people – ie risk is **1% to 10%**
- **Uncommon** affects between 1 in 1,000 and 1 in 100 people – ie risk is **0.1% to 1%**
- **Rare** affects between 1 in 10,000 and 1 in 1,000 people – ie risk is **0.01% to 0.1%**
- **Very rare** affects less than 1 in 10,000 people – ie risk is **less than 0.01%** (This includes isolated reports, or where the absolute risk is not known or can't be quantified. For example, if identified through post-marketing safety surveillance and the frequency cannot be estimated from the available data).

Term	Numerical rate	Percentage rate
Very common	More than 1 in 10	10% or higher
Common	1 in 10 – 1 in 100	10% – 1%
Uncommon	1 in 100 – 1 in 1000	0.1% to 1%

Rasmussen Reports @Rasmussen_Poll · Jan 16

Public opinion about #CovidVaccine deaths and side effects has far-reaching public health consequences.

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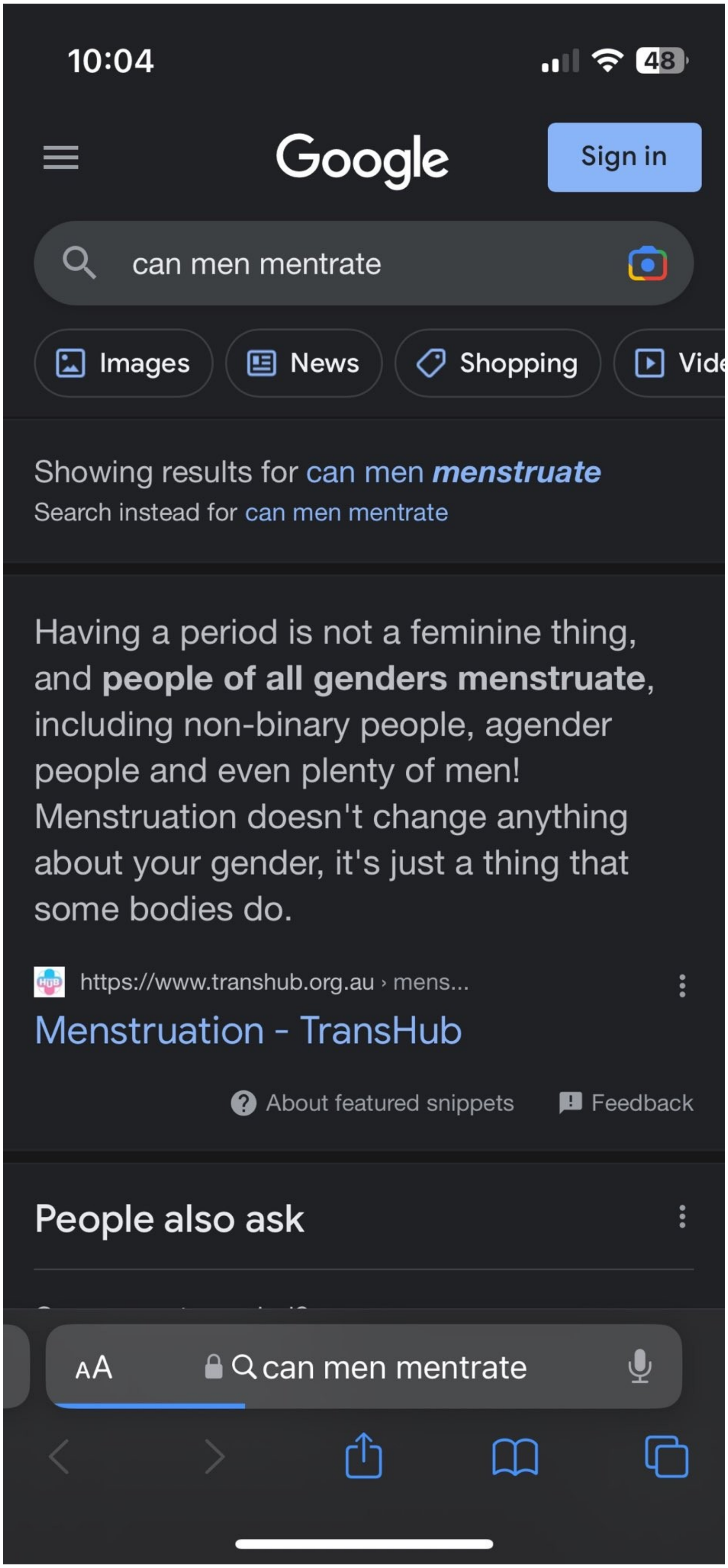
#LIVCHE
Trending with Liverpool
Trending in Canada
Swing Picks
Trending in Canada
Buy Nothing
18.9K Tweets

Censorship, stats, journal, tech, war: **google now says men can menstruate (REAL)**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48
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Showing results for can men ***menstruate***
Search instead for can men mentrate

Having a period is not a feminine thing, and **people of all genders menstruate**, including non-binary people, agender people and even plenty of men! Menstruation doesn't change anything about your gender, it's just a thing that some bodies do.

https://www.transhub.org.au › mens...

Menstruation - TransHub

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Feedback

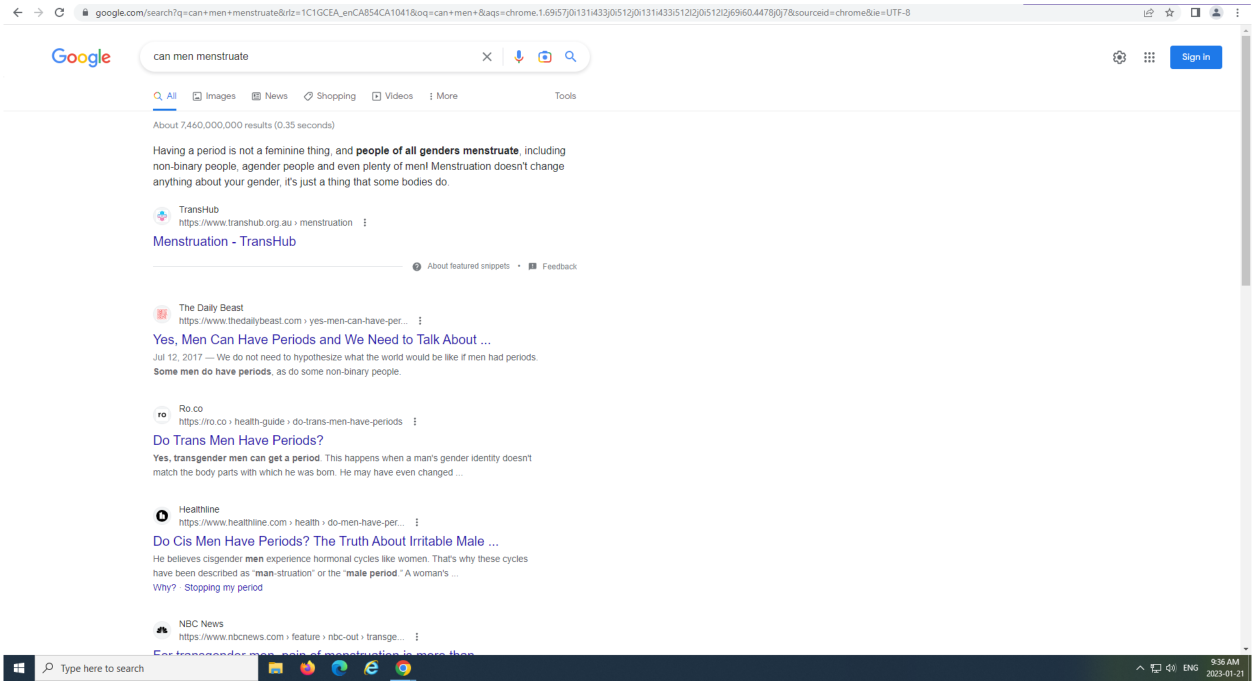
People also ask

AA
can men mentrate

At first, I didn’t think this was real?

Google saying men can menstruate? No, way!! That can’t be true!

But after finally looking it, I was shocked to see that no, it wasn't fake at all, and yes, the largest search engine in the world was placing at the top of its page, for every man, woman, and child of our entire generation to see, that men actually can (and not, can’t) mentruate.


google.com/search?q=can+men+menstruate&rlz=1C1GCEA_enCA854CA1041&oq=can+men+&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j0i131i433j0i512j0i131i433i512l2j0i512l2j69i60.4478j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
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Sign in
All
Images
News
Shopping
Videos
More
Tools
About featured snippets
Feedback
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9:36 AM
2023-01-21

About 7,460,000,000 results (0.35 seconds)

Having a period is not a feminine thing, and **people of all genders menstruate**, including non-binary people, agender people and even plenty of men! Menstruation doesn't change anything about your gender, it's just a thing that some bodies do.

TransHub
https://www.transhub.org.au › menstruation
Menstruation - TransHub

The Daily Beast
https://www.thedailybeast.com › yes-men-can-have-per...
Yes, Men Can Have Periods and We Need to Talk About ...
Jul 12, 2017 — We do not need to hypothesize what the world would be like if men had periods. **Some men do have periods**, as do some non-binary people.

Ro.co
https://ro.co › health-guide › do-trans-men-have-periods
Do Trans Men Have Periods?
Yes, transgender men can get a period. This happens when a man's gender identity doesn't match the body parts with which he was born. He may have even changed ...

Healthline
https://www.healthline.com › health › do-men-have-per...
Do Cis Men Have Periods? The Truth About Irritable Male ...
He believes cisgender **men** experience hormonal cycles like women. That's why these cycles have been described as “**man**-struation” or the “**male period**.” A woman's ...
Why? · Stopping my period

NBC News
https://www.nbcnews.com › feature › nbc-out › transge...
For transgender men, pain of menstruation is more than

This is world we live in folks!

Just a quick FYI: **Men CAN'T menstruate**!!

Where is it coming from??!

What hole?!

WHAT HOLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!??

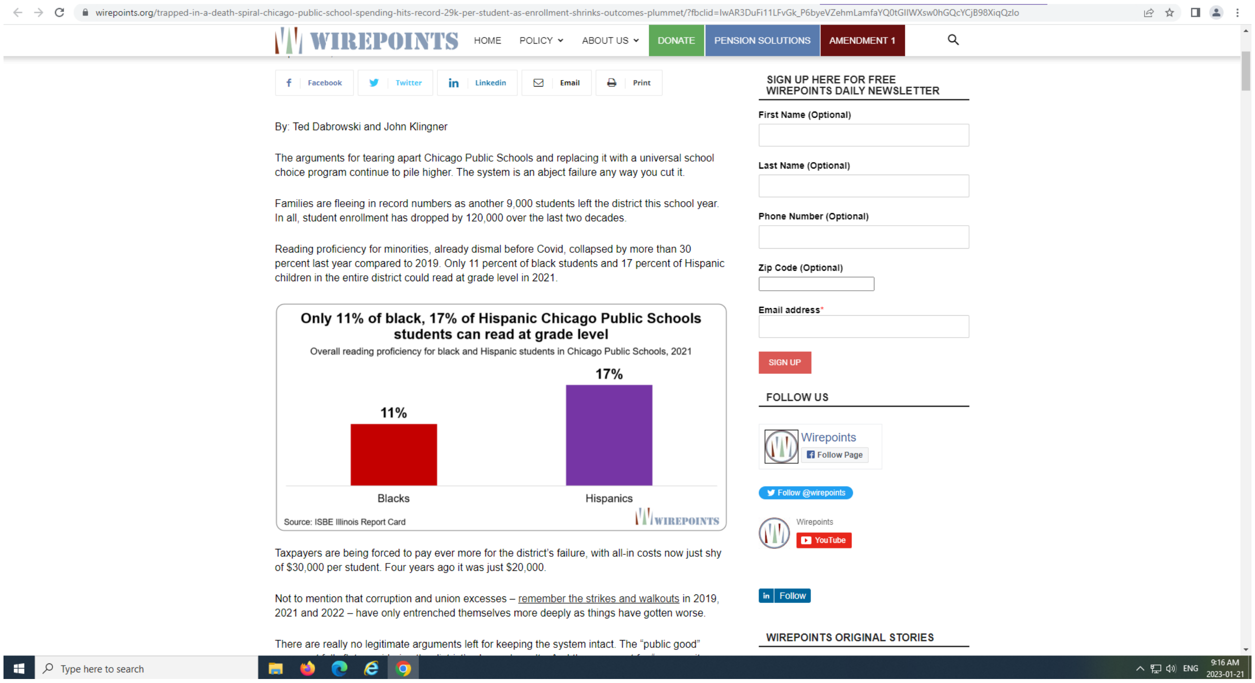
Censorship, tech: Facebook And Instagram Could Soon Allow Transgender And Non-Binary People To Show Their Breasts

Regardless, Meta’s Oversight Board, which the company refers to as its "Supreme Court" for moderation and censorship policies, ordered both Facebook and Instagram to "lift a ban on images of topless women for anyone who identifies as transgender or non-binary," the Post wrote. Jan21

Crypto: **Cardano Founder Considers Bailing Out CoinDesk, Says $200 Million Is "Overpriced"jan21**

Censorship, policy: incredible statement: "The obvious solution would be for our schools to imitate the most successful parts of our economy. Our economy – the richest in human history – has historically been premised on the belief that competition is good, monopolies are bad, and failing organizations should either adapt or pay the price. Where there is genuine competition, consumers will choose the best options, and businesses will strive to provide them – or go under. Public schools don't face those incentives and don't pay a price for their failure. The rest of us do, especially the ill-served students, who will pay a terrible price for the rest of their lives."

the state of america's public school system: Only 11% of blacks can read at grade level in chicago


wirepoints.org/trapped-in-a-death-spiral-chicago-public-school-spending-hits-record-29k-per-student-as-enrollment-shrinks-outcomes-plummet/?fbclid=IwAR3DuFi11LFvGk_P6byeVZehmLamfaYQ0tGIIWXsw0hGQcYCjB98XiqQzIo
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Phone Number (Optional)
Zip Code (Optional)
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2023-01-21

By: Ted Dabrowski and John Klingner

The arguments for tearing apart Chicago Public Schools and replacing it with a universal school choice program continue to pile higher. The system is an abject failure any way you cut it.

Families are fleeing in record numbers as another 9,000 students left the district this school year. In all, student enrollment has dropped by 120,000 over the last two decades.

Reading proficiency for minorities, already dismal before Covid, collapsed by more than 30 percent last year compared to 2019. Only 11 percent of black students and 17 percent of Hispanic children in the entire district could read at grade level in 2021.

Only 11% of black, 17% of Hispanic Chicago Public Schools students can read at grade level

Overall reading proficiency for black and Hispanic students in Chicago Public Schools, 2021

11%
17%
Blacks
Hispanics
WIREPOINTS

Source: ISBE Illinois Report Card

Taxpayers are being forced to pay ever more for the district's failure, with all-in costs now just shy of $30,000 per student. Four years ago it was just $20,000.

Not to mention that corruption and union excesses – remember the strikes and walkouts in 2019, 2021 and 2022 – have only entrenched themselves more deeply as things have gotten worse.

There are really no legitimate arguments left for keeping the system intact. The "public good"

https://wirepoints.org/trapped-in-a-death-spiral-chicago-public-school-spending-hits-record-29k-per-student-as-enrollment-shrinks-outcomes-plummet/?fbclid=IwAR3DuFi11LFvGk_P6byeVZehmLamfaYQ0tGIIWXsw0hGQcYCjB98XiqQzIo

policy, media: **increased discovery standards have tossed 69% of cases out of court, new story by NYP saysThe study noted the state's discovery rules were such a radical version of reform that even Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg (D) was not happy with them, stating, "My Office's lawyers and support staff continue their herculean efforts in managing discovery-related obligations."**

It's appalling how broken the justice system is with the radical policies democrats impose. They empower criminals at the expense of the innocent,"

Justice ‘reforms’ forcing prosecutors to toss out 69% of NYC criminal cases, alarming new study finds

Meanwhile, the discovery law has also “crippled” the justice system by leading to “mass attrition” in DA’s offices statewide, with many of the 30 respondents to an October survey saying that 40% of ADAs in their offices had quit since the discovery law took effect, according to the study.

“Tens of thousands of cases were needlessly dismissed across the city last year because of the reform’s requirement that prosecutors share mounds of inconsequential information. Revisions to the reform are urgently needed,” she said.

nypostdotcom/2023/01/19/new-study-shows-how-ny-law-puts-bad-guys-back-on-streets/?utm_source=sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=metro_news_alert&utm_content=20230119?&utm_source=sailthru&lctg=626f2a53a63162293d03514d&utm_term=NYP%20-%20Metro%20Alerts

war: jan20 Some diplomats and officials in Brussels, while dismayed by the serial negative signals from Yanukovych in recent weeks, remained nonetheless hopeful that the president was bluffing, seeking to extract better terms from the EU and could yet yield at the last minute in Vilnius, issuing a presidential pardon for Tymoshenko. "We deplore the pressure and blackmailing tactics that Russia has used against Ukraine, and other countries," said Hannes Swoboda, leader of the social democrats

in the European Parliament. "It is equally deplorable that Ukraine seems to have given in to this pressure."

theguardianDOTcom/world/2013/nov/21/ukraine-suspends-preparations-eu-trade-pact

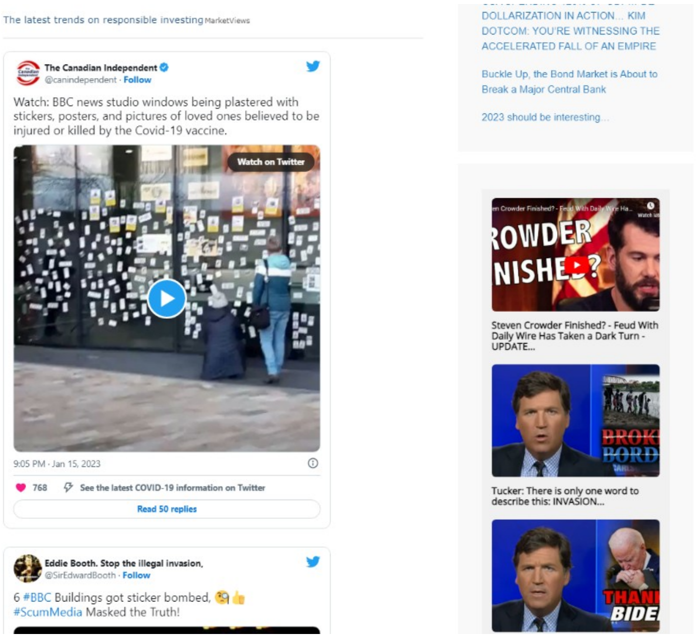
Putin pulls out of 21 treaties with EU; Russia, Ukraine's largest trading partner jan20

2013: uykraine pulls out of eu partnership in favor of largest trading partner and former 'countryman' (i DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS. ALWAYS STUDY RECENT HISTORY BEFORE COMMENTING. JUST LIKE THE STOCK MARKET, YOU JUST DONT KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON BECAUSE YOU WERENT THERE!!!!): At stake was a trade agreement and a political association deal stemming from 2005 when the EU launched its "eastern neighbourhood policy" offering trade and political benefits to post-Soviet states traditionally falling within Moscow's orbit.

2013, guardian: The EU's losing battle for Ukraine is likely to encourage the Kremlin in its view that Europe is weak and divided and lacks foreign policy muscle. In September Armenia succumbed to Russian pressure and turned its back on years of negotiations with the EU in a move that stunned Brussels.

Policy: **Elon Musk: “Even if you tax every billionaire in America at 100%, it barely makes a dent in the national debt. In the end, the government will be forced to tax everyone to pay the debt. Btw, $31T doesn’t include unfunded liabilities, which are *much* higher.”**

Vaccine, war, censorship, journal: **yeah, 6 buildings..they're waiting until everybody is most pissed, then comes the big one**



The latest trends on responsible investing MarketViews

The Canadian Independent
@canindependent · Follow

Watch: BBC news studio windows being plastered with stickers, posters, and pictures of loved ones believed to be injured or killed by the Covid-19 vaccine.

9:05 PM · Jan 15, 2023

768 See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Read 50 replies

Eddie Booth. Stop the illegal invasion,
@SirEdwardBooth · Follow

6 #BBC Buildings got sticker bombed, 🧐👍
#ScumMedia Masked the Truth!

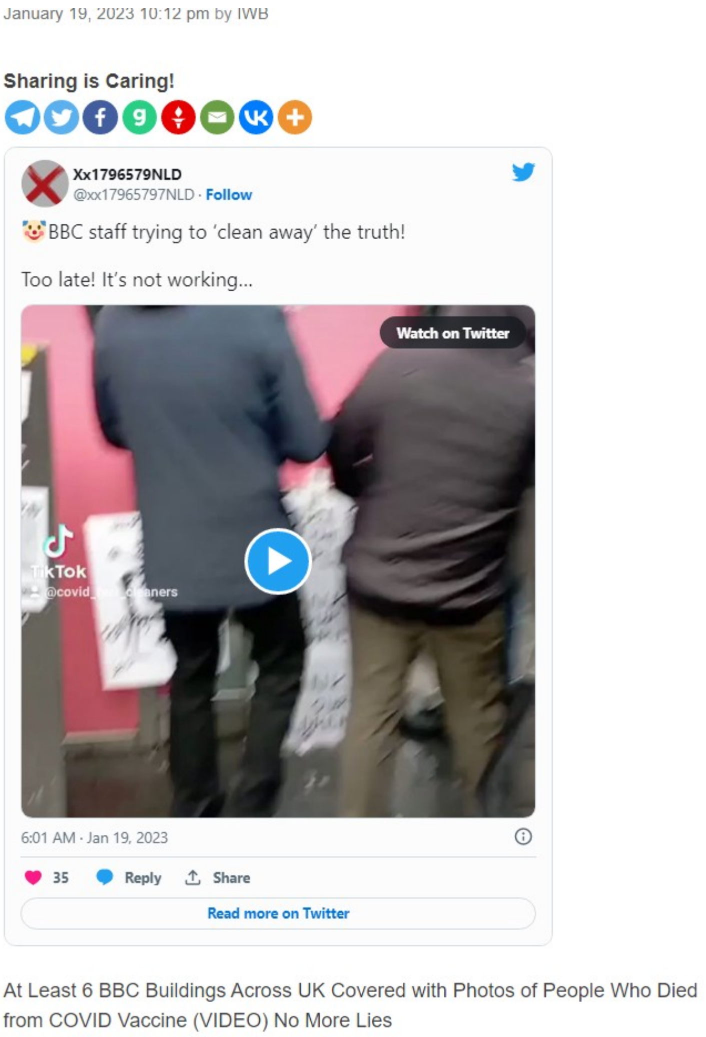
DOLLARIZATION IN ACTION... KIM DOTCOM: YOU'RE WITNESSING THE ACCELERATED FALL OF AN EMPIRE

Buckle Up, the Bond Market is About to Break a Major Central Bank

2023 should be interesting...

Steven Crowder Finished? - Feud With Daily Wire Has Taken a Dark Turn - UPDATE...

Tucker: There is only one word to describe this: INVASION...


January 19, 2023 10:12 pm by IWB

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🤡BBC staff trying to 'clean away' the truth!

Too late! It's not working...

Watch on Twitter
TikTok
@covid_vax_cleaners

6:01 AM · Jan 19, 2023

35
Reply
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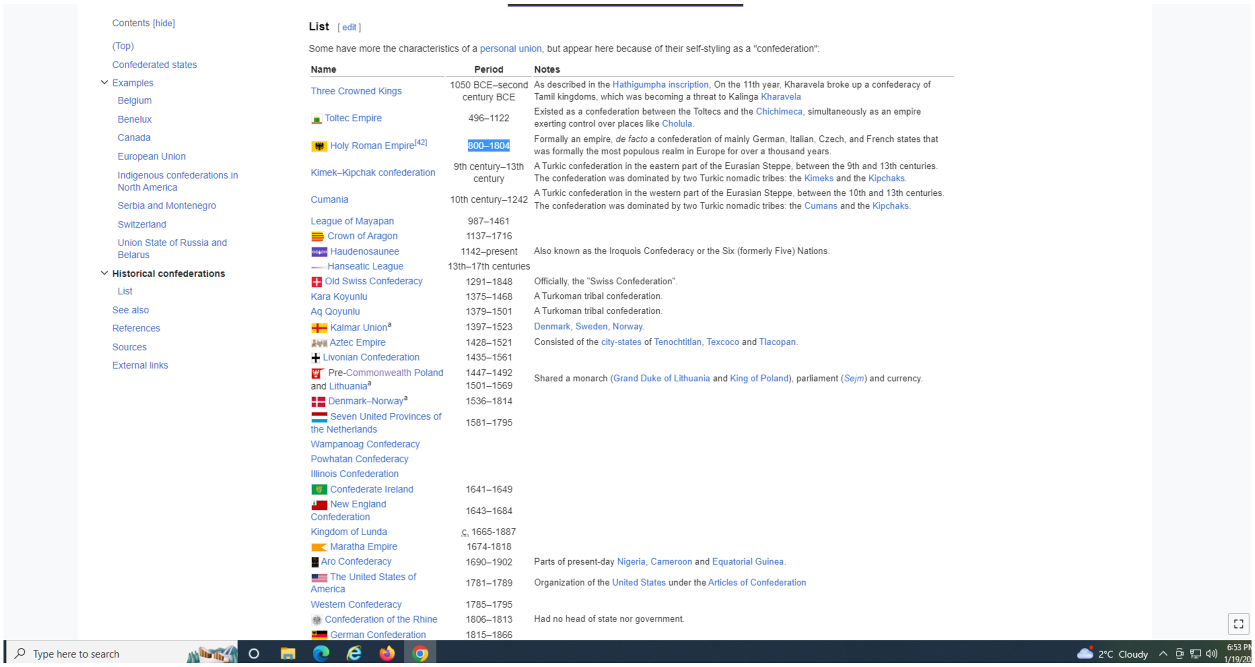
At Least 6 BBC Buildings Across UK Covered with Photos of People Who Died from COVID Vaccine (VIDEO) No More Lies

History, rome: confirms what i was looking for, although just a simple declarative statement, still probably credible: (800–1804)Formally an empire, de facto a confederation of mainly German, Italian, Czech, and French states that was formally the most populous realm in Europe for over a thousand years.



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List [edit]

Some have more the characteristics of a personal union, but appear here because of their self-styling as a "confederation":

Name	Period	Notes
Three Crowned Kings	1050 BCE–second century BCE	As described in the Hathigumpha inscription, On the 11th year, Kharavela broke up a confederacy of Tamil kingdoms, which was becoming a threat to Kalinga Kharavela
Toltec Empire	496–1122	Existed as a confederation between the Toltecs and the Chichimeca, simultaneously as an empire exerting control over places like Cholula.
Holy Roman Empire[42]	800–1804	Formally an empire, *de facto* a confederation of mainly German, Italian, Czech, and French states that was formally the most populous realm in Europe for over a thousand years.
Kimek–Kipchak confederation	9th century–13th century	A Turkic confederation in the eastern part of the Eurasian Steppe, between the 9th and 13th centuries. The confederation was dominated by two Turkic nomadic tribes: the Kimeks and the Kipchaks.
Cumania	10th century–1242	A Turkic confederation in the western part of the Eurasian Steppe, between the 10th and 13th centuries. The confederation was dominated by two Turkic nomadic tribes: the Cumans and the Kipchaks.
League of Mayapan	987–1461	
Crown of Aragon	1137–1716	
Haudenosaunee	1142–present	Also known as the Iroquois Confederacy or the Six (formerly Five) Nations.
Hanseatic League	13th–17th centuries	
Old Swiss Confederacy	1291–1848	Officially, the "Swiss Confederation".
Kara Koyunlu	1375–1468	A Turkoman tribal confederation.
Aq Qoyunlu	1379–1501	A Turkoman tribal confederation.
Kalmar Union[a]	1397–1523	Denmark, Sweden, Norway.
Aztec Empire	1428–1521	Consisted of the city-states of Tenochtitlan, Texcoco and Tlacopan.
Livonian Confederation	1435–1561	
Pre-Commonwealth Poland and Lithuania[a]	1447–1492 1501–1569	Shared a monarch (Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland), parliament (*Sejm*) and currency.
Denmark–Norway[a]	1536–1814	
Seven United Provinces of the Netherlands	1581–1795	
Wampanoag Confederacy		
Powhatan Confederacy		
Illinois Confederation		
Confederate Ireland	1641–1649	
New England Confederation	1643–1684	
Kingdom of Lunda	c. 1665-1887	
Maratha Empire	1674-1818	
Aro Confederacy	1690–1902	Parts of present-day Nigeria, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.
The United States of America	1781–1789	Organization of the United States under the Articles of Confederation
Western Confederacy	1785–1795	
Confederation of the Rhine	1806–1813	Had no head of state nor government.
German Confederation	1815–1866	

Early Middle Ages

typically regarded by historians as lasting from the late 5th or early 6th century to the 10th century

marked the start of the Middle Ages of European history, following the decline of the Western Roman Empire, and preceding the High Middle Ages (c. 11th to 13th centuries). The alternative term *late antiquity*, for the early part of the period, emphasizes elements of continuity with the Roman Empire,

The period saw a continuation of trends evident since late classical antiquity, including population decline, especially in urban centres, a decline of trade, a small rise in average temperatures in the North Atlantic region and increased migration. In the 19th century the Early Middle Ages were often labelled the *Dark Ages*, a characterization based on the relative scarcity of literary and cultural output from this time, although the term is scarcely used by academics today.[1] However, the Eastern Roman Empire, or Byzantine Empire, continued to survive, though in the 7th century the Rashidun Caliphate and the Umayyad Caliphate conquered swathes of formerly Roman territory.

Many of the listed trends reversed later in the period. In 800, the title of *Emperor* was revived in Western Europe with Charlemagne, whose Carolingian Empire greatly affected later European social structure and history. Europe experienced a return to systematic agriculture in the form of the feudal system, which adopted such innovations as three-field planting and the heavy plough. Barbarian migration stabilized in much of Europe, although the Viking expansion greatly affected Northern Europe.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Middle_Ages

The **Holy Roman Empire**[17] was a political entity[18] in Western, Central, and Southern Europe that developed during the Early Middle Ages and continued until its dissolution in 1806 during the Napoleonic Wars.[19]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire

history, fall of rome: **eastern roman recapture in 500, byzantine was greek: the Byzantines managed to fend off assaults by the migrating barbarians. Their dreams of subduing the Western potentates briefly materialized during the reign of Justinian I in 527–565. Not only did Justinian restore some western territories to the Roman Empire, including Rome and the Italian peninsula itself, but he also codified Roman law (with his codification remaining in force in many areas of Europe until the 19th century) and commissioned the building of the largest and most architecturally advanced edifice of the Early Middle Ages, the Hagia Sophia. However, his reign also saw the outbreak of a bubonic plague pandemic,[19][20] now known retroactively as the Plague of Justinian. The Emperor himself was afflicted, and within the span of less than a year, an estimated 200,000 Constantinopolites—two out of every five city residents—had died of the disease**

Justinian's successors Maurice and Heraclius confronted invasions by the Avar and Slavic tribes. After the devastations by the Slavs and the Avars, large areas of the Balkans became depopulated. In 626 Constantinople, by far the largest city of early medieval Europe, withstood a combined siege by Avars and Persians. Within several decades, Heraclius completed a holy war against the Persians, taking their capital and having a Sassanid monarch assassinated. Yet Heraclius lived to see his spectacular success undone by the Muslim conquests of Syria, three Palaestina provinces, Egypt, and North Africa which was considerably facilitated by religious disunity and the proliferation of heretical movements (notably Monophysitism and Nestorianism) in the areas converted to Islam.

Restored Walls of Constantinople

Although Heraclius's successors managed to salvage Constantinople from two Arab sieges (in 674–77 and 717), the empire of the 8th and early 9th century was rocked by the great Iconoclastic Controversy, punctuated by dynastic struggles between various factions at court. The Bulgar and Slavic tribes profited from these disorders and invaded Illyria, Thrace and even Greece. After the decisive victory at Ongala in 680 the armies of the Bulgars and Slavs advanced to the south of the Balkan mountains, defeating again the Byzantines who were then forced to sign a humiliating peace treaty which acknowledged the establishment of the First Bulgarian Empire on the borders of the Empire.

To counter these threats a new system of administration was introduced. The regional civil and military administration were combined in the hands of a general, or strategos. A theme, which formerly denoted a subdivision of the Byzantine army, came to refer to a region governed by a strategos. The reform led to the emergence of great landed families which controlled the regional military and often pressed their claims to the throne (see Bardas Phocas and Bardas Sklerus for characteristic examples).

Christ crowning Constantine VII

ivory plaque, ca. 945

By the early 8th century, notwithstanding the shrinking territory of the empire, Constantinople remained the largest and the wealthiest city west of China, comparable only to Sassanid Ctesiphon, and later Abbasid Baghdad. The population of the imperial capital fluctuated between 300,000 and 400,000 as the emperors undertook measures to restrain its growth. The only other large Christian cities were Rome (50,000) and Salonika (30,000).[23] Even before the 8th century was out, the Farmer's Law signalled the resurrection of agricultural technologies in the Roman Empire. As the 2006 *Encyclopædia Britannica* noted, "the technological base of Byzantine society was more advanced than that of contemporary western Europe: iron tools could be found in the villages; water mills dotted the landscape; and field-sown beans provided a diet rich in protein".[24]

The ascension of the Macedonian dynasty in 867 marked the end of the period of political and religious turmoil and introduced a new golden age of the empire. While the talented generals such as Nicephorus Phocas expanded the frontiers, the Macedonian emperors (such as Leo the Wise and Constantine VII) presided over the cultural flowering in Constantinople, known as the Macedonian Renaissance. The enlightened Macedonian rulers scorned the rulers of Western Europe as illiterate barbarians and maintained a nominal claim to rule over the West. Although this fiction had been exploded with the coronation of Charlemagne in Rome (800), the Byzantine rulers did not treat their Western counterparts as equals. Generally, they had little interest in political and economic developments in the barbarian (from their point of view) West.

Against this economic background the culture and the imperial traditions of the Eastern Roman Empire attracted its northern neighbours—Slavs, Bulgars, and Khazars—to Constantinople, in search of either pillage or enlightenment. The movement of the Germanic tribes to the south triggered the great migration of the Slavs, who occupied the vacated territories. In the 7th century, they moved westward to the Elbe, southward to the Danube and eastward to the Dnieper. By the 9th century, the Slavs had expanded into sparsely inhabited territories to the south and east from these natural frontiers, peacefully assimilating the indigenous Illyrian and Finnic populations.

Rise of Islam[edit]

632–750

Main articles: Spread of Islam, Early Muslim conquests, Arab–Byzantine wars, Muslim conquest of the Levant, Umayyad conquest of Spain, and History of Islam in southern Italy

Europe around 650

From the 7th century, Byzantine history was greatly affected by the rise of Islam and the Caliphates. Muslim Arabs first invaded historically Roman territory under Abū Bakr, first Caliph of the Rashidun Caliphate, who entered Roman Syria and Roman

Mesopotamia. The Byzantines and neighbouring Persian Sasanids had been severely weakened by a long succession of Byzantine–Sasanian wars, especially the climactic Byzantine–Sasanian War of 602–628. Under Umar, the second Caliph, the Muslims decisively conquered Syria and Mesopotamia, as well as Roman Palestine, Roman Egypt, parts of Asia Minor and Roman North Africa, while they entirely toppled the Sasanids. In the mid 7th century, following the Muslim conquest of Persia, Islam penetrated into the Caucasus region, of which parts would later permanently become part of Russia.[25] This expansion of Islam continued under Umar's successors and then the Umayyad Caliphate, which conquered the rest of Mediterranean North Africa and most of the Iberian Peninsula. Over the next centuries Muslim forces were able to take further European territory, including Cyprus, Malta, Septimania, Crete, and Sicily and parts of southern Italy.[26]

The Muslim conquest of Hispania began when the Moors (mostly Berbers and some Arabs) invaded the Christian Visigothic Kingdom in the year 711, under their Berber leader Tariq ibn Ziyad. They landed at Gibraltar on 30 April and worked their way northward. Tariq's forces were joined the next year by those of his superior, Musa ibn Nusair. During the eight-year campaign most of the Iberian Peninsula was brought under Muslim rule—except for small areas in the north-northwest (Asturias) and largely Basque regions in the Pyrenees. This territory, under the Arab name Al-Andalus, became part of the expanding Umayyad empire.

The unsuccessful second siege of Constantinople (717) weakened the Umayyad dynasty and reduced their prestige. After their success in overrunning Iberia, the conquerors moved northeast across the Pyrenees. They were defeated by the Frankish leader Charles Martel at the Battle of Poitiers in 732. The Umayyads were overthrown in 750 by the Abbāsids and most of the Umayyad clan were massacred.

A surviving Umayyad prince, Abd-ar-rahman I, escaped to Spain and founded a new Umayyad dynasty in the Emirate of Cordoba in 756. Charles Martel's son Pippin the Short retook Narbonne, and his grandson Charlemagne established the Marca Hispanica across the Pyrenees in part of what today is Catalonia, reconquering Girona in 785 and Barcelona in 801. The Umayyads in Hispania proclaimed themselves caliphs in 929.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Middle_Ages

the most shattering defeat that the Romans had suffered since the Battle of Cannae (216 BC), according to the Roman military writer Ammianus Marcellinus.:

In the Gothic War (376–382), the Goths revolted and confronted the main Roman army in the Battle of Adrianople (378). By this time, the distinction in the Roman army between Roman regulars and barbarian auxiliaries had broken down, and the Roman army was composed mainly of barbarians and soldiers recruited for a single campaign. The general decline in discipline also led to the use of smaller shields and lighter weaponry.[6] Not wanting to share the glory, Eastern Emperor Valens ordered an attack on the Therving infantry under Fritigern without waiting for Western Emperor Gratian, who was on the way with reinforcements. While the Romans were fully engaged, the Greuthung cavalry arrived. Only one-third of the Roman army managed to escape. This represented the most shattering defeat that the Romans had suffered since the Battle of Cannae (216 BC), according to the Roman military writer Ammianus Marcellinus.[7] The core army of the Eastern Roman Empire was destroyed, Valens was killed, and the Goths were freed to lay waste to the Balkans, including the armories along the Danube. As Edward Gibbon comments, "The Romans, who so coolly and so concisely mention the acts of *justice* which were exercised by the legions, reserve their compassion and their eloquence for their own sufferings, when the provinces were invaded and desolated by the arms of the successful Barbarians."[8]

The empire lacked the resources, and perhaps the will, to reconstruct the professional mobile army destroyed at Adrianople, so it had to rely on barbarian armies to fight for it. The Eastern Roman Empire succeeded in buying off the Goths with tribute. The Western Roman Empire proved less fortunate. Stilicho, the western empire's half-Vandal military commander, stripped the Rhine frontier of troops to fend off invasions of Italy by the Visigoths in 402–03 and by other Goths in 406–07.

Fleeing before the advance of the Huns, the Vandals, Suebi, and Alans launched an attack across the frozen Rhine near Mainz; on 31 December 406, the frontier gave way and these tribes surged into Roman Gaul. There soon followed the Burgundians and bands of the Alamanni. In the fit of anti-barbarian hysteria which followed, the Western Roman Emperor Honorius had Stilicho summarily beheaded (408). Stilicho submitted his neck, "with a firmness not unworthy of the last of the Roman generals", wrote Gibbon. Honorius was left with only worthless courtiers to advise him. In 410, the Visigoths led by Alaric I captured the city of Rome and for three days fire and slaughter ensued as bodies filled the streets, palaces were stripped of their valuables, and the invaders interrogated and tortured those citizens thought to have hidden wealth. As newly converted Christians, the Goths respected church property, but those who found sanctuary in the Vatican and in other churches were the fortunate few.

The Goths and Vandals were only the first of many bands of peoples that flooded Western Europe in the absence of administrative governance. Some[*who?*] lived only for war and pillage and disdained Roman ways. Other peoples[9] had been in prolonged contact with the Roman civilization, and were, to a certain degree, romanized. "A poor Roman plays the Goth, a rich Goth the Roman," said King Theoderic of the Ostrogoths.[10] The subjects of the Roman empire were a mixture of Roman Christian, Arian Christian, Nestorian Christian, and pagan.[*citation needed*] The Germanic peoples knew little of cities, money, or writing, and were mostly pagan, though they were increasingly converting to Arianism, a non-trinitarian form of Christianity that considers God the Son to have been created by, and thus inferior to, God the Father, rather than the two being co-eternal, which is the position of Chalcedonian Christianity. Arianism found some favour in the Roman Empire before being eclipsed by the Chalcedonian position and then suppressed as heretical.

During the migrations, or *Völkerwanderung* (wandering of the peoples), the earlier settled populations were sometimes left intact though usually partially or entirely displaced. Roman culture north of the Po River was almost entirely displaced by the migrations. Whereas the peoples of France, Italy, Spain and Portugal continued to speak the dialects of Vulgar Latin that today constitute the Romance languages, the language of the smaller Roman-era population of what is now England disappeared with barely a trace in the territories settled by the Anglo-Saxons, although the Brittanic kingdoms of the west remained Brythonic speakers. The new peoples greatly altered established society, including law, culture, religion, and patterns of property ownership.

A paten from the Treasure of Gourdon, found at Gourdon, Saône-et-Loire, France.

The *pax Romana* had provided safe conditions for trade and manufacture, and a unified cultural and educational milieu of far-ranging connections. As this was lost, it was replaced by the rule of local potentates, sometimes members of the established Romanized ruling elite, sometimes new lords of alien culture. In Aquitania, Gallia Narbonensis, southern Italy and Sicily, Baetica or southern Spain, and the Iberian Mediterranean coast, Roman culture lasted until the 6th or 7th centuries.

The gradual breakdown and transformation of economic and social linkages and infrastructure resulted in increasingly localized outlooks. This breakdown was often fast and dramatic as it became unsafe to travel or carry goods over any distance; there was a consequent collapse in trade and manufacture for export. Major industries that depended on trade, such as large-scale pottery manufacture, vanished almost overnight in places like Britain. Tintagel in Cornwall, as well as several other centres, managed to obtain supplies of Mediterranean luxury goods well into the 6th century, but then lost their trading links. Administrative, educational and military infrastructure quickly vanished, and the loss of the established *cursus honorum* led to the collapse of the schools and to a rise of illiteracy even among the leadership. The careers of Cassiodorus (died c. 585) at the beginning of this period and of Alcuin of York (died 804) at its close were founded alike on their valued literacy. For the formerly Roman area, there was another 20 per cent decline in population between 400 and 600, or a one-third decline for 150–600.[11] In the 8th century, the volume of trade reached its lowest level. The very small number of shipwrecks found that dated from the 8th century supports this (which represents less than 2 per cent of the number of shipwrecks dated from the 1st century). There was also reforestation and a retreat of agriculture centred around 500.

The Romans had practiced two-field agriculture, with a crop grown in one field and the other left fallow and ploughed under to eliminate weeds. Systematic agriculture largely disappeared and yields declined. It is estimated that the Plague of Justinian which began in 541 and recurred periodically for 150 years thereafter killed as many as 100 million people across the world.[12][13] Some historians such as Josiah C. Russell (1958) have suggested a total European population loss of 50 to 60 per cent between 541 and 700.[14] After the year 750, major epidemic diseases did not appear again in Europe until the Black Death of the 14th century. The disease smallpox, which was eradicated in the late 20th century, did not definitively enter Western Europe until about 581 when Bishop Gregory of Tours provided an eyewitness account that describes the characteristic findings of smallpox.[15] Waves of epidemics wiped out large rural populations.[16] Most of the details about the epidemics are lost, probably due to the scarcity of surviving written records.

For almost a thousand years, Rome was the most politically important, richest and largest city in Europe.[17] Around 100 AD, it had a population of about 450,000,[18] and declined to a mere 20,000 during the Early Middle Ages, reducing the sprawling city to groups of inhabited buildings interspersed among large areas of ruins and vegetation.

Byzantine Empire[edit]

Main article: Byzantine Empire

Byzantine Empire

Byzantium under the Justinian dynasty

- Under Emperor Justinian (r. 527–565), the Byzantines were able to reestablish Roman rule in Italy and most of North Africa.

- 🟧 Justinian's conquests
- 🟥 Eastern Empire

The death of Theodosius I in 395 was followed by the division of the empire between his two sons. The Western Roman Empire disintegrated into a mosaic of warring Germanic kingdoms in the 5th century, effectively making the Eastern Roman Empire in Constantinople the Greek-speaking successor to the classical Roman Empire. To distinguish it from its predominantly Latin-speaking predecessor, historians began referring to the empire as "Byzantine", after the original name of Constantinople, Byzantium. Despite this, the inhabitants of the Byzantine Empire continued to regard themselves as Romans, or *Romaioi*, until the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire in 1453.

The Eastern Roman or "Byzantine" Empire aimed to retain control of the trade routes between Europe and the Orient, which made the Empire the richest polity in Medieval Europe. Making use of their sophisticated warfare and superior diplomacy, the Byzantines managed to fend off assaults by the migrating barbarians. Their dreams of subduing the Western potentates briefly materialized during the reign of Justinian I in 527–565. Not only did Justinian restore some western territories to the Roman Empire, including Rome and the Italian peninsula itself, but he also codified Roman law (with his codification remaining in force in many areas of Europe until the 19th century) and commissioned the building of the largest and most architecturally advanced edifice of the Early Middle Ages, the Hagia Sophia. However, his reign also saw the outbreak of a bubonic plague pandemic,[19][20] now known retroactively as the Plague of Justinian. The Emperor himself was afflicted, and within the span of less than a year, an estimated 200,000 Constantinopolites—two out of every five city residents—had died of the disease.[21]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Middle_Ages

war: lavrov on the coming multi-polar world: "Lavrov warned that Russia's showdown with the West over Ukraine was part of a global policy shift that will evolve over a long period. "The process of forming a multipolar world order will be long; it will take an epoch," he said. "And we are in the middle of that process now."

aljazeeradotcom/news/2023/1/18/lavrov-hails-moscow-beijing-ties-accuses-us-of-provocations

war, markets: jan19 Seoul, South Korea: biden visits samsung, South Korea's biggest conglomerate

"Semiconductors power our economies and enable our modern lives, from our automobiles to our smartphones to medical diagnostic equipment," Biden said at the factory before touting chips as the next frontier in the alliance between the US and South Korea that dates back to the 1950-1953 Korean War.

"And by uniting our skills and our technological know-how, it allows the production of chips that are critical to both our countries and are essential – essential – sectors of our global economy."

But several months removed from that visit, the picture of mutually beneficial cooperation presented by Biden is being complicated by US measures to both restore its own manufacturing base and confront China.

Even as Washington tries to recruit Asian allies and partners to join the pushback against Beijing, its turn towards protectionism has caused jitters in the US-friendly chip powerhouses of South Korea and Taiwan, both of which have close economic links to China.

“To a good extent [the US] is very dependent on everybody, [and] everybody is very dependent on China,” G Dan Hutcheson, vice chair of TechInsights Inc., told Al Jazeera, arguing that while these countries may to an extent see each other as competitors for chip supremacy, their economies rely on trade with each other.

There are scenarios where competition over chips could compel countries to seek leverage by withholding exports of other items, such as electronics or pharmaceuticals, thereby causing broad disruptions to global trade and shortages of consumer goods, Hutcheson said, adding: “This could just become really ugly very fast.”

In a meeting with reporters last year, Kyung Kye-hyun, head of Samsung Electronics’ semiconductor business, expressed concern about “difficulties in the long run when we have to put new equipment into our factory in China”. Kyung also said South Korea should seek “understanding” from China, the country’s biggest trading partner

In South Korea, Japan and Taiwan, the US push to hobble China’s tech advancement has presented challenges.

South Korea’s Samsung and SK Hynix, which together lead global production of memory chips, and Taiwan’s TSMC, the

No 1 player in non-memory chips, all operate production facilities in China.

Japan, another US ally and home to some of the world’s leading semiconductor materials producers and equipment makers, last year exported more than one-third of its manufacturing equipment to China. In a meeting with reporters last year, Kyung Kye-hyun, head of Samsung Electronics’ semiconductor business, expressed concern about “difficulties in the long run when we have to put new equipment into our factory in China”.

Kyung also said South Korea should seek “understanding” from China, the country’s biggest trading partner, before joining a proposed “Chip 4 alliance” comprising the US, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan.

In August, Biden signed the Chips and Science Act, which highlighted how the US relies on East Asia for 75 percent of its semiconductors.
https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2023/1/5/us-bid-to-hobble-chinas-chips-spells-friend-south-korea-taiwan?traffic_source=KeepReading

tech: "According to market research firm Gartner, in Q4 2022, Apple’s Mac line of desktops and laptops made up just 10.7% of the global market. That’s below the likes of Dell at 16.7%, HP at 20.2%, and Lenovo at 24%. "
https://finance.yahoo.com/news/apple-wants-to-control-everything-from-its-chips-to-screens-193041594.html

tech: “The beauty of the Apple model is that they'll continue to make their chips faster than any other hardware company, selling the benefits of speed for decades to come,” Gene Munster, managing partner at Loup Ventures, wrote in an analyst note. “When it comes to retaining customers and growing Mac revenue, speed is the gift that keeps giving.”
https://finance.yahoo.com/news/apple-wants-to-control-everything-from-its-chips-to-screens-193041594.html

war: jan19
lavrov playing into the ukraine being used a pawn narrative--that is really just be coming a fact at this point, and not a narrative--in his recent comments that were reported by state run russian news network, tass, when he is quoted by them saying, " "We often hear assertions from the West that ‘not a word can be said about Ukraine without Ukraine.’ But, in fact the West is making decisions for Ukraine," Lavrov said, speaking at his annual press conference on the results of Russian diplomacy in 2022. "They have already prohibited [Ukrainian President Vladimir] Zelensky from coming to an agreement with Russia in late March. The West decided for Ukraine and made it on behalf of Ukraine without Ukraine," the top

Russian diplomat noted. Speaking about the negotiations in March 2022, when Moscow backed the Kiev-proposed initiative on settling the conflict, Lavrov pointed out that it was the West, which "restrained Ukraine harshly." "Since then, many Western representatives resorted to various tones on numerous occasions saying that it was still too early to get back to negotiations since it [Ukraine] needs to be supplied with more weapons so that it could resume talks from much stronger positions," the Russian minister added."

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History: prohibition, (1920-1933): Led by pietistic Protestants, prohibitionists first attempted to end the trade in alcoholic drinks during the 19th century. They aimed to heal what they saw as an ill society beset by alcohol-related problems such as alcoholism, family violence, and saloon-based political corruption. ; By the late 1920s, a new opposition to Prohibition emerged nationwide. Critics attacked the policy as causing crime, lowering local revenues, and imposing "rural" Protestant religious values on "urban" America.; In 1830, on average, Americans consumed 1.7 bottles of hard liquor per week, three times the amount consumed in 2010.[22]

Development of the prohibition movement[edit]

Main articles: Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Volstead Act

"Who does not love wine, wife and song, will be a fool his whole life long!" (*Wer nicht liebt Wein, Weib & Gesang / Bleibt ein Narr sein Leben lang.*)

The American Temperance Society (ATS), formed in 1826, helped initiate the first temperance movement and served as a foundation for many later groups. By 1835 the

ATS had reached 1.5 million members, with women constituting 35% to 60% of its chapters.[34]

The Prohibition movement, also known as the dry crusade, continued in the 1840s, spearheaded by pietistic religious denominations, especially the Methodists. The late 19th century saw the temperance movement broaden its focus from abstinence to include all behavior and institutions related to alcohol consumption. Preachers such as Reverend Mark A. Matthews linked liquor-dispensing saloons with political corruption.[35]

Some successes for the movement were achieved in the 1850s, including the Maine law, adopted in 1851, which banned the manufacture and sale of liquor. Before its repeal in 1856, 12 states followed the example set by Maine in total prohibition.[36] The temperance movement lost strength and was marginalized during the American Civil War (1861–1865). Following the war, social moralists turned to other issues, such as Mormon polygamy and the temperance movement.[37][38][39]

The dry crusade was revived by the national Prohibition Party, founded in 1869, and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), founded in 1873. The WCTU advocated the prohibition of alcohol as a method for preventing, through education, abuse from alcoholic husbands.[40] WCTU members believed that if their organization could reach children with its message, it could create a dry sentiment leading to prohibition. Frances Willard, the second president of the WCTU, held that the aims of the organization were to create a "union of women from all denominations, for the purpose of educating the young, forming a better public sentiment, reforming the drinking classes, transforming by the power of Divine grace those who are enslaved by alcohol, and removing the dram-shop from our streets by law".[41] While still denied universal voting privileges, women in the WCTU followed Frances Willard's "Do Everything" doctrine and used temperance as a method of entering into politics and furthering other progressive issues such as prison reform and labor laws.[42]

This 1902 illustration from the *Hawaiian Gazette* newspaper humorously shows the water cure torture used by Anti-Saloon League and WCTU on the brewers of beer.

In 1881 Kansas became the first state to outlaw alcoholic beverages in its Constitution.[43] Arrested over 30 times and fined and jailed on multiple occasions, prohibition activist Carrie Nation attempted to enforce the state's ban on alcohol consumption.[44] She walked into saloons, scolding customers, and used her hatchet to destroy bottles of liquor. Nation recruited ladies into the Carrie Nation Prohibition Group, which she also led. While Nation's vigilante techniques were rare, other activists enforced the dry cause by entering saloons, singing, praying, and urging saloonkeepers to stop selling alcohol.[45] Other dry states, especially those in the South, enacted prohibition legislation, as did individual counties within a state.

The 1800s: When Americans Drank Whiskey Like it was Water

With all of that said, though, there's one aspect of the road to Prohibition that is undeniable, and that's the American appetite for alcohol. In short: We have oftentimes been a nation of drunks, but by today's standards, average alcohol consumption in large parts of the 19th century U.S.A. *was almost beyond rational belief*. You will likely find it hard to accept as a fact just how much booze the average American was consuming in the first half of the 1800's. The figures are almost cartoonishly high, so let's consider how we got there first.

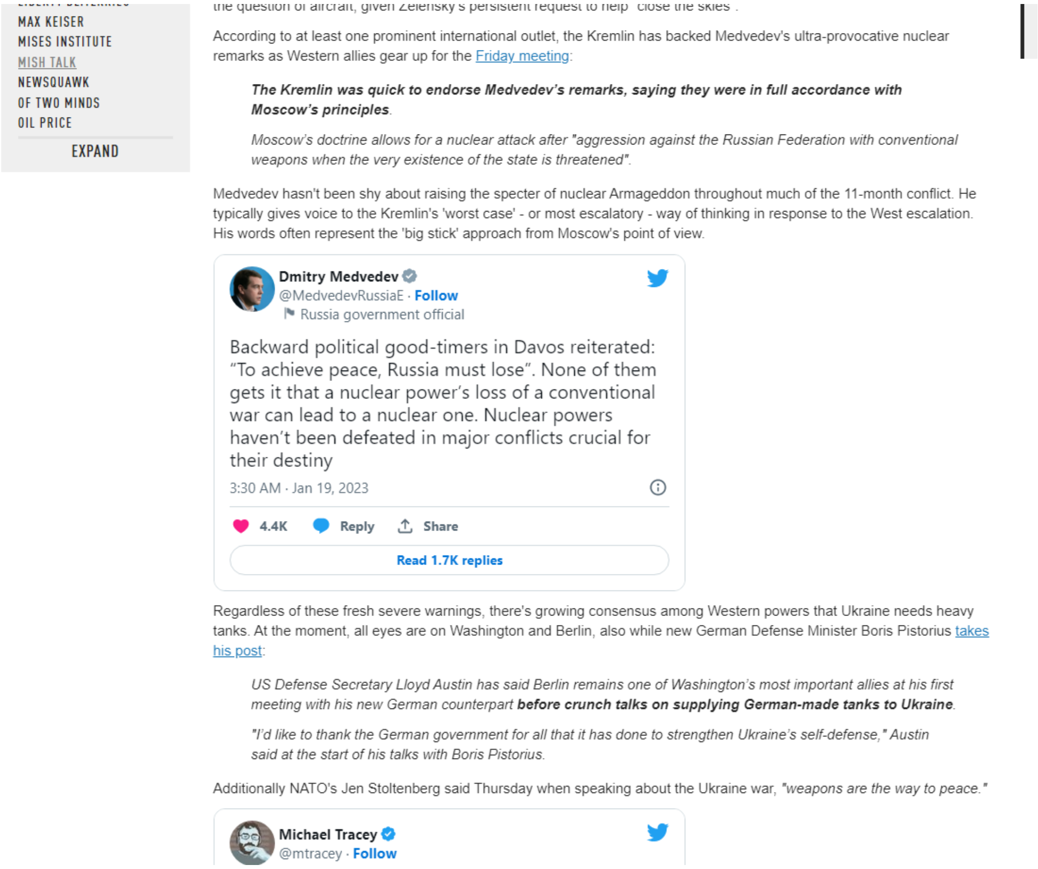
By 1830, alcohol consumption reached its peak at a truly outlandish **7 gallons of ethanol a year** per capita. Via Okrent:

In modern terms, those seven gallons are the equivalent of 1.7 bottles of a standard 80-proof liquor per person, per week— https://www.pastemagazine.com/drink/alcohol-history/the-1800s-when-americans-drank-whiskey-like-it-was/

war: jan19 desparate words from medvedev?:

. **"The defeat of a nuclear power in a conventional war may trigger a nuclear war,"** he began.

"Nuclear powers have never lost major conflicts **on which their fate depends**," the former president, who in prior years had actually been seen as more dovish when compared to Putin, added. Medvedev's comments came in reaction to news of **a major meeting of Western defense leaders set for Friday** at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.



the question of aircraft, given Zelensky's persistent request to help "close the skies".

According to at least one prominent international outlet, the Kremlin has backed Medvedev's ultra-provocative nuclear remarks as Western allies gear up for the Friday meeting:

> ***The Kremlin was quick to endorse Medvedev's remarks, saying they were in full accordance with Moscow's principles****.*
>
> *Moscow's doctrine allows for a nuclear attack after "aggression against the Russian Federation with conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is threatened".*

Medvedev hasn't been shy about raising the specter of nuclear Armageddon throughout much of the 11-month conflict. He typically gives voice to the Kremlin's 'worst case' - or most escalatory - way of thinking in response to the West escalation. His words often represent the 'big stick' approach from Moscow's point of view.

Dmitry Medvedev
@MedvedevRussiaE · **Follow**
Russia government official

Backward political good-timers in Davos reiterated: "To achieve peace, Russia must lose". None of them gets it that a nuclear power's loss of a conventional war can lead to a nuclear one. Nuclear powers haven't been defeated in major conflicts crucial for their destiny

3:30 AM · Jan 19, 2023

Regardless of these fresh severe warnings, there's growing consensus among Western powers that Ukraine needs heavy tanks. At the moment, all eyes are on Washington and Berlin, also while new German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius takes his post:

> *US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has said Berlin remains one of Washington's most important allies at his first meeting with his new German counterpart* ***before crunch talks on supplying German-made tanks to Ukraine****.*
>
> *"I'd like to thank the German government for all that it has done to strengthen Ukraine's self-defense," Austin said at the start of his talks with Boris Pistorius.*

Additionally NATO's Jen Stoltenberg said Thursday when speaking about the Ukraine war, *"weapons are the way to peace."*

Michael Tracey
@mtracey · **Follow**

War: jan19 Ukraine's Zelenskyy invites China's President Xi for 'dialogue'; Zelenskyy's wife, Olena Zelenska, says a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin's ally was handed to the Chinese delegation in Davos.

Zelenskyy has repeatedly sought to make contact with Xi since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February last year in the hope that Beijing will use its influence over Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

"It was a gesture and invitation to dialogue and I hope very much that there will be a response to this invitation," Zelenska told reporters.

China and Russia announced a “no limits” partnership in February last year, shortly before Putin ordered his troops into Ukraine.

Beijing has sought to position itself as neutral in the war, while at the same time deepening ties with Moscow, particularly in the energy sector.

War: **Japan says Fukushima water release to start in ‘spring or summer’, Jan.13th**

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/13/japan-says-fukushima-water-release-to-start-in-spring-or-summer

More than 1 million tonnes of water are being stored in about 1,000 tanks at the destroyed plant, hampering its decommissioning and in danger of leaking in the event of a major earthquake or tsunami.

The Pacific Island Forum (PIF), a regional bloc of 17 island nations, many of whom are still grappling with the legacy of nuclear testing decades ago, say the release of the water could have a significant effect on fishing grounds that their economies rely on, and where up to half of the world’s tuna is sourced.

War, markets: Russia Was Top Seaborne Oil Supplier to Europe in 2022 Despite Sanctions, Jan 18, 2023

While the European Union’s seaborne imports of Russian crude oil declined by just over 12% last year, Russia still enjoyed status as the top seaborne oil supplier to the bloc, despite sanctions.

According to data from maritime sector brokerage firm Banchero Costa, last year saw the EU import 98.8 million tonnes of Russian crude via sea, down from 112.5 million tonnes in 2021 and 128.5 million tonnes in 2019.

For 2022, Russia still accounted for 21.9% of European seaborne imports of Russian crude, followed by the North Sea, which accounted for 17% and North Africa, at 15.4%.

North Sea shipments of oil to Europe were up by 19.2% year-on year, and well above 2019 numbers, while North African shipments of oil to Europe increased by 6%. Shipments from West Africa to Europe were up by 27.5% for 2022. The United States saw a 43.1% increase of crude oil exports to Europe for a record 51.4 million tonnes.

But the biggest surge came from the Arabian Gulf, registering a 76.4% increase year-on-year in 2022, though this is still down from the levels of 2019, while the U.S. exports to Europe were record-breaking.

Overall, Banchero said, citing Refinitiv data, “2022 has turned out to be a very positive year for crude oil trade, despite the surging oil prices and risks of economic recession”.

Globally, the data shows an 8.5% increase in total crude oil loadings, year-on-year. Total loadings came in at 2,047.3 million compared to 1,886.3 million for 2021 and 2,110.5 million tonnes for 2019.

Though Russia has seen its exports to the EU decline by over 12% last year, the data shows that overall it saw an increase in exports by 10.3% to 2018.5 million tonnes. That figure is only slightly below 2019 levels.

Likewise, the United States also experienced a surge in exports of crude oil, gaining over 22% in the twelve months of 2022, as did Saudi Arabia, showing an over 17% increase.

This compares to West Africa and the North Sea, both of which saw a decline in oil exports for 2022.

On the demand side of the equation, China’s intake of seaborne crude oil overall dropped by 3.6% last year, while India saw the reverse: an 11.7% increase in imports.

War: jan.11th: “We are carrying out NATO’s mission,” Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said in an interview. “They aren’t shedding their blood. We’re shedding ours. That’s why they’re required to supply us with weapons.” Repeating a rationale offered by his US sponsors in previous wars, including the invasion of Iraq, Reznikov added that Ukraine “is defending the entire civilized world.”

War: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Wednesday called for a “significant increase” in military aid for Kyiv., recognizes we have reached important crescendo, something I think anybody watching closely can see, jan19

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Wednesday called for a “significant increase” in military aid for Kyiv.

“This is a pivotal moment in the war and the need for a significant increase in support for Ukraine,” the NATO chief told *Reuters* on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

On jan 1st he also said something that sounded counter-intuitive, but gave a nice window into where he stands in terms of aggression

“It may sound like a paradox, but military support for Ukraine is the fastest way to peace,” Stoltenberg told the German news agency *DPA*. “We know that most wars end at the negotiating table – probably this war too – but we know that what Ukraine can achieve in these negotiations depends inextricably on the military situation.”

Clearly on the hawkish end to say the least..

War: jan19

the realities of getting invaded: “Two of my sons work as day labourers, but they don’t make more than 150 Afghanis ($1.68) a day; not even enough to buy food for the day. It has been months since we tasted a fruit or meat,” he said;Climate scientists have attributed the recent weather anomalies to polar vortex disruptions

Located at the foot of the formidable Hindu Kush mountains, their town is no stranger to harsh winter. In fact, the heavy snow replenishes groundwater and can be beneficial to agriculture.

“We are happy it is snowing, it is a gift from God and it will be useful for wells and farmers, but we are very concerned about how will we stay warm as the temperatures fall,” Shahin says. “We can barely afford to buy food,” he added solemnly.

“If we buy coal and wood, then we won’t be able to buy food. The money my husband sends us is not sufficient to even cover basic requirements,” Maryam told Al Jazeera. Her husband works in a neighbouring country.

As the wife of a former soldier with the United States-backed Afghan government, she requested anonymity to avoid Taliban reprisal.

“After the fall of Kabul, my husband was hunted by the Taliban and had to escape to a neighbouring country. For a while, we survived on his savings, and then on charity. He sends us money when he has work, but we can’t afford a bukhari this winter,” she said.

Climate scientists have attributed the recent weather anomalies to polar vortex disruptions, “as a result of which, strong arctic winds flow much farther from the North Pole and bring masses of cold air to our region,” explained Najibullah Sadid, an Afghan climate expert and associate researcher at the University of Stuttgart.

He shared that prediction models estimated that the cold wave would last until the end of January or the first week of February, before the weather returns to average conditions.

“Afghanistan, like other countries, is witnessing a rise in the number of extreme events. This is much to do with climate change as more sun energy is observed by the Earth’s atmosphere that in turn increases the dynamic of atmospheric activities such as heatwaves, rapid rains, etc,” he said, adding that a lack of preparedness for such events could have disastrous consequences for Afghans.

Suspension of NGO services

International sanctions and banking restrictions imposed on the Taliban when they took over the country in August 2021 have triggered an economic crisis, propelling an already distressed country into catastrophe.

aljazeeradotcom/news/2023/1/17/afghans-reel-from-exceptionally-cold-winter

history, rome: more on roman roads

ZDF
LONDON
KÖLN
PARIS
ROM
MADRID
ISTANBUL
TUNIS
MITTELMEER
ALEXANDRIA
JERUSALEM
AFRI
to the Black Sea
or North Africa.

crisis of the third century: Marcus Aurelius Mausaeus Carausius (died 293) was a military commander of the Roman Empire in the 3rd century. He was a Menapian from Belgic Gaul,[1] who usurped power in 286, during the Carausian Revolt, declaring himself emperor in Britain and northern Gaul (Imperium Britanniarum).

Marcus Aurelius Mausaeus Carausius (died 293) was a military commander of the Roman Empire in the 3rd century. He was a Menapian from Belgic Gaul,[1] who usurped power in 286, during the Carausian Revolt, declaring himself emperor in Britain and northern Gaul (Imperium Britanniarum). He did this only 13 years after the Gallic Empire of the Batavian Postumus was ended in 273. He held power for seven years, fashioning the name "Emperor of the North" for himself, before being assassinated by his finance minister Allectus.

gaul below

Conquest by Rome[edit]

Main article: Gallic Wars

Gauls in Rome

The Roman proconsul and general Julius Caesar pushed his army into Gaul in 58 BC, ostensibly to assist Rome's Gaullish allies against the migrating Helvetii. With the help of various Gallic clans (e.g. the Aedui) he managed to conquer nearly all of Gaul. While their military was just as strong as the Romans', the internal division between the Gallic tribes guaranteed an easy victory for Caesar, and Vercingetorix's attempt to unite the Gauls against Roman invasion came too late.[24][25] Julius Caesar was checked by Vercingetorix at a siege of Gergovia, a fortified town in the center of Gaul. Caesar's alliances with many Gallic clans broke. Even the Aedui, their most faithful supporters, threw in their lot with the Arverni but the ever-loyal Remi (best known for its cavalry) and Lingones sent troops to support Caesar. The Germani of the Ubii also sent cavalry, which Caesar equipped with Remi horses. Caesar captured Vercingetorix in the Battle of Alesia, which ended the majority of Gallic resistance to Rome.

As many as a million people (probably 1 in 5 of the Gauls) died, another million were enslaved,[26] 300 clans were subjugated and 800 cities were destroyed during the Gallic Wars.[27] The entire population of the city of Avaricum (Bourges) (40,000 in all) were slaughtered.[28] Before Julius Caesar's campaign against the Helvetii (Switzerland), the Helvetians had numbered 263,000, but afterwards only 100,000 remained, most of whom Caesar took as slaves.[29]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaul

The Roman Crisis of the Third Century continued as the Emperor Valerian was defeated and captured by the Sasanian Empire of Persia in the Battle of Edessa, together with a large part of the Roman field army in the east
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallic_Empire

. In 2005, the remnants of the Upper Germanic & Rhaetian Limes were inscribed on the List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites as *Frontiers of the Roman Empire*.[1] In 2021, the Lower Germanic Limes were separately inscribed on the World Heritage List.[2] The Saalburg is a reconstructed fortification and museum of the Limes near Frankfurt.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limes_Germanicus

Marcus Aurelius Mausaeus Carausius (died 293) was a military commander of the Roman Empire in the 3rd century. He was a Menapian from Belgic Gaul,[1] who usurped power in 286, during the Carausian Revolt, declaring himself emperor in Britain and northern Gaul (Imperium Britanniarum). He did this only 13 years after the Gallic Empire of the Batavian Postumus was ended in 273. He held power for seven years, fashioning the name "Emperor of the North" for himself, before being assassinated by his finance minister Allectus.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carausius

Britannic Empire[edit]

Having warded off a threat to his power, Carausius began to entertain visions of legitimacy and official recognition. He minted his own coins and brought their value into line with Roman issues as well as acknowledging and honouring Maximian and then Diocletian. This suggests that he would have been very willing to participate in a rapprochement, if the others had agreed. He appears to have appealed to native British dissatisfaction with Roman rule: he issued coins with legends such as *Restitutor Britanniae* (Restorer of Britain) and *Genius Britanniae* (Spirit of Britain). Previously, Britain had been part of the Gallic Empire established by Postumus in 260, which had also included Gaul and Hispania and had only been restored by Aurelian in 274. A milestone from Carlisle with his name on it suggests that the whole of Roman Britain was in Carausius' grasp.[7]

Recovery of the Roman Empire[edit]

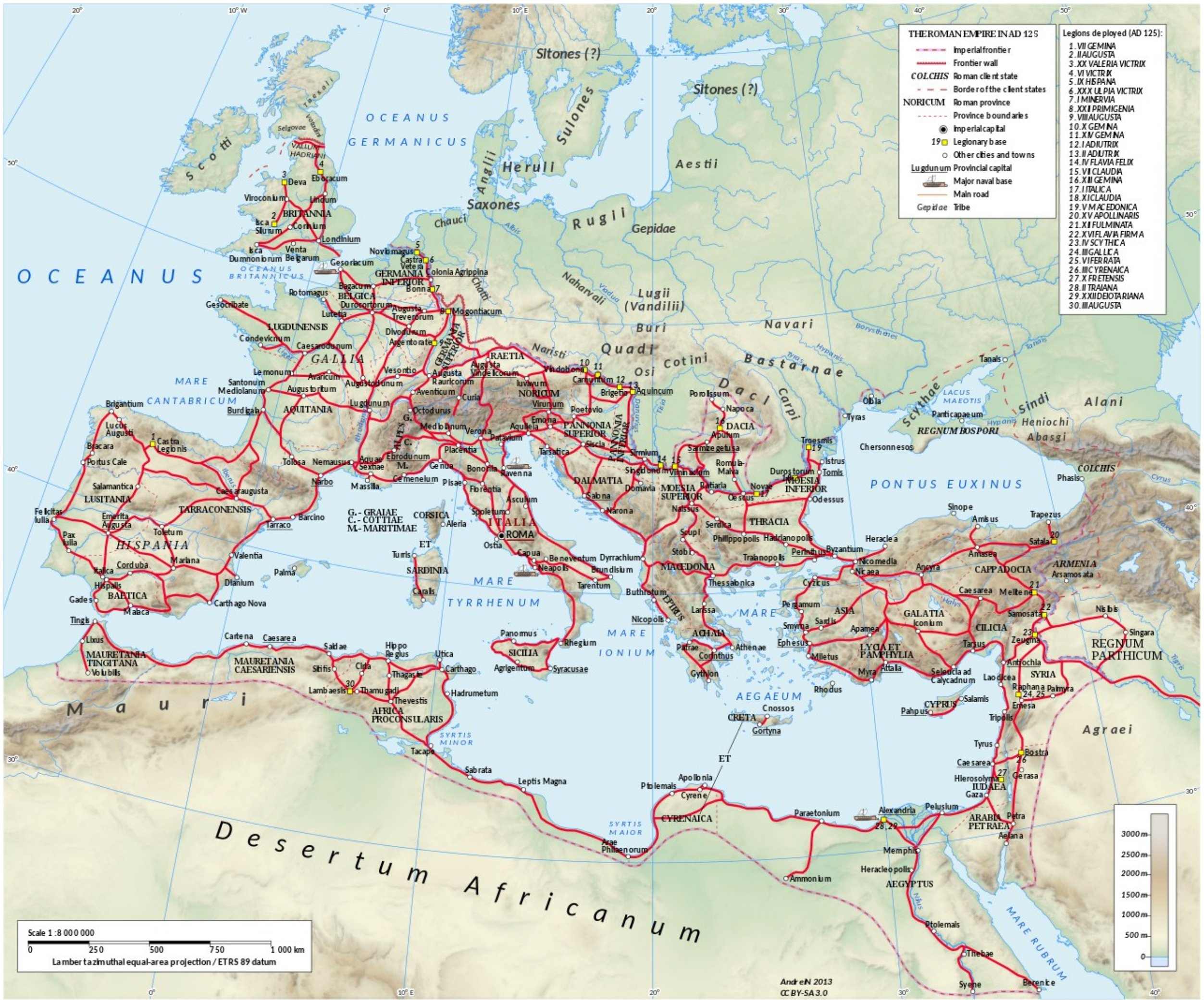
In 293 Constantius Chlorus, now the western Caesar, isolated Carausius by retaking the territory he held in Gaul. Constantius next besieged the port of Bononia, building a mole across the harbour mouth to prevent the rebels from escaping by sea and ensure they could not receive maritime aid, and invaded Batavia in the Rhine delta, securing his rear against Carausius's Frankish allies. However, it was impossible to mount an invasion of Britain until a suitable fleet could be built.[8] Carausius, who had been in power for seven years, was assassinated by his subordinate Allectus, who assumed command.[9]

Coin of Constantius Chlorus

Three years later, in 296, the reconquest of Britain began. With Maximian holding the Rhine frontier, Constantius divided his fleet into several divisions. He led one division himself from Bononia; another, sailing from Le Havre, was commanded by Asclepiodotus, prefect of the Praetorian Guard.[10] Allectus stationed his fleet at the Isle of Wight, but fog allowed Asclepiodotus's ships to pass the defenders unseen. Asclepiodotus landed in the vicinity of Southampton and burned his ships. The rebels were forced to retreat from the coast, but in doing so, fell into the hands of another division and were routed. Allectus himself was killed in the battle, having removed all insignia in the hope that his body would not be identified.[11] Archaeology suggests that Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) was the site of his defeat.[12] A group of Roman troops, who had been separated from the main body by the fog during the channel crossing, caught up with the remnants of Allectus's men, mostly Franks, at Londinium (London), and massacred them.[13] Constantius himself, it seems, did not reach Britain until it was all over, and the panegyrist claims he was welcomed by the Britons as a liberator.[14] At some point following the island's recovery by the Empire, the Diocletian Reforms were introduced: Britain as a whole became the Diocese of the Britains under the administration of the Prefecture of the Gauls based in Augusta Treverorum (Trier) and was divided from two provinces into four or five.[*citation needed*]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carausian_revolt

late Empire's 113 provinces were interconnected by 372 great roads comprising more than 400,000 kilometres


THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN AD 125
Imperial frontier
Frontier wall
COLCHIS Roman client state
Border of the client states
NORICUM Roman province
Province boundaries
Imperial capital
19 Legionary base
Other cities and towns
Lugdunum Provincial capital
Major naval base
Main road
Gepidae Tribe
Legions deployed (AD 125):
1. VII GEMINA
2. II AUGUSTA
3. XX VALERIA VICTRIX
4. VI VICTRIX
5. IX HISPANA
6. XXX ULPIA VICTRIX
7. I MINERVIA
8. XXII PRIMIGENIA
9. VIII AUGUSTA
10. X GEMINA
11. XIV GEMINA
12. I ADIUTRIX
13. II ADIUTRIX
14. IV FLAVIA FELIX
15. VII CLAUDIA
16. XIII GEMINA
17. I ITALICA
18. XI CLAUDIA
19. V MACEDONICA
20. XV APOLLINARIS
21. XII FULMINATA
22. XVI FLAVIA FIRMA
23. IV SCYTHICA
24. III GALLICA
25. VI FERRATA
26. III CYRENAICA
27. X FRETENSIS
28. II TRAIANA
29. XXII DEIOTARIANA
30. III AUGUSTA
OCEANUS
OCEANUS GERMANICUS
OCEANUS BRITANNICUS
MARE CANTABRICUM
PONTUS EUXINUS
MARE TYRRHENUM
MARE IONIUM
AEGAEUM
SYRTIS MINOR
SYRTIS MAIOR
MARE RUBRUM
LACUS MAEOTIS
Desertum Africanum
Mauri
Agraei
Scotti
Sitones (?)
Sulones
Herull
Anglii
Saxones
Chauci
Rugii
Gepidae
Aestii
Naharvali
Lugii (Vandilii)
Buri
Quadi
Osi
Cotini
Naristi
Bastarnae
Daci
Carpi
Navari
Scythae
Sindi
Alani
Heniochi
Abasgi
BRITANNIA
GERMANIA INFERIOR
GERMANIA SUPERIOR
BELGICA
LUGDUNENSIS
GALLIA
AQUITANIA
RAETIA
NORICUM
PANNONIA SUPERIOR
PANNONIA INFERIOR
DALMATIA
DACIA
MOESIA SUPERIOR
MOESIA INFERIOR
THRACIA
MACEDONIA
EPIRUS
ACHAIA
ITALIA
ROMA
CORSICA
SARDINIA
SICILIA
HISPANIA
LUSITANIA
TARRACONENSIS
BAETICA
MAURETANIA TINGITANA
MAURETANIA CAESARIENSIS
AFRICA PROCONSULARIS
CYRENAICA
CRETA
AEGYPTUS
ARABIA PETRAEA
IUDAEA
SYRIA
CYPRUS
CILICIA
LYCIA ET PAMPHYLIA
GALATIA
ASIA
CAPPADOCIA
ARMENIA
COLCHIS
REGNUM BOSPORI
REGNUM PARTHICUM
Scale 1:8 000 000
0 250 500 750 1 000 km
Lambert azimuthal equal-area projection / ETRS 89 datum
3000 m
2500 m
2000 m
1500 m
1000 m
500 m
0
AndreiN 2013
CC BY-SA 3.0

The Roman Empire in the time of Hadrian (r. 117–138), showing the network of main Roman roads.

War, markets, jan19 **Europe to Buy Refined Russian Oil from India Because of Sanctions**

investmentwatchblogdotcom/europe-to-buy-refined-russian-oil-from-india-because-of-sanctions/

markets, crypto: **Genesis ‘days away’ from bankruptcy after steep losses-owes 3 Billion jan19**

war, markets: **Uh oh…Ahead of erdogon attack, China is now saying: The US must answer for its oil theft in Syria**

investmentwatchblogdotcom/china-the-us-must-answer-for-its-oil-theft-in-syria/

war: **New Zealand Prime Minister suddenly resigns, in tears, jan19**

Ardern became an inspiration to women around the world after winning the top job in 2017 at the relatively young age of 37.

The following year, she became just the second world leader to give birth while holding office. When she brought her infant daughter to the floor of the UN General Assembly in New York in 2018, it brought smiles to people everywhere.

Fighting back tears, Ardern told reporters in Napier that Feb. 7 will be her last day as prime minister.

"I am entering now my sixth year in office, and for each of those years, I have given my absolute all," she said.

The heated emotions around the coronavirus debate led to a level of vitriol directed at Ardern that was rarely been seen by former New Zealand leaders. This year, Ardern was forced to cancel an annual barbecue she hosts due to security fears.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/jacinda-ardern-resigns-1.6718695

war, source: Visualizing The World's Top 25 Fleets Of Combat Tanks https://www.visualcapitalist.com/top-25-fleets-of-combat-tanks/

war, tech: High-Powered Laser Steers Lightning Bolts For First Time, the first lightning based invention since benjamin franklin in 1750, following an experiment flying a kite with a large metal key during a thunderstorm.

Laser lightning protection could one day guard critical ground-based systems. Franklin's 18th-century innovation has now met 21st-century technology.

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41566-022-01139-z censorship: **weak leadership forced to include amendment that could institutionalize censorship on social media by holding senior execs personally liable for the distribution of harmful content. Article said amendment could result in situations where it would be considered 'harmful' to distribute videos of migrants crossing into the country, and thus the video would be throttled or removed. This example shocked me, confirming my prior suspicions that they would use the public will to protect children online as a means to censor information that threatens the status quo.**

It's the latest change to a key piece of legislation that has been a long time in the making. As the bill has evolved, it's provoked debate on the best way to keep people – especially children – safe online. There are many critics of the bill – both those who think it is draconian and poses a risk to cybersecurity and freedom of speech, and those who believe it isn't far-reaching enough when it comes to cracking down on content that could pose harm to internet users. It also opens the door to real-world consequences beyond monetary fines.

Social media platforms will be required by law to vet the ages of users and publish risk assessments about the threats their services pose to younger users. How they will verify the ages of users will be a challenge that tech platforms have to figure out an answer to.

A number of new criminal offenses will be introduced under the bill, including the sharing of pornographic deepfakes (digitally generated images of real people), cyberflashing (sending pornographic images without consent) and downblousing (taking and sharing images down women's tops).

The draft text of the bill names UK media watchdog Ofcom as the regulator in charge of holding tech companies accountable.

The bill will give Ofcom the power to fine tech companies £18 million ($22.2 million) or 10% of their annual revenue, whichever is higher, if they fail to remove illegal content. It will also have the power to block sites and services.

According to January's amendment, managers at tech companies will also be liable for failing to protect children from exposure to harmful content. This could lead to prosecution and jail sentences of up to two years.

One major criticism of the Online Safety Bill is that it poses a threat to freedom of expression due to its potential for censoring legal content.

Rights organizations strongly opposed the requirement for tech companies to crack down on content that was harmful but not illegal. An amendment in November 2022 removed mention of "lawful but harmful" content from the text, instead obliging tech companies to introduce more sophisticated filter systems to protect people from exposure to content that could be deemed harmful. Ofcom will ensure platforms are upholding their terms of service.

Meanwhile, concerns over censorship continue. An amendment to the bill introduced this week would make sharing videos that showed migrants crossing the channel between France and the UK in "a positive light" illegal. Tech companies would be required to proactively prevent users from seeing this content.

There has also been tension between digital rights groups and child safety groups over the topic of encryption. In a letter to the government in November, over 70 organizations, including cybersecurity experts, presented their concerns over the wording of the bill. They were worried that it posed a threat to end-to-end encryption, forcing tech companies to create backdoors that could be exploited by criminals.

Representatives for Meta, Twitter, Google and Pinterest didn't respond to individual requests for comment about their positions on the bill.

Censorship: CGT union "threatened to cut off electricity supplies to lawmakers and billionaires."jan19

Labour Ministry estimates show increasing the retirement age by two years would bring an additional 17.7 billion euros in annual pension contributions -- allowing the pension fund to survive until 2027.

AP reported many forms of transportation are either delayed or halted today.

A majority of trains around France are canceled, including some international connections, according to the SNCF rail authority. About 20% of flights out of Paris' Orly Airport are canceled and airlines are warning of delays.

Bloomberg pointed out energy shipments might be affected.

Fuel deliveries from French refineries, including those owned by TotalEnergies SE and Exxon Mobil Corp., will also be affected by the 24-hour strike. And as many as 70% of nursery and primary school teachers will stay home, closing many schools, according to unions in the education sector.

The planned changes provide that workers must have worked for at least 43 years to be entitled to full pension. For those who do not fulfil that condition, like many women who interrupted their career to raise their children or those who studied for a long time and started working late, the retirement age would remain unchanged at 67.

History, germany: why the central europeans empires lacked overseas colonies: "Unlike their Western European (United Kingdom, Netherland et al.) and Eastern European (Russia) counterparts, the Central European nations never had any notable colonies (either overseas or adjacent) due to their inland location and other factors."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Europe

Before 1870, the industrialization that had started to develop in Northwestern and Central Europe and the United States did not extend in any significant way to the rest of the world. Even in Eastern Europe, industrialization lagged far behind. Russia, for example, remained largely rural and agricultural, and its autocratic rulers kept the peasants in serfdom.[26] The concept of Central Europe was already known at the beginning of the 19th century,[27] but its real life began in the 20th century and immediately became an object of intensive interest. However, the very first concept mixed science, politics and economy – it was strictly connected with the intensively growing German economy and its aspirations to dominate a part of European continent called *Mitteleuropa*. The German term denoting Central Europe was so fashionable that other languages started referring to it when indicating territories from Rhine to Vistula, or even Dnieper, and from the Baltic Sea to the Balkans.[28] An example of that-time vision of Central Europe may be seen in Joseph Partsch's book of 1903.[29]

On 21 January 1904, *Mitteleuropäischer Wirtschaftsverein* (Central European Economic Association) was established in Berlin with economic integration of Germany and Austria–Hungary (with eventual extension to Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands) as its main aim. Another time, the term Central Europe became connected to the German plans of political, economic and cultural domination.

History, fall of rome, church:
Frankish Empire (Latin: Imperium Francorum), was the largest post-Roman barbarian kingdom in Western Europe. It was ruled by the Franks (a West Germanic people) during late antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. After the Treaty of Verdun in 843, West Francia became the predecessor of France, and East Francia became that of Germany. Francia was among the last surviving Germanic kingdoms from the Migration Period era before its partition in 843.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Migration_Period

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Estate

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Diet_(Holy_Roman_Empire)

The barbarian invasions began in the late 3rd century

The **Migration Period**, also known as the **Barbarian Invasions**, was a period in European history marked by large-scale migrations that saw the fall of the Western Roman Empire and subsequent settlement of its former territories by various tribes, and the establishment of the post-Roman kingdoms.

History, war: **Black markets**[edit]

See also: Second economy of the Soviet Union

As a result of the deficiencies of the official economy, black markets were created that were often supplied by goods stolen from the public sector.[190][191] The second, "parallel economy" flourished throughout the Bloc because of rising unmet state consumer needs.[192] Black and gray markets for foodstuffs, goods, and cash arose.[192] Goods included household goods, medical supplies, clothes, furniture, cosmetics and toiletries in chronically short supply through official outlets.[188]

Many farmers concealed actual output from purchasing agencies to sell it illicitly to urban consumers.[188] Hard foreign currencies were highly sought after, while highly valued Western items functioned as a medium of exchange or bribery in Stalinist countries, such as in Romania, where Kent cigarettes served as an unofficial extensively used currency to buy goods and services.[193] Some service workers moonlighted illegally providing services directly to customers for payment.[193]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Bloc

Germany, holy roman empire, history: Thirty Years War of Central Europe: "While most modern commentators accept differences over religion and Imperial authority were important factors in causing the war, they argue its scope and extent were driven by the contest for European dominance between Habsburg-ruled Spain and Austria, and the French House of Bourbon.[20]" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty_Years%27_War

history, africa: Ethiopia has evidence of written language at a monastery dating back to the year 500

The Derg overthrew the Ethiopian Empire and Emperor Haile Selassie in a coup d'état on 12 September 1974, establishing Ethiopia as a Marxist-Leninist state under a military junta and provisional government.

War, history: The Derg overthrew the Ethiopian Empire and Emperor Haile Selassie in a coup d'état on 12 September 1974, establishing

Ethiopia as a Marxist-Leninist state under a military junta and provisional government.

Markets: U.S. natural gas prices are back to reflecting the domestic supply and demand balances, shaking off – for now – the geopolitical premium that ruled the energy and natural gas markets throughout most of 2022 after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February., Jan 11, 2023

U.S. natural gas prices are back to reflecting the domestic supply and demand balances, shaking off – for now – the geopolitical premium that ruled the energy and natural gas markets throughout most of 2022 after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February.

https://oilprice.com/Energy/Gas-Prices/Geopolitical-Risk-Premium-In-US-Gas-Prices-Is-Evaporating.html

crypto, markets: FTX Says $413 Million Worth Of Cryptocurrency Was Stolen From Failed Exchange

censorship, corruption: Secretive Surveillance Program Captured 150 Million International Money Transfers Spanning 20 Countries: Sen. Wyden (related to "just took the blakc guy's money without any evidence, then didn't give it back....")

A secretive financial surveillance database established by the Arizona attorney general's office in 2014 **has ballooned into a behemoth tool used by more than 600 law-enforcement entities**, which can search for more than **150 million money transfers** between people in the US and more than 20 countries, according to internal program documents obtained by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR).

The database is called TRAC, or Transational Record Analysis Center, and was established as part of a settlement reached with Western Union to combat human trafficking and drug runners from Mexico

What's more, **many of the subpoenas given to TRAC were extremely broad** - often requiring all data on transfers between certain places above the $500 threshold, according to the documents - even in cases where **an American living in a border state sends $500 or more to another American living elsewhere in the country**.

Euronet said it received a subpoena in 2021 demanding that data on some international money transfers be turned over to TRAC. (Photo: Beata Zawrzel/NurPhoto/Getty Images)

Sen. Wyden thinks differently, saying TRAC allows the government to "serve itself an all-you-can-eat buffet of Americans' personal financial data while bypassing the normal protections for Americans' privacy."

Internal records, including TRAC meeting minutes and copies of 140 subpoenas from the Arizona attorney general, were obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union and reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. They show that ***any authorized law-enforcement agency can query the data without a warrant*** *to examine the transactions of people inside the U.S. for evidence of money laundering and other crimes. One slideshow prepared by a TRAC investigator showed how* ***the program's data could be used to scan for categories such as "Middle Eastern/Arabic names" in bulk transaction records.*** *- WSJ*

"**Ordinary people's private financial records are being siphoned indiscriminately into a massive database,** with access given to virtually any cop who wants it," said Nathan Freed Wessler, deputy director of the ACLU's Speech, Privacy and Technology Project. "This program should never have been launched, and **it must be shut down now.**"

The program was established due to lax rules surrounding money-transfer services companies. While banks have to monitor transactions for suspicious activity - and report over $10,000 in cash transactions, companies such as Western Union and MoneyGram don't have to. Now, **customer transactions above $500 are available in the TRAC database**.

What's more, **Wyden uncovered that the federal government has participated in TRAC**, including the Department of Homeland Security's Investigations division, collected around **six million records of money transfers** from Western Union and Maxitransfers since 2019.

"The scope of this surveillance program and federal agencies' role is far greater than initially revealed," said Wyden in a letter asking the DOJ inspector general to investigate the FBI and DEA's involvement with the program.

The US Government used forfeiture during the Prohibition years (1920–1933).[9] Police seized vehicles, equipment, cash and other property from bootleggers.[8] When

Prohibition ended in 1933, much of the forfeiture activity ended as well.[10] Modern forfeiture was an "infrequent resort" until the last few decades.[10]

War on Drugs (1980–present)[edit]

Since 1980, the War on Drugs has led to substantially increased civil forfeiture by federal, state, and local government.[9][11] The market for illegal drugs in the United States is large: the Drug Enforcement Administration estimates the annual profit from selling illegal drugs is $12 billion.[9] However, it has become harder for criminal organizations to launder drug money by means of the financial system; drug cartels have thus preferred bulk cash payments.[12] The initial intent behind increased civil forfeiture was thus to use forfeitures as a weapon against drug kingpins, similarly to how forfeiture was used to fight alcohol trafficking during the Prohibition era.[13]

According to journalist Sarah Stillman, a major turning point in forfeiture activity was the passage of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984.[14] This law permitted local and federal law enforcement agencies to share seized assets.[10] According to Stillman, civil forfeiture allowed federal and local governments to "extract swift penalties from white-collar criminals and offer restitution to victims of fraud".[10] From 1985 to 1993, authorities confiscated $3 billion of cash and other property based on the federal *Asset Forfeiture Program*, which included both civil and criminal forfeitures.[14] The methods were supported by the Reagan administration as a crime fighting strategy:

> It's now possible for a drug dealer to serve time in a forfeiture-financed prison after being arrested by agents driving a forfeiture-provided automobile while working in a forfeiture-funded sting operation.
>
> — *Reagan attorney general Richard Thornburgh in 1989.*[10]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_forfeiture_in_the_United_States#Legal_origins

After hours of being detained, Johnson returned home the next day - without the money, and without the truck. He was never charged with a crime.

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11450893/Arizona-cops-seized-40-000-cash-black-trucking-boss-traveling-buy-new-rig.html

Markets, war: U.S. natural gas prices are back to reflecting the domestic supply and demand balances, shaking off – for now – the geopolitical premium that ruled the energy and natural gas markets throughout most of 2022 after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February., Jan 11, 2023

U.S. natural gas prices are back to reflecting the domestic supply and demand balances, shaking off – for now – the geopolitical premium that ruled the energy and natural gas markets throughout most of 2022 after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February.

https://oilprice.com/Energy/Gas-Prices/Geopolitical-Risk-Premium-In-US-Gas-Prices-Is-Evaporating.html

war: jan18 Just more escalation..front page for atw

US, Allies to Ramp Up Military Aid to Ukraine

Gen. Milley Meets Top Ukrainian Commander in Poland

US Sends Artillery Shells Stored in Israel and S. Korea to Ukraine

Kissinger Flips, Says Ukraine Should Join NATO

Ukrainian Volunteers Say Were Unprepared for Battle Around Bakhmut

Zelensky Advisor Quits After Comments on Dnipro Caused Backlash

Saudi Arabia Open to Trading in Currencies Besides Dollar

Saudi Airstrikes Killed at Least 155 Yemeni Civilians in 2022

US, Taiwan Conclude Four Days of Trade Talks in Taipei

War: jan18 they're saying that the death toll for russian troops has risen to 116 000, all due to westerns arms and intelligence..this is the ukrinian military sayings this though, dated today on dp

War, tech: “Future Soldier” is a modernization effort launched in 2020 to achieve the “most radical transformation” of the British Army within 20 years., dp

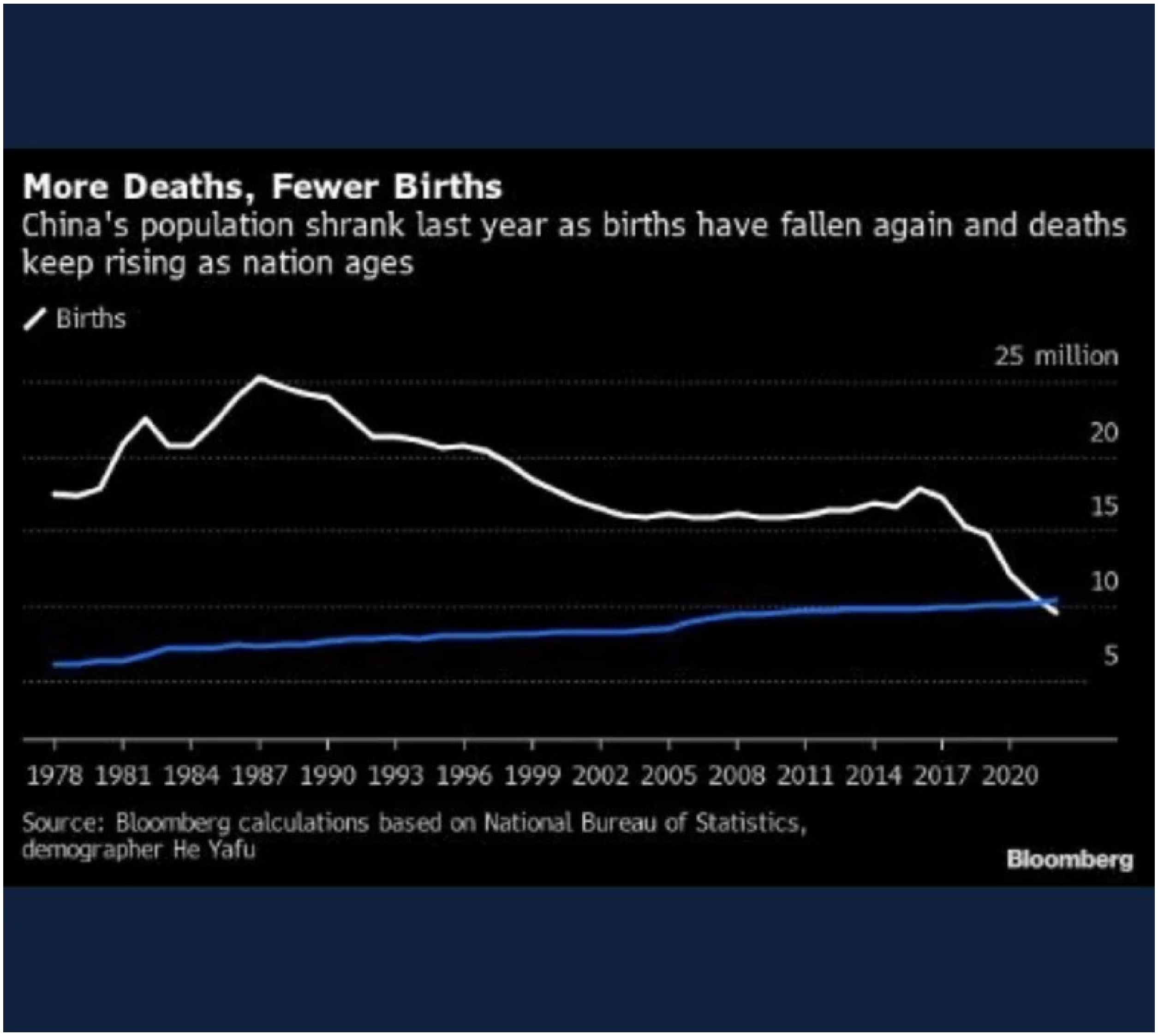
War, Africa, Erdogan: Ankara donates weapons to drc congo..

Turkey’s donation comes less than a month after the UN lifted sanctions on FARDC that required supplier countries to refer to the UN’s sanctions committee on DRC before shipping arms to the DRC. The notification system for sending arms to Congo ended on Tuesday 20 December, and Turkey did not even elaborate on the content of its arms to the public.

War: **Russia blamed Armenia last week for a breakdown in bilateral peace talks with Azerbaijan.jan18**

Vaccine, censorship, china, population, war, history:

China's population shrinks for first time in over 60 years (since 1961)



More Deaths, Fewer Births

China's population shrank last year as births have fallen again and deaths keep rising as nation ages

Source: Bloomberg calculations based on National Bureau of Statistics, demographer He Yafu

China's population has fallen for the first time since 1961 when the country battled the worst famine in its modern history under Mao Zedong's disastrous agricultural policy.

The **Great Chinese Famine** (Chinese: □□□□□; lit. 'three years of great famine') was a period between 1959 and 1961 in the history of the People's Republic of China (PRC) characterized by widespread famine.[2][3][4][5][6] Some scholars have also included the years 1958 or 1962.[7][8][9][10] It is widely regarded as the deadliest famine and one of the greatest man-made disasters in human history.. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Chinese_Famine

source: https://downdetector.com/ ; tells you when something is down, like a service or website or whatever

downdetector.com/status/zelle/

having the same issue! had a transfer yesterday, woke up to a negative balance and a $10 overdraft fee. i use bank of america and live in nevada. i see a ton of us are having the same issue.

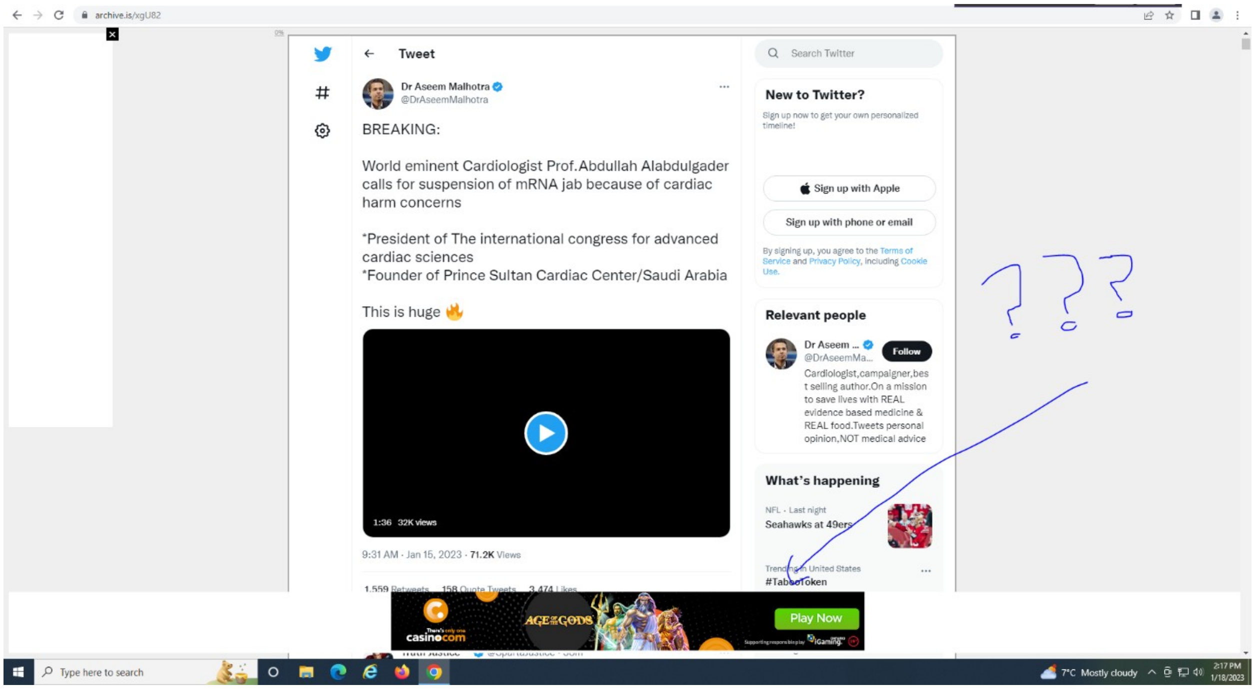
downdetector.com/status/bank-of-america/

Top Heart Surgeon: This Simple Trick Helps Empty Your Bowels Every Morning
SPONSORED CONTENT
Top Heart Surgeon: This Simple Trick Helps Empty Your Bowels Every Morning
By GutHealthWellness.com
I woke up to all of my money gone!!!

Ok, it’s not just me. I was in full panic mode. Money is missing, there are mystery overdraft coverages from my savings. I have repeatedly called to talk to someone and haven;/t been able to. I’ve had an account for over 20 years and this has NEVER happened.

See also The money printer is not going brr. It is going berserk.
They are saying it is a glitch. WTF?

Censorship: removed tweet still available on fake archive (it literally profits off every page on the entire internet--even pages that have bypassed a pay/membership wall)


archive.is/xgU82
Tweet
Search Twitter
Sign up with Apple
Sign up with phone or email
Follow
1:36 32K views
Play Now
Type here to search
7°C Mostly cloudy
2:17 PM
1/18/2023
???

Dr Aseem Malhotra
@DrAseemMalhotra

BREAKING:

World eminent Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader calls for suspension of mRNA jab because of cardiac harm concerns

*President of The international congress for advanced cardiac sciences
*Founder of Prince Sultan Cardiac Center/Saudi Arabia

This is huge 🔥

9:31 AM · Jan 15, 2023 · 71.2K Views

1,559 Retweets 158 Quote Tweets 3,474 Likes

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Relevant people

Dr Aseem ... @DrAseemMa...
Cardiologist,campaigner,best selling author.On a mission to save lives with REAL evidence based medicine & REAL food.Tweets personal opinion,NOT medical advice

What's happening

NFL · Last night
Seahawks at 49ers

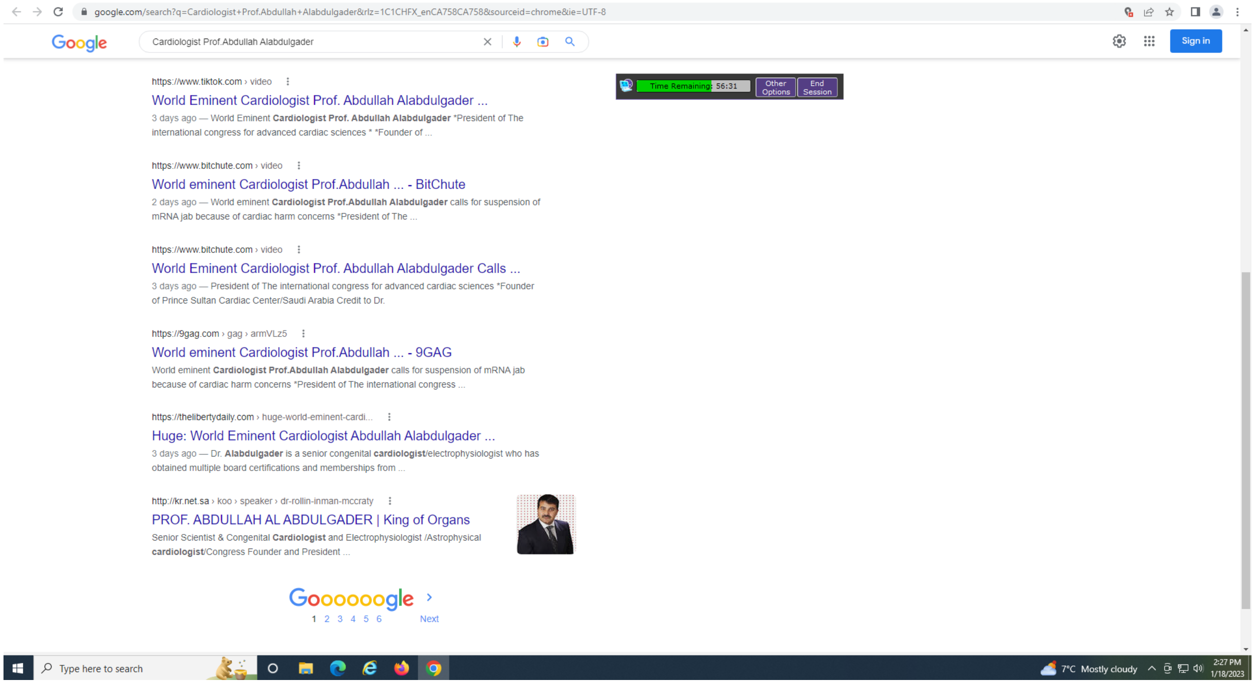
Trending in United States
#TabooToken

and for anybody who decides to read the comments, they will see a bunch of irrelevent posts or links to half-truths or, just meaningless stuff that takes you nowhere.

My take?

This plays into the anti-vax narrative perfectly before they release the bad one. They WANT people to question them now. It will just make it worse when the inevitable event happens. Saudi Arabia is a strong ally of NATO, and thus shou;ld be expect to be playing into the official narrative, and not against it.

And very strange google page for his name. All tiktok and bitchute..



google.com/search?q=Cardiologist+Prof.Abdullah+Alabdulgader&rlz=1C1CHFX_enCA758CA758&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader

https://www.tiktok.com › video

World Eminent Cardiologist Prof. Abdullah Alabdulgader ...

3 days ago — World Eminent **Cardiologist Prof. Abdullah Alabdulgader** *President of The international congress for advanced cardiac sciences * *Founder of ...

https://www.bitchute.com › video

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2 days ago — World eminent **Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader** calls for suspension of mRNA jab because of cardiac harm concerns *President of The ...

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World Eminent Cardiologist Prof. Abdullah Alabdulgader Calls ...

3 days ago — President of The international congress for advanced cardiac sciences *Founder of Prince Sultan Cardiac Center/Saudi Arabia Credit to Dr.

https://9gag.com › gag › armVLz5

World eminent Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah ... - 9GAG

World eminent **Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader** calls for suspension of mRNA jab because of cardiac harm concerns *President of The international congress ...

https://thelibertydaily.com › huge-world-eminent-cardi...

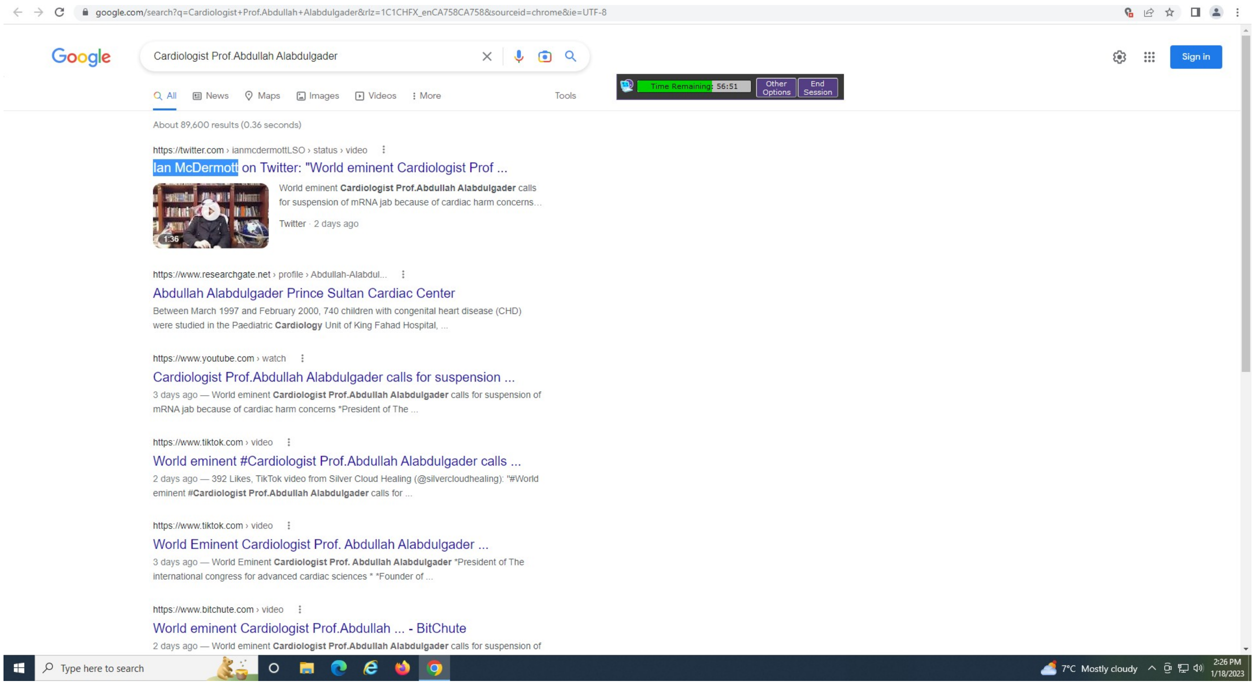
Huge: World Eminent Cardiologist Abdullah Alabdulgader ...

3 days ago — Dr. **Alabdulgader** is a senior congenital **cardiologist**/electrophysiologist who has obtained multiple board certifications and memberships from ...

http://kr.net.sa › koo › speaker › dr-rollin-inman-mccraty

PROF. ABDULLAH AL ABDULGADER | King of Organs

Senior Scientist & Congenital **Cardiologist** and Electrophysiologist /Astrophysical **cardiologist**/Congress Founder and President ...



google.com/search?q=Cardiologist+Prof.Abdullah+Alabdulgader&rlz=1C1CHFX_enCA758CA758&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader

About 89,600 results (0.36 seconds)

https://twitter.com › ianmcdermottLSO › status › video

Ian McDermott on Twitter: "World eminent Cardiologist Prof ...

World eminent **Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader** calls for suspension of mRNA jab because of cardiac harm concerns...

Twitter · 2 days ago

https://www.researchgate.net › profile › Abdullah-Alabdul...

Abdullah Alabdulgader Prince Sultan Cardiac Center

Between March 1997 and February 2000, 740 children with congenital heart disease (CHD) were studied in the Paediatric **Cardiology** Unit of King Fahad Hospital, ...

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World Eminent Cardiologist Prof. Abdullah Alabdulgader ...

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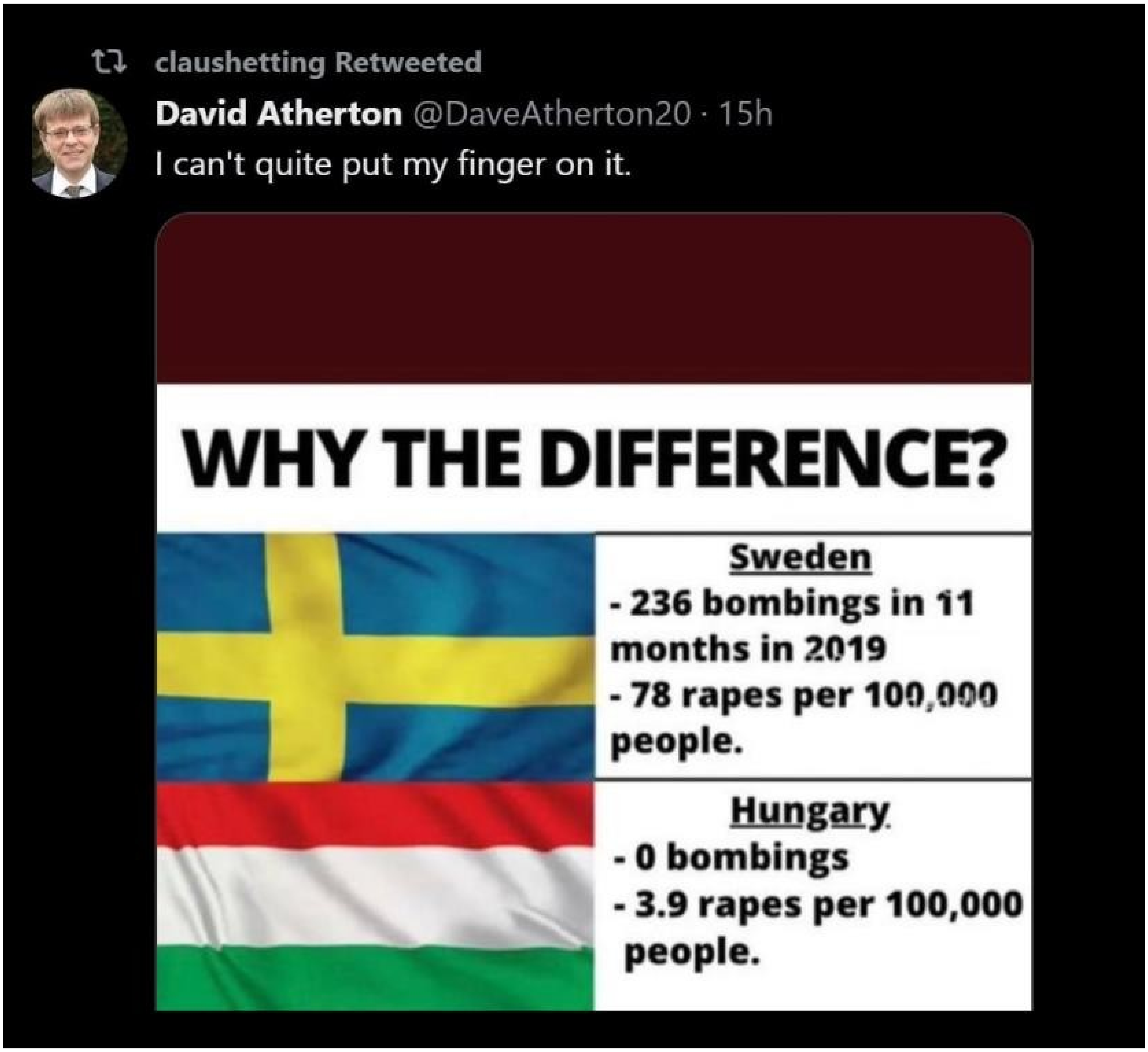
World eminent Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah ... - BitChute

2 days ago — World eminent **Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader** calls for suspension of

Censorship, media: both similar countries, both different immigration policies (sweden vs hungary)



claushetting Retweeted

David Atherton @DaveAtherton20 · 15h

I can't quite put my finger on it.

WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

Sweden

- 236 bombings in 11 months in 2019
- 78 rapes per 100,000 people.

Hungary

- 0 bombings
- 3.9 rapes per 100,000 people.

War: Kissinger Flips, Says Ukraine Should Join NATO In Davos Speech jan18

Markets, energy, war: **Pierre Andurand predicting $140 oil in 2023 (highly educated, very smart man in his prime with strong recent and past success; also called 2014 oil collapse by outright going short ahead); Paris-based International Energy Agency says oil demand forcasted to reach record levels due to china reopening jan18**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre_Andurand

FINANCIALS

JANUARY 6, 20157:41 AMUPDATED 8 YEARS AGO

UPDATE 1-Hedge fund manager Andurand strikes gold again by betting on oil crash

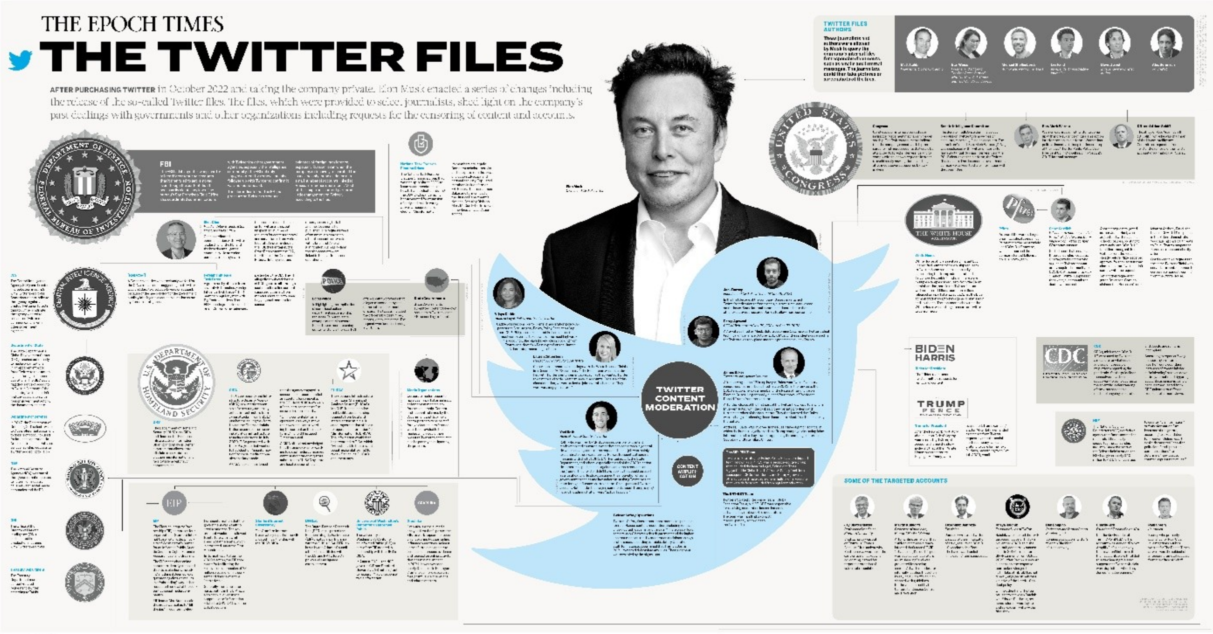
The London-based fund had $400 million of assets under management at the start of this year, the source said. The return of 37.9 percent was net of all management and performance fees. Returns not including performance fees were 47.4 percent.

The fund was up only slightly for the year at the end of October, when Andurand predicted at London’s Oil & Money conference that the market could drop to $50 a barrel -- well below the roughly $85 a barrel North Sea Brent was trading at the time.

"Two wild cards dominate the 2023 oil market outlook: Russia and China," the report said, adding that robust demand growth would tighten "the balances as Russian supply slows under the full impact of sanctions."

War, tech: BUNCH OF NEW AGE ROBOT WEAPONS UNVIELED AT shot SHOW, THE BIGGEST GUN SHOW IN THE WORLD (closed to the public)

Censorship, war: jan18 TWITTER FILES INFOGRAPHIC!!! COURTESY, EPOCH TIMES, THIS TIME AND NOT THE USUAL VISUALCAPITALIST


THE EPOCH TIMES
THE TWITTER FILES
AFTER PURCHASING TWITTER in October 2022 and taking the company private, Elon Musk enacted a series of changes including the release of the so-called Twitter files. The files, which were provided to select journalists, shed light on the company's past dealings with governments and other organizations including requests for the censoring of content and accounts.
FBI
THE WHITE HOUSE
BIDEN HARRIS
TRUMP PENCE
CDC
TWITTER CONTENT MODERATION
SOME OF THE TARGETED ACCOUNTS

Media, censorship: **"Brought To Justice": Italian Mafia Boss Arrested At Hospital After Three Decades On The Run, "I filled a cemetery, all by myself," he is said to have once claimed...**

Markets, energy, war, spr: jan18 Crisis Over? Europe's Gas Stocks At Seasonal Record High

LONDON, Jan 17 (Reuters) - Northwest Europe is half-way through the winter heating season and gas inventories are at a record high following an extended period of exceptionally mild temperatures since the middle of December.

Preparation and luck have combined to rescue Europe from potential gas shortages this winter:

- Preparation by policymakers and forward-looking gas markets ensured inventories began the winter season at the one of the highest levels on record.
- Market-driven high prices have significantly reduced gas and electricity consumption by major industrial customers and more modestly by residential and commercial users.
- Luck in the form of exceptionally mild weather has transformed comfortable stocks in mid-December into plentiful inventories by mid-January.

At Frankfurt in Germany, a proxy for the densely populated northwest Europe mega-region, half of winter heating demand occurs on average on or before Jan. 15.

On Jan. 15, inventories across the European Union and the United Kingdom amounted to 922 terawatt-hours (TWh), according to Gas Infrastructure Europe (“Aggregated gas storage inventory”, GIE, January 17).

Stocks were 268 TWh (+41% or +2.57 standard deviations) above the prior ten-year average, up from a surplus of 173

TWh (+23% or +1.58 standard deviations) when the warm spell began on Dec. 19 and 92 TWh (+10% or +0.86 standard deviations) at the start of the winter season on Oct. 1.

Chartbook: European gas inventories

Heating demand started this winter close to the long-term average, with an unusually mild October offset by colder-than-normal temperatures in the first part of December.

By Dec. 19, Frankfurt had experienced a total of 675 heating degree days, very close to the long-term average of 682.

Between Dec. 19 and Jan. 15, however, the region experienced an exceptional and extended period of much warmer temperatures that reduced heating demand significantly.

Frankfurt experienced an additional 184 heating degree days, the lowest this century, and compared with a seasonal average of 341.

Cumulative heating demand so far this winter was 20% below the long-term seasonal average by Jan. 15 compared with a 5% deficit by Dec. 19.

As a result of mild weather, gas inventories depleted by just 18 TWh over the 27 days ending on Jan. 15, compared with an average ten-year depletion of 113 TWh.

EMERGENCY OVER

Stocks are now projected to fall to a low of 612 TWh before winter ends, up from a projected low of 518 TWh on Dec. 19 and 440 TWh when the winter season started on Oct. 1.

Inventories are on course to end the winter at the highest level on record, with storage sites still more than 54% full.

Prices have already slumped to redirect more liquefied natural gas (LNG) to other regions of the world, encourage more consumption in Europe and stem inventory accumulation.

Futures prices for deliveries in March 2023 have halved to 56 euros per megawatt-hour from 110 euros on Dec. 19 and 177 euros at the start of winter.

Lower prices will buy back some consumption lost earlier this winter from the most price-sensitive customers directly exposed to wholesale markets, mostly power producers and energy-intensive industrial users.

Gas-fired electricity generators are likely to operate for more hours at the expense of coal-fired and fuel oil-fired competitors, absorbing some of the surplus.

Manufacturers of fertilizer, iron and steel, ceramics, glass and chemicals, as well as non-ferrous smelters, are likely to restart some idled capacity if prices remain lower.

Futures for gas delivered to Northwest Europe are now trading at a discount to gas delivered to Northeast Asia, from a premium over 11 euros per megawatt-hour on Dec. 19 and almost 43 euros at the beginning of winter.

Relatively lower European prices should reduce the incentive to maximise LNG inflows and redirect more gas to importers in East and South Asia, which will also limit the further build up of a surplus in Europe.

Related columns:

- Europe's gas prices slump to moderate storage build (Reuters, Jan. 4)

- Europe should thank mild autumn for averting gas crisis this winter (Reuters, Dec. 16)

- Germany’s gas stocks should hold out despite inventory draw (Reuters, Dec. 15)

- Europe’s gas stocks comfortable despite cold snap (Reuters, Dec. 14)

- Europe on course to end winter with plenty of gas (Reuters, Nov. 28)

John Kemp is a Reuters market analyst. The views expressed are his own

Markets: **"I Am Taking This Very Seriously": BlackRock's Larry Fink Struggles With "Demonized" ESG Narrative**

Iran, crypto: **referring to Iran’s Industry, Mines and Trade Ministry approving the use of crypto for imports in late August.**

referring to Iran’s Industry, Mines and Trade Ministry approving the use of crypto for imports in late August.

Iran’s Industry, Mines and Trade Ministry has approved the use of cryptocurrency for imports into the country amid ongoing international trade sanctions.

According to local news reports, Trade Minister Reza Fatemi Amin confirmed that detailed regulations have been approved outlining the use of cryptocurrencies for trade and supplying fuel and electricity to Bitcoin

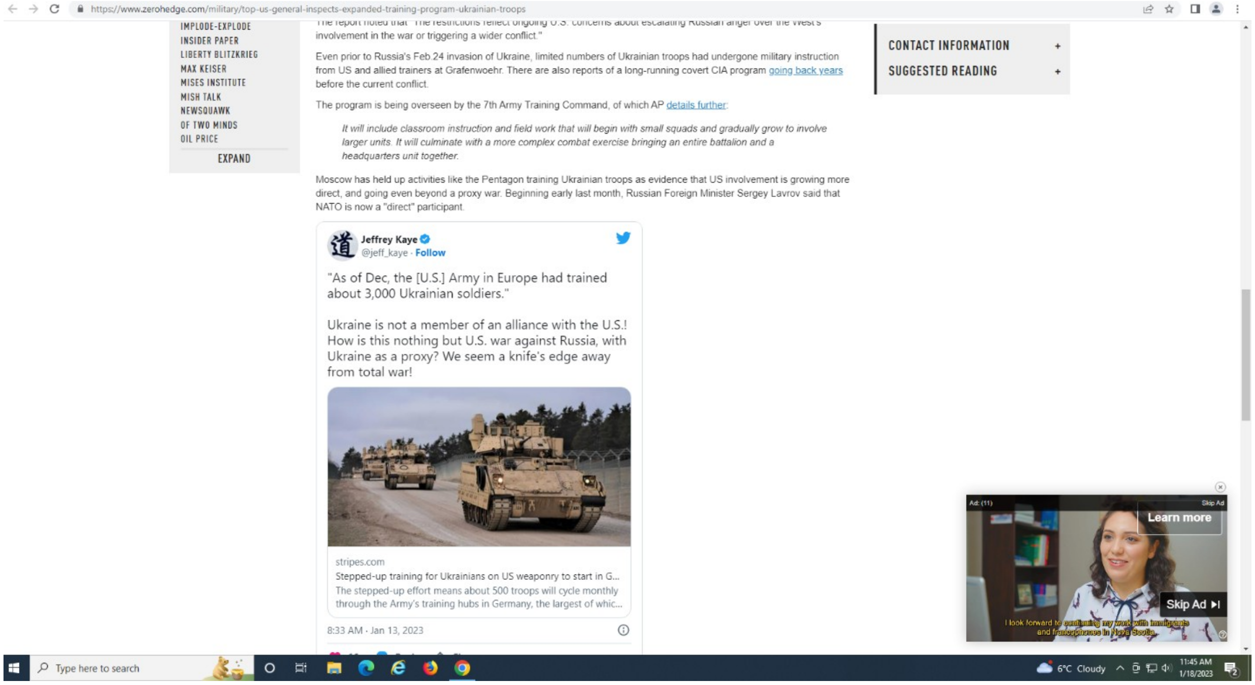
BTC

$20,942

and [crypto miners](#) in the country.

Amin outlined the regulatory change at an automotive industry exhibition on Sunday, just a week after the country had placed a first-ever import order for vehicles to the tune of $10 million, [using cryptocurrency as a payment method](#). The Iranian trade ministry had previously indicated that the use of cryptocurrencies and smart contracts would be widely used in foreign trade by September 2022.

War: jan18 **more U.S. open involvement in war.**


https://www.zerohedge.com/military/top-us-general-inspects-expanded-training-program-ukrainian-troops
IMPLODE-EXPLODE
INSIDER PAPER
LIBERTY BLITZKRIEG
MAX KEISER
MISES INSTITUTE
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OF TWO MINDS
OIL PRICE
EXPAND
CONTACT INFORMATION +
SUGGESTED READING +
Ad: (11)
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Skip Ad
I look forward to continuing my work with immigrants and francophones in Nova Scotia.
Type here to search
6°C Cloudy
11:45 AM
1/18/2023

The report noted that "The restrictions reflect ongoing U.S. concerns about escalating Russian anger over the West's involvement in the war or triggering a wider conflict."

Even prior to Russia's Feb.24 invasion of Ukraine, limited numbers of Ukrainian troops had undergone military instruction from US and allied trainers at Grafenwoehr. There are also reports of a long-running covert CIA program going back years before the current conflict.

The program is being overseen by the 7th Army Training Command, of which AP details further:

> *It will include classroom instruction and field work that will begin with small squads and gradually grow to involve larger units. It will culminate with a more complex combat exercise bringing an entire battalion and a headquarters unit together.*

Moscow has held up activities like the Pentagon training Ukrainian troops as evidence that US involvement is growing more direct, and going even beyond a proxy war. Beginning early last month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that NATO is now a "direct" participant.

Jeffrey Kaye
@jeff_kaye · **Follow**

"As of Dec, the [U.S.] Army in Europe had trained about 3,000 Ukrainian soldiers."

Ukraine is not a member of an alliance with the U.S.! How is this nothing but U.S. war against Russia, with Ukraine as a proxy? We seem a knife's edge away from total war!

stripes.com
Stepped-up training for Ukrainians on US weaponry to start in G...
The stepped-up effort means about 500 troops will cycle monthly through the Army's training hubs in Germany, the largest of whic...

8:33 AM · Jan 13, 2023

"This is not a run of the mill rotation," Milley told commanders in a briefing during the visit. "This is one of those moments in time where if you want to make a difference, this is it."

But the [*Associated Press*](#) still confirmed severe reporting restrictions meant to safeguard the identities of the personnel present: "The reporters were allowed to follow Milley and watch his interactions with Ukrainian and U.S. troops and commanders, but were **not allowed to report specific conversations with the Ukraine forces or take any photos or video**."

War: jan18 **russia's statement about attacking decision making centers seems to be materializing: "government officials killed were Interior Minister Denis Monastyrsky, First Deputy Minister Yevheniy Yenin and State Secretary Yuriy Lubkovychis, according to confirmation by government statements. Monastyrsky's death marks the highest profile Ukrainian casualty since the Russian invasion began." many casualities died as well, but this is just the norm now in the ukraine, which is projected to be turned into ruble if the war conitnues on unabated**

War, markets: **US Producer Prices Plunge Most Since COVID Lockdowns jan18**

War: jan18 Pentagon Forced To Tap Unreported Ammo Stockpile In Israel To Support Ukraine

Markets, inflation: jan18 **Prices Will Keep Rising Despite 'Peak Inflation' Chatter, Warns Unilever CEO**

Markets, tech: Microsoft CEO Confirms 10,000 Job Cuts As Tech Layoffs Intensify jan18

Censorship: Report Says 500 Advertisers Paused Spending At Twitter, Daily Revenue Plunges 40% jan18

Markets, fed, inflation, war: **bullard implies 'pivot city' being medium-term future (next 2-3 years). "Pivot city" just a catchphrase for the fed facing a future where unprecedented unforeseen circumstances force them to change direction. "Bullard Repeats Rates "Almost" In Restrictive Territory, Helps Push Risk To Session Highs" (5% rates were crazy, and might not work, hence fed might be forced to change its mind, or 'pivot', again, and even maybe again, and again, resulting in this last fed up looking rates chart, but maybe that wouldn't work...) Might only be able to pivot one more time before it loses credibility in the eyes of the public**

“We’re almost into a zone that we could call restrictive - we’re not quite there yet,” Bullard said Wednesday in an online Wall Street Journal interview. Officials want to ensure inflation will come down on a steady path to the 2% target. “We don’t want to waiver on that,” he said. Jan18

Germany, fall of rome, history: **In Italy, the Ostrogoths led by Theodoric the Great killed and replaced Odoacer, a Germanic soldier, erstwhile-leader of the foederati in Northern Italy, and the de facto ruler of Italy, who had deposed the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, Romulus Augustulus, in 476.**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostrogothic_Kingdom

Germany, fall of rome, history: **start here to learn the truth about germany: the germanic tribes, wiki**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanic_peoples

history, holy roman empire, church: **more on papal states**
https://www.thoughtco.com/the-papal-states-1789449#:~:text=The%20Papal%20States%20were%20territories,geographical%20boundaries%20of%20the%20region

In 751 the Merovingian dynasty which had ruled the Germanic Franks was overthrown with the consent of the Papacy and the aristocracy, and Pepin the Short, son of Martel, was crowned King of the Franks.

Holy roman empire, history, church: **the donation of constantine: more sick lies embedded at key junctures in history, those sort of crucible moments which form the foundation of .....everything**

The text is purportedly a decree of Roman Emperor Constantine I, dated 30 March—a year mistakenly said to be both that of his fourth consulate (315) and that of the consulate of Gallicanus (317).[4] In it "Constantine" professes Christianity (*confessio*) and entitles to Pope Sylvester several imperial insignia and privileges (*donatio*), as well as the Lateran Palace. Rome, the rest of Italy, and the western provinces of the empire are made over to the papacy.[5]

The text recounts a narrative founded on the 5th-century hagiography the *Acts of Sylvester*. This fictitious tale describes the sainted Pope Sylvester's rescue of the Romans from the depredations of a local dragon and the pontiff's miraculous cure of the emperor's leprosy by the sacrament of baptism.[5] The story was rehearsed by the *Liber Pontificalis*; by the later 8th century the dragon-slayer Sylvester and his apostolic successors were rewarded in the *Donation of Constantine* with temporal powers never in fact exercised by the historical Bishops of Rome under Constantine.

In his gratitude, "Constantine" determined to bestow on the seat of Peter "power, and dignity of glory, vigor, and imperial honor," and "supremacy as well over the four principal sees: Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Constantinople, as also over all the churches of God in the whole earth". For the upkeep of the church of Saint Peter and that of Saint Paul, he gave landed estates "in Judea, Greece, Asia, Thrace, Africa, Italy and the various islands". To Sylvester and his successors he also granted imperial insignia, the tiara, and "the city of Rome, and all the provinces, places and cities of Italy and the western regions".[6][7]

The *Donation* sought reduction in the authority of Constantinople; if Constantine had elevated Sylvester to imperial rank before the 330 inauguration of Constantinople, then Rome's patriarch had a lead of some fifteen years in the contest for primacy among the patriarchates. Implicitly, the papacy asserted its supremacy and prerogative to transfer the imperial seat; the papacy had consented to the *translatio imperii* to Byzantium by Constantine and it could wrest back the authority at will.[5]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donation_of_Constantine

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrimony_of_Saint_Peter

history, markets, fall of rome: **Carolingian monetary system:currency reform carried out by Emperor Charlemagne around 793/794 was of crucial importance to the medieval monetary systems in what became the Holy Roman Empire and more generally affected European coinage for many centuries.**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carolingian_monetary_system

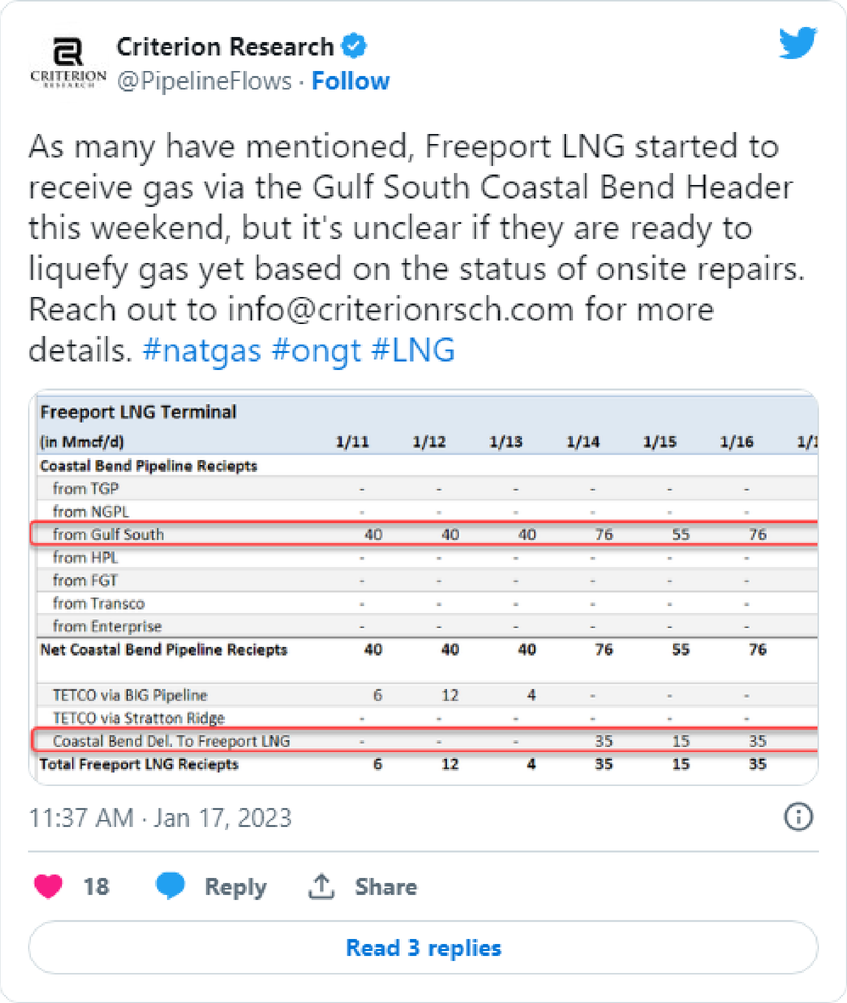
fall of rome, history: Constantine the Great, was Roman emperor from AD 306 to 337, and the first of which to convert to Christianity

war: jan17 **Sweden, Finland Must Send Up to 130 'Terrorists' to Turkey for NATO Bid**
Zelensky Aide Resigns For Saying It Was 'Errant' Anti-Air Missile

Markets, war: **On Jan. 14, NatGas began flowing to Freeport and could reach as much as 69 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) on Tuesday, Reuters data showed.**

However, Houston-based energy firm Criterion Research had this to say about the Freeport developments:

> *We noted that Freeport LNG began to receive marginal gas over the weekend, with 15-35 Mmcf/d being delivered via Gulf South's Coastal Bend Header Pipeline. This is not the first time we've seen flows of that magnitude, with Freeport flowing similar volumes for two other periods since going offline in June 2022. Freeport representatives have continued to affirm the second half of the January restart timeline, officially laid out in December 2022. However, several outlets, including ours, have doubts about that possibility. Based on the latest imagery of the facility -- Freeport is still missing several key pieces of equipment needed for a restart that could delay initial liquefaction operations into February or March 2023.*



Criterion Research
@PipelineFlows · **Follow**

As many have mentioned, Freeport LNG started to receive gas via the Gulf South Coastal Bend Header this weekend, but it's unclear if they are ready to liquefy gas yet based on the status of onsite repairs. Reach out to info@criterionrsch.com for more details. #natgas #ongt #LNG

Freeport LNG Terminal

(in Mmcf/d)	1/11	1/12	1/13	1/14	1/15	1/16	1/1
Coastal Bend Pipeline Reciepts							
from TGP	-	-	-	-	-	-	
from NGPL	-	-	-	-	-	-	
from Gulf South	40	40	40	76	55	76	
from HPL	-	-	-	-	-	-	
from FGT	-	-	-	-	-	-	
from Transco	-	-	-	-	-	-	
from Enterprise	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Net Coastal Bend Pipeline Reciepts	**40**	**40**	**40**	**76**	**55**	**76**	
TETCO via BIG Pipeline	6	12	4	-	-	-	
TETCO via Stratton Ridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Coastal Bend Del. To Freeport LNG	-	-	-	35	15	35	
Total Freeport LNG Reciepts	**6**	**12**	**4**	**35**	**15**	**35**	

11:37 AM · Jan 17, 2023

When will Freeport be fully back in-service? That's a difficult question, but when it does come online, it would be a bullish catalyst for NatGas.

11,497 28

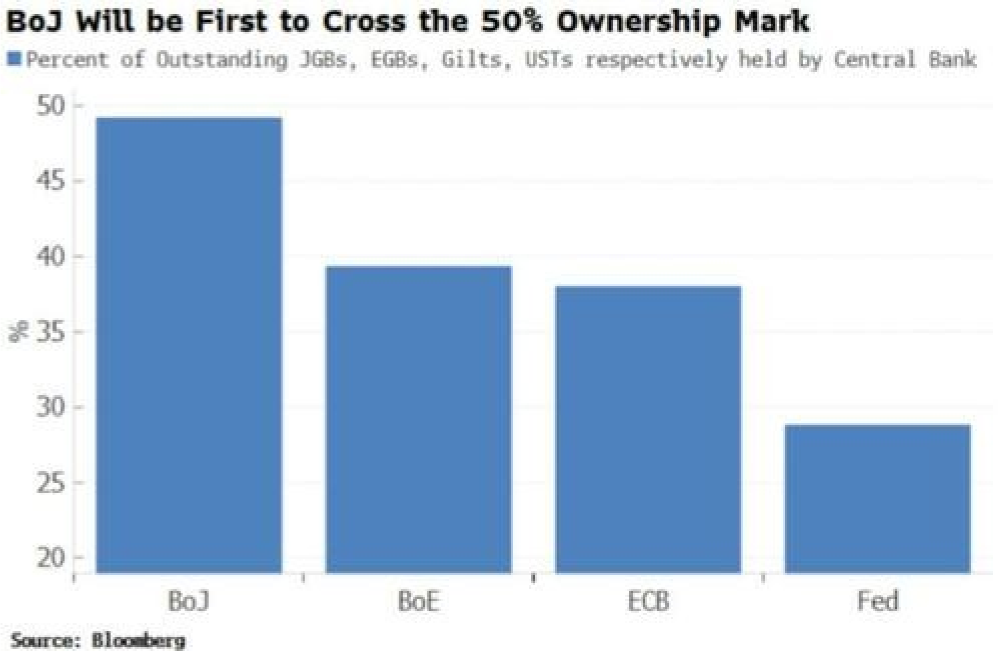
War: jan17 Russian, Belarusian Flags Banned From Australian Open

"I call on Tennis Australia to ***immediately enforce its 'neutral flag' policy****,"*

markets, policy: Acting Comptroller of the Currency Michael Hsum (2021, Janet Yellen): "effective management is not infinitely scalable" in reference to too-big-to-fail financial institutations jan17

Markets, war: Jan.17 **Japan Bond Market Sets Record for No Trades; Trading of benchmark 10-year bond dries up for four straight sessions as the central bank keeps tight control of yields, longest streak since 1999, BOJH crossed threshold of 50% ownership of the entire jpy bond market on June 27, 2022**

As Bloomberg's Simon White said last week, "**we are in uncharted territory as no other major central bank has crossed this threshold before.**"



BoJ Will be First to Cross the 50% Ownership Mark

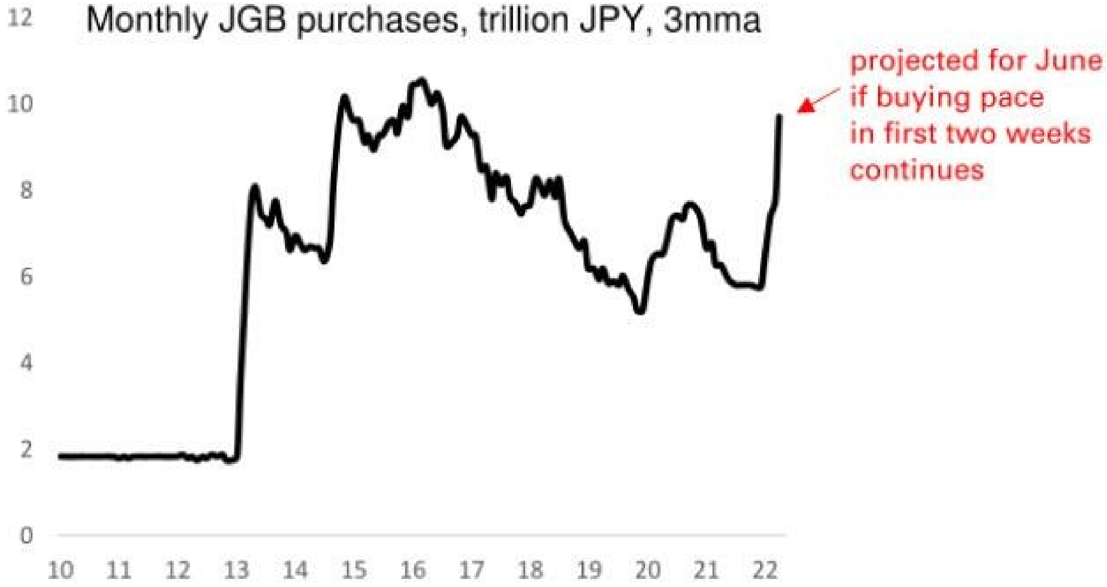
Source: Bloomberg

The central bank's JGB holdings were in the 10% range when Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda started the massive monetary easing program in 2013. Its holdings have swelled as the policy meant to bring Japan out of deflation has dragged on.

According to estimates by the Japan Center for Economic Research, the BOJ will need to increase its JGB holdings by 120 trillion yen from the current level of over 500 trillion yen to keep long-term interest rates at or below 0.25%. The central bank's JGB holdings could top 60% of the total in such a scenario.

The BOJ has concentrated on specific JGBs, holding 87.6% of newly issued 10-year JGBs, a benchmark for long-term interest rates.

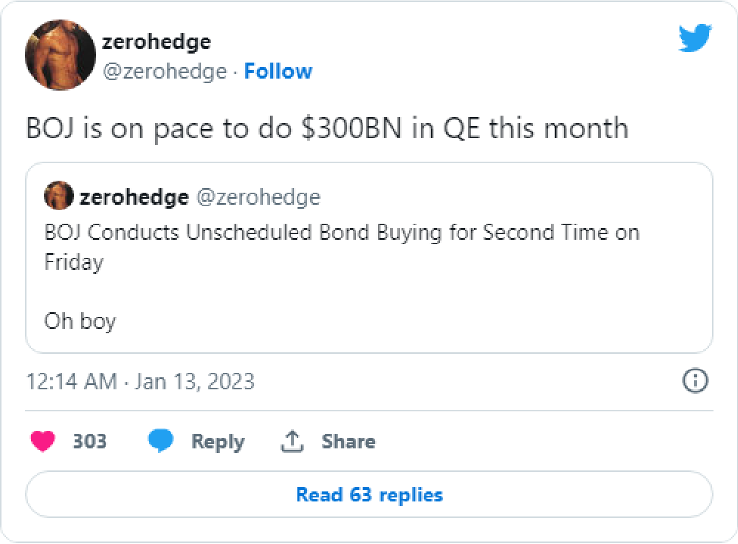
The Bank of Japan is printing the Fed-equivalent of $300bn a month



Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

What takes its place and when is the 1 quadrillion yen problem according to Bloomberg's Garfield Reynolds, who goes on to note that Tokyo is going to go on spreading rates and currency market turmoil until a solution of some sort is found.

Meanwhile, the absolutely horrific and frantic pace of recent JGB purchases — some 12t yen in a mere four days — exceeds any single month of buying to date.



zerohedge
@zerohedge · Follow

BOJ is on pace to do $300BN in QE this month

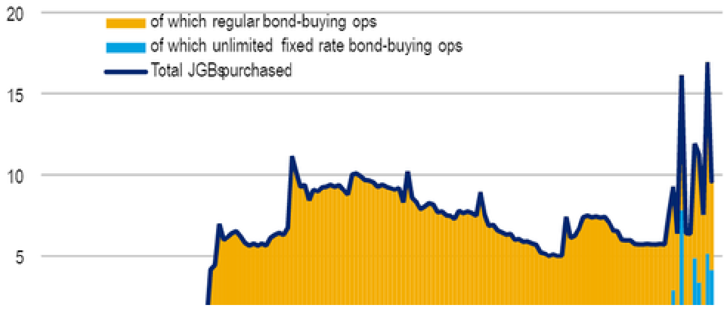
zerohedge @zerohedge
BOJ Conducts Unscheduled Bond Buying for Second Time on Friday

Oh boy

12:14 AM · Jan 13, 2023

The central bank's share of the market likely jumped a full percentage point in January to 53%, and the month is only half over. Hilariously, according to Garfield's calculations, **if the BOJ keeps going like this, then it has some 33 weeks or so left until there are no JGBs left in private hands.**

Exhibit 2: Monthly BoJ bond purchases (JPY trn), Jan '23 figure as of 13 Jan
The BoJ has had to purchase a record amount of bonds since Dec to defend YCC



Church, history, holy roman empire: **roman cathaloic church vs queen of england; In government, Elizabeth was more moderate than her father and half-siblings had been.[3] One of her mottoes was "video et taceo" ("I see and keep silent").[4] In religion, she was relatively tolerant and avoided systematic persecution. After the pope declared her illegitimate in 1570 and released her subjects from obedience to her, several conspiracies threatened her life, all of which were defeated with the help of her ministers' secret service, run by Francis Walsingham. Elizabeth was cautious in foreign affairs, manoeuvring between the major powers of France and Spain. She half-heartedly supported a number of ineffective, poorly resourced military campaigns in the Netherlands, France, and Ireland. By the mid-1580s, England could no longer avoid war with Spain.**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_I

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regnans_in_Excelsis

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Gregory_XIII

church, history, holy roman empire: **The Papal States, were a series of territories in the Italian Peninsula under the direct sovereign rule of the pope from 756 until 1870; For over a thousand years popes ruled as sovereign over an amalgam of territories on the Italian peninsula known as the Papal States, from the capital, Rome.[4] Avignon also came under the jurisdiction of the Papal States in 1348.[5]**

For over a thousand years popes ruled as sovereign over an amalgam of territories on the Italian peninsula known as the Papal States, from the capital, Rome.[4] Avignon also came under the jurisdiction of the Papal States in 1348.[5]

The state had its origins in the rise of Christianity throughout Italy, and with it the rising influence of the Christian Church. By the mid-8th century, with the decline of the Byzantine Empire in Italy, the Papacy became effectively sovereign. Several Christian rulers, including the Frankish kings Charlemagne and Pepin the Short, further donated lands to be governed by the Church.[5] During the Renaissance, the papal territory expanded greatly and the pope became one of Italy's most important secular rulers as well as the head of the Church. At their zenith, the Papal States covered most of the modern Italian regions of Lazio (which includes Rome), Marche, Umbria and Romagna, and portions of Emilia. These holdings were considered to be a manifestation of the temporal power of the pope, as opposed to his ecclesiastical primacy.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_States

The **temporal power of the Holy See** designates the political and secular influence of the Holy See, the leading of a state by the pope of the Catholic Church, as distinguished from its spiritual and pastoral activity.

In 751 the Exarchate of Ravenna fell to Lombard King Aistulf. Five years later, Pepin the Short of the Franks defeated the Lombards and granted the lands of the Duchy of Rome as well as territory ceased by the Lombards to the Papacy in what is referred to as the Donation of Pepin, marking the true beginning of the Papal States. The area conferred upon the pope inluded the territory belonging to Ravenna, even cities such as Forlì with their hinterlands, the Lombard conquests in the Romagna and in the Duchy of Spoleto and Benevento, and the Pentapolis (the "five cities" of Rimini, Pesaro, Fano, Senigallia and Ancona). Narni and Ceccano were former papal territories.[3] effective However, the medieval Popes were unable to exercise effective sovereignty over these extensive and mountainous territories, given the recalcitrance of their vassals.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temporal_power_of_the_Holy_See

church, history, roman empire: In 751 the Exarchate of Ravenna fell to Lombard King Aistulf. Five years later, Pepin the Short of the Franks defeated the Lombards and granted the lands of the Duchy of Rome as well as territory ceased by the Lombards to the Papacy in what is referred to as the Donation of Pepin, marking the true beginning of the Papal States.

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temporal_power_of_the_Holy_See

church, history, holy roman empire: The 13 May 1871 Italian Law of Guarantees, passed eight months after the capture of Rome, was an attempt to solve the problem by making the pope a subject of the Kingdom of Italy, not an independent sovereign, while guaranteeing him certain honours similar to those given to the king and the right to send and receive ambassadors.

The **Law of Guarantees** (Italian: *Legge delle guarentigie*), sometimes also called the **Law of Papal Guarantees**,[1] was the name given to the law passed by the senate and chamber of the Italian parliament, 13 May, 1871, concerning the prerogatives of the Holy See, and the relations between State and Church in the Kingdom of Italy.

It *guaranteed* sovereign prerogatives to the Roman Pontiff, who had been deprived of the territory of the papal states. The popes refused to accept the law, as it was enacted by a foreign government and could therefore be revoked at will, leaving the popes without a full claim to sovereign status. In response, the popes declared themselves prisoners of the Vatican. The ensuing Roman Question was not resolved until the Lateran Pacts of 1929.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_of_Guarantees

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prisoner_in_the_Vatican

history, church, war, markets: **The Revolutions of 1848: the most widespread revolutionary wave in European history to date; essentially democratic and liberal in nature, with the aim of removing the old monarchical structures and creating independent nation-states, as envisioned by romantic nationalism; initial revolution began in France in February; lasting reforms included the abolition of serfdom in Austria and Hungary, the end of absolute monarchy in Denmark, and the introduction of representative democracy in the Netherlands; Although the United Kingdom didn't see any notable actions at home, in British Ceylon there was a parallel but unsuccessful uprising against British rule known as the Matale Rebellion. The wave of uprisings ended in October 1849.**

The effect of the crisis on Ireland is incomparable to all other places, causing one million deaths,[4] up to two million refugees, and spurring a century-long population decline. Excluding Ireland, the death toll from the crisis is estimated to be in the region of 100,000 people.

Emigration to escape the famine centred mainly on Ireland and the Scottish Highlands. Elsewhere in the United Kingdom and on the continent, conditions were not so harsh as to completely eradicate the basics of survival so as to require mass migration of the sort experienced in Ireland and Scotland. Over 16,500 emigrated from the Scottish Highlands (out of a population affected by famine of no more than 200,000), many assisted by landlords and the Highland and Island Emigration Society, mainly to North America and Australia, this forming part of the second phase of the Highland Clearances.[5]:481[6]:307 The global consequence of this was the creation of a substantial Irish diaspora.

After the blight, strains originating in the Chiloé Archipelago replaced earlier potatoes of Peruvian origin in Europe.[2]

	Potatoes				**Rye**	**Wheat**	**Oats**
	arable land	**consumption**	**1845 yield**	**1846 yield**			
	(%)	**(kg/capita daily)**	**(% change on normal)**				
Belgium	14%	0.5/0.6 kg	−87%	−43%	−50%	−10%	n/a
Denmark	3%	0.2/0.3 kg	−50%	−50%	−20%	−20%	n/a
Sweden	5%	0.5/0.6 kg	−20–25%	−20–25%	−10%	−10%	n/a
France	App. 6%	0.5 kg	−20%	−19%	−20%	−25%	n/a
Württemberg	3–8%	n/a	−55%	−51%	−15%	−24%	n/a
Prussia	11%	1.0/1.1 kg	n/a	−47%	−43%	−43%	n/a
Netherlands	11%	0.7 kg	−71%	−56%	−47%	−6%	n/a
Spain	2%	low	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Highlands of Scotland	n/a	high	n/a	−80%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ireland	32%	2.1 kg	−30%	−88%	n/a	n/a	−33%
Source: Cormac Ó Gráda et al., 2006[3]							

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutions_of_1848

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Potato_Failure church, history, war: **Between 1798 and 1814, the revolutionary French government invaded Italy several times and annexed the Papal States (though the papacy was restored between 1800 and 1809). Napoleon Bonaparte abolished the pope's temporal power in 1809, incorporating Rome and Latium into his First French Empire. Pope Pius VII himself was even taken prisoner by Napoleon. However, the pope's temporal power was restored by the Great powers at the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars in the 1815 Congress of Vienna.**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temporal_power_of_the_Holy_See

church, history, war: The secular revolutionary movements of the 1800s posed a serious threat to the pope's temporal power. Avignon was seized by revolutionaries during the French Revolution in 1791, ending 450 years of papal sovereignty there.

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War, Germany, holy roman empire: Italy declared war on Austria in alliance with Prussia in 1866 and received the region of Veneto following their victory. Italian troops entered Rome in 1870, ending more than one thousand years of Papal temporal power. Italy entered into a Triple Alliance with the German Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1882, following

strong disagreements with France about their respective colonial expansions.

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Church, history, rome: **(unconfirmed) Jesus' ministry began not too long after fall A.D. 29, and lasted until 43 days after April 3, A.D. 33: about 3 years.**

Rome, church, history: The Gregorian calendar is the calendar used in most parts of the world, was introduced in October 1582 by Pope

There were two reasons to establish the Gregorian calendar. First, the Julian calendar assumed incorrectly that the average solar year is exactly 365.25 days long, an overestimate of a little under one day per century, and thus has a leap year every four years without exception. The Gregorian reform shortened the average (calendar) year by 0.0075 days to stop the drift of the calendar with respect to the equinoxes.[3] Second, in the years since the First Council of Nicaea in AD 325,[b] the excess leap days introduced by the Julian algorithm had caused the calendar to drift such that the (Northern) spring equinox was occurring well before its nominal 21 March date. This date was important to the Christian churches because it is fundamental to the calculation of the date of Easter. To reinstate the association, the reform advanced the date by 10 days:[c] Thursday 4 October 1582 was followed by Friday 15 October 1582.[3] In addition, the reform also altered the lunar cycle used by the Church to calculate the date for Easter, because astronomical new moons were occurring four days before the calculated dates. It is notable that whilst the reform introduced minor changes, the calendar continued to be fundamentally based on the same geocentric theory as its predecessor.[4]

The reform was adopted initially by the Catholic countries of Europe and their overseas possessions. Over the next three centuries, the Protestant and Eastern Orthodox countries also moved to what they called the *Improved calendar*, with Greece being the last European country to adopt the calendar (for civil use only) in 1923.[5] To unambiguously specify a date during the transition period (in contemporary documents or in history texts), both notations were given, tagged as 'Old Style' or 'New Style' as appropriate. During the 20th century, most non-Western countries also adopted the calendar, at least for civil purposes.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregorian_calendar

As God commanded Moses, "The first month of the year to you" (Exodus 12:2) was to be Nisan, which corresponded to March/April (just as the vernal equinox on March 25 was the beginning of the new year in the early Roman calendar). A lamb was to be kept "until the fourteenth day of the same month" (Exodus 12:6, Leviticus 23:5, Numbers 28:16) when, that evening, it was to be sacrificed and eaten with bread and bitter herbs (Exodus 12:8), on what then was the fifteenth day of the month.

penelopedotuchicagodotedu/~grout/encyclopaedia_romana/calendar/jesus.html

church, history, rome: The Julian calendar has two types of years: a normal year of 365 days and a leap year of 366 days. They follow a simple cycle of three normal years and one leap year, giving an average year that is 365.25 days long. That is more than the actual solar year value of 365.24219 days (the current value, which varies), which means the Julian calendar gains a day every 128 years.

Church, history, rome: The Julian calendar, proposed by Roman consul Julius Caesar in 46 BC, was a reform of the Roman calendar. It took effect on 1 January 45 BC, calendar became the predominant calendar in the Roman Empire and subsequently most of the Western world for

more than 1,600 years until 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII promulgated a minor modification to reduce the average length of the year from 365.25 days to 365.2425 days and thus corrected the Julian calendar's drift against the solar year. Worldwide adoption of this revised calendar, which became known as the Gregorian calendar, took place over the subsequent centuries, first in Catholic countries and subsequently in Protestant countries of the Western Christian world.

Church, history, rome: **During the time of jesus, the days changed at sunset rather than at nighttime, 6 hours after sunset. So 3 o clock was actually only 3 hours from the end of the day during the time of jesus**

Daylight hours, however, still were measured from sunrise (6 a.m.). The third hour was 9 a.m.; the sixth hour, 12 noon; and the ninth hour, 3 p.m. An event that occurred just before sunset (the twelfth hour, 6 p.m.) was counted as taking place on that day and, after sunset, the next. In the Jerusalem Talmud, for example, "day and night each are a term, and part of a term is like the whole" (*Shabbat*, IX.3). It is important to remember, too, that days were counted inclusively and that both the first and last day were included in calculating the passage of time.

Tech: 2018: These $10,000 Concrete Homes Are 3D-Printed in Less Than 24 Hours, Once plumbing, electrical and other additional

construction is added, the final housing cost is around $140,000 to $160,000 on average today.

What makes housing so expensive? Labor costs, for one. According to a 2014 Census Bureau survey, the average single-family home takes about six months to construct, and that's a lot of man-hours. A new type of home from Austin, Texas-based startup ICON and the housing nonprofit New Story is hoping to change that. Their homes can be built from the ground up in 12 to 24 hours, and they cost builders just $10,000 to construct, The Verge reports.

The project, which was revealed at this year's SXSW festival in Austin, isn't the first to apply 3D printing to home construction. Moscow, Beijing, and Dubai are all home to structures assembled using the technology. What makes ICON and New Story's buildings remarkable is what they intend to do with them: Within the next 18 months, they plan to set up a community of 100 3D-printed homes for residents of El Salvador. If that venture is successful, the team wants to bring the printer to other places in need of affordable housing, including parts of the U.S.

thezebradotcom/resources/home/3d-printed-homes/

tech: . Called bioprinting, it is considered by many to be the future of medicine. From prostheses to surgical guides to bioprinted organs, it allows caregivers to provide the right care for each patient.
aerospace industry, where many parts, such as turbines, are now 3D printed
https://www.3dnatives.com/en/what-is-additive-manufacturing/#

first 3-d printer created in 1988 by 3-d systems, followed by numerous discoveries, such as the first successful bioprinting project in 2011 with the printing of a kidney, the first 3D printer sent into space, and the first inhabited 3D printed house.
https://www.3dnatives.com/en/3d-technologies/

Invented in 1986 by Charles Hull with the stereolithography (SLA) process, additive manufacturing is now a technology used in many sectors
Invented in 1986 by Charles Hull with the stereolithography (SLA) process, additive manufacturing is now a technology used in many sectors

additive manufacturing is a technological revolution, hailed as part of the fourth industrial revolution

tech: **The first fully 3D-printed home in the U.S. was unveiled at Austin’s South by Southwest conference in 2018**

tech: **ICON wants to eventually bring the $10,000 price tag down to $4000. The 3D-printed houses owe their affordability to low labor costs and cheap materials.**

Markets, tech, housing: **company that recent built canada first and second 3d printed houses say it is still slightly more expensive than building a regular house**
ottawadotctvnewsdotca/first-two-story-3d-printed-house-being-built-on-wolfe-island-1.6007960

markets, tech, housing: **The 3D printing industry is still small today and uses only a very small number of workers. But its impact on blue-collar jobs will be much more significant than any industrial revolution.**
omnifabdotph/blog/3d-printed-houses-what-are-their-pros-and-cons/

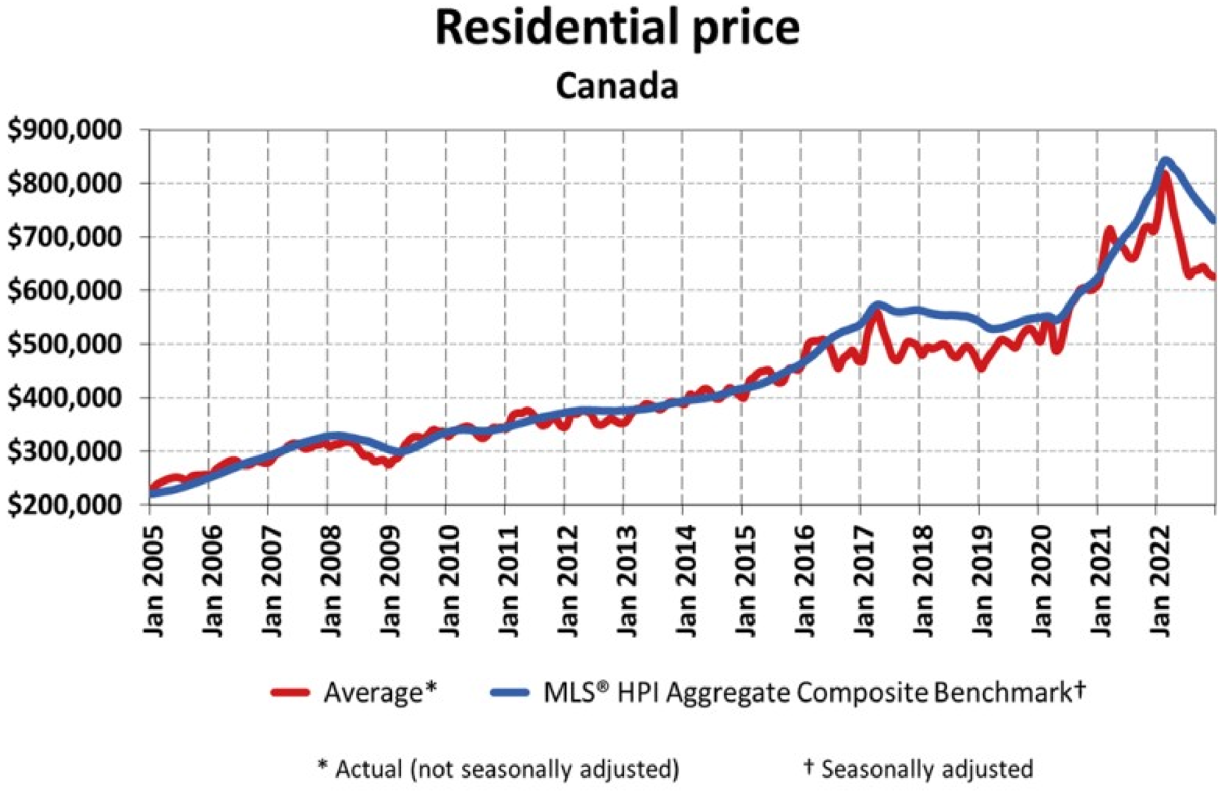
tech, war: **Boston Dynamics is Building a Super Robot Army**

tech, markets, housing: **The Top 10 PREFAB HOMES of 2023!!**

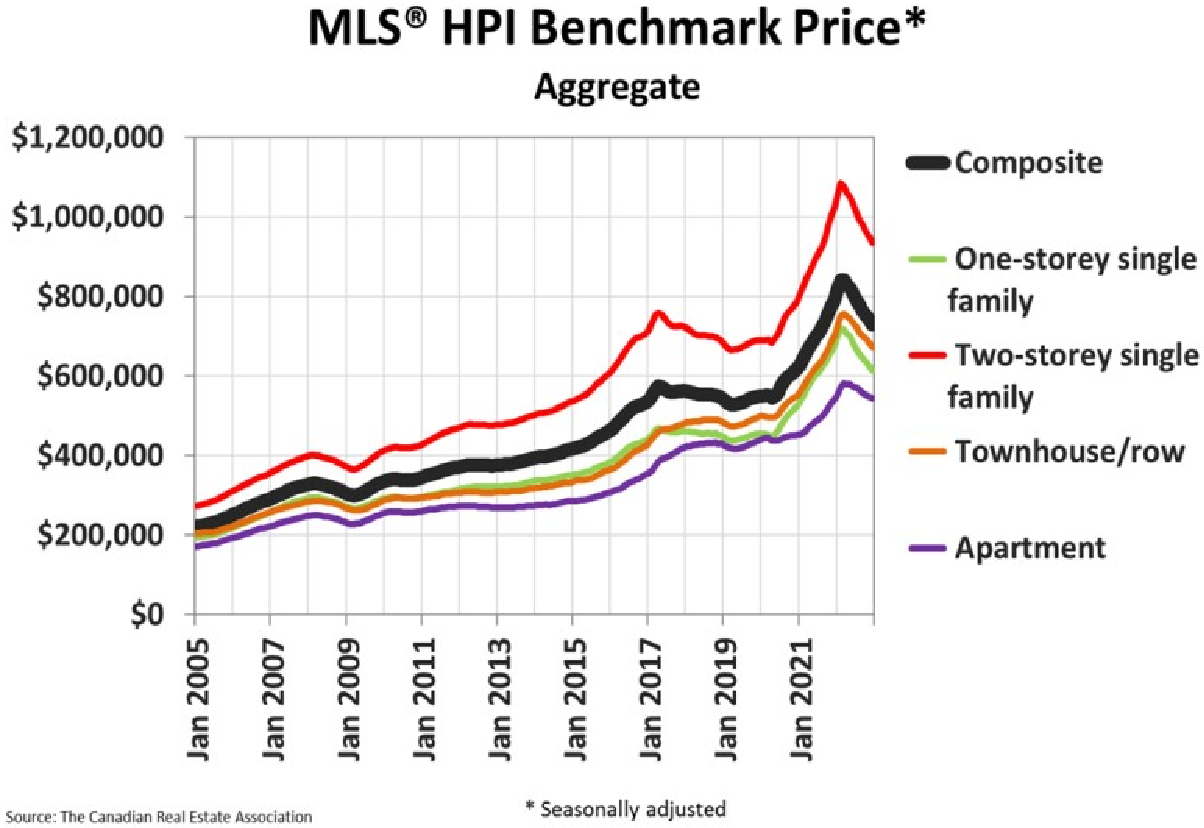
Tech, markets, housing: **3D-Printed in 24h, no waste.**

markets, housing: **house prices in a nutshell in Canada**

The actual (not seasonally adjusted) national average home price was $626,318 in December 2022, down 12% from the same month last year. The national average price is heavily influenced by sales in Greater Vancouver and the Greater Toronto Area, two of Canada's most active and expensive housing markets. Excluding these two markets from the calculation cuts almost $118,000 from the national average price.



Source: The Canadian Real Estate Association



MLS® HPI Benchmark Price*

Aggregate

Source: The Canadian Real Estate Association

* Seasonally adjusted

Censorship, government: **is it just this simple... (enthic mixing went too far; should obviously still be allowed, but limited to maintain harmony in the community)**

what this man says is probably true. I've kind of seen what he's talking about and get what he is saying..
investmentwatchblogdotcom/modern-americas-diversity-problem-is-concentrated-almost-entirely-in-the-major-cities/

war: (me talking) jan17 russia threatens europe. any tanks sent now involves you in the war; we have lsot many people, now and throughout history. For those the\at haven't, yet, russia says it will not hesitate to remind those how it feels to be attacked

investmentwatchblogdotcom/russia-this-is-serious/

today, ukraine, antiwar: jan17

Ukraine

UN Confirms More Than 7,000 Civilian Deaths in Ukraine

Ukraine Missile Toll Rises to 40 as Russia Denies Attack

Britain Urges Germany to Permit Supply of Tanks to Ukraine

Latvia Urges Western Allies to Step Up Military Aid for Ukraine

Ukraine's Zelensky Calls on OSCE to Do More About Ukrainians Moved to Russia

British Foreign Minister Seeks to Bolster Ukraine Support on North American Trip

Poland Expects German Accord for Leopard Tank Deliveries to Ukraine

Cambodian Experts Begin Training Ukrainian Deminers

UN Watchdog Optimistic About Ukraine Nuclear Plant Protection

Russia

Germany Calls for Special Tribunal Against Russia Over Ukraine War

Putin Slams Growing Western Arms Deliveries to Ukraine

British Challenger-2 Tanks Sent to Ukraine Will Burn on the Battlefield, Moscow Warns

Putin and Erdogan Discuss Ukraine Prisoners, Gas and Grain

India's Oil Imports From Russia Jump 33 Times to Record High

War: jan17 Somali Forces Capture Strategic Coastal Town From Al-Shabaab 11 years after it's capture in 2012

Markets, energy, war: fuel shortages in syria t he worst since the beginning of the civil war, analysts told the wall street journal, Iran sets new $70 limit on shipments to syria, doubling t he previous set price; iran account for more than half of syrias oil consumption

Iran is doubling the price of its oil going to Syria to a market rate of over $70 per barrel and now refuses to ship oil to Damascus on credit, demanding payment in advance, sources with knowledge of the matter told The Wall Street Journal on Sunday.

War: jan17 **UN Confirms More Than 7,000 Civilian Deaths in Ukraine**

War, Israel, media: **"I'm a fascist homophobe, but... I won't stone gays". (I actually kind of understand what he's actually trying to say here, and honestly, I kind of agree. He think homosexuality is sick, but he won't hurt them or block them from working up the ladder like anybody else in his country. At least they don't kill them, like they do in Afghanistan and other muslim countries)**

In the recording, Smotrich is reportedly heard saying "I'm a fascist homophobe, but... I won't stone gays".

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition deal, which saw far-right politicians appointed as ministers, has led to concerns of a possible crackdown on LGBTQ and women's rights in Israel, along with a much greater fear of the violent suppression of Palestinians.

War, Africa:
isis in congo now? wha?: " ISIS Claims Church Bombing in East DR Congo; 14 Dead

“Let the Congolese forces know that their continued attacks on the Mujahideen will only bring them more failure and losses,” the group said in its statement.

ike this ere. All you need is the headline(because it tells you what actually happened), and the official statement from the group's head, like sort of a managements discussion, or boards opinion.

War, markets, energy: Spanish Utility Says Europe's Energy Crisis Isn’t Over Yet

Journal, war: jan17

War, journal: sounds like a fabricated story, involves norwegian border with russia--something that's been in the fear wire lately--and unnamed foreigner who's supposedely a 'high-ranking' wagner group member. This would signal to russians that they are free to coem to norway if t hey want to escape putin. In war, everything is lies unles it's an actual recorded event.

High-ranking Wagner Group member seeks asylum in Norway

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A Russian man who reportedly is a former high-ranking member of the Russian private military contractor Wagner Group, has sought asylum in Norway, authorities said Monday.

The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, also known by its Norwegian acronym UDI, confirmed to The Associated Press that Andrey Medvedev has sought shelter in Norway.

“For reasons of security and privacy, the UDI cannot comment further on this matter,” UDI said in an email to the AP.

His Norwegian lawyer, Brynjulf Risnes, confirmed that Medvedev was in Norway and had sought asylum.

The case was handed to the Norwegian immigration police and the man was transferred to Oslo, where he was placed in a center for violators of migration laws. Police in Norway have declined to comment on the case.

Last week, police in Arctic Norway said a person had illegally entered from Russia by crossing the two countries’ border, which is 198 kilometers (123 miles) long.

ADVERTISEMENT

The man, who was only identified by authorities as a foreigner, was detained by border guards and the arrest was undramatic, police said. The man is said to have visited a private house in the border area and asked for help. Police said that they had been notified late Thursday by Russian border guards who discovered traces in the snow that could indicate that someone had crossed the border illegally.

NORWAY

Norway archaeologists find 'world's oldest runestone'

Kristoffersen wins World Cup slalom, completes Norway sweep

Braathen beats boyhood buddy McGrath to win World Cup slalom

Crane crashes onto mall in Norway amid high winds; 1 dead

It is believed that person was identical with Medvedev, who according to the Norwegian news agency NTB on Monday has been on the run since he defected from the Wagner Group on July 6. He reportedly has told a Russian human rights group that he is ready to tell everything he knows about the Wagner Group, its activities and its owner Yevgeny Prigozhin, a millionaire with ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Wagner Group includes a large number of convicts recruited in Russian prisons who have spearheaded attacks in Ukraine. The group has has become increasingly influential in Africa, where it has been pushing Russian disinformation, building alliances with regimes and gaining access to oil, gas, gold, diamonds and valuable minerals.

Iran, war, sanctions: Hamad bin Jassim warned Saturday that a collapse of international efforts to renew Iran’s 2015 nuclear deal could lead to war in the Gulf region.

Hamad bin Jassim warned Saturday that a collapse of international efforts to renew Iran’s 2015 nuclear deal could lead to war in the Gulf region.

For more than a decade, Israel has threatened to attack its regional enemy's nuclear facilities if it deems world powers' diplomacy with Tehran a dead end.

Bitter foes, a "shadow war" between Israel and Iran has seen a spate of attacks on ships in the Gulf from both sides that they have blamed on each other.

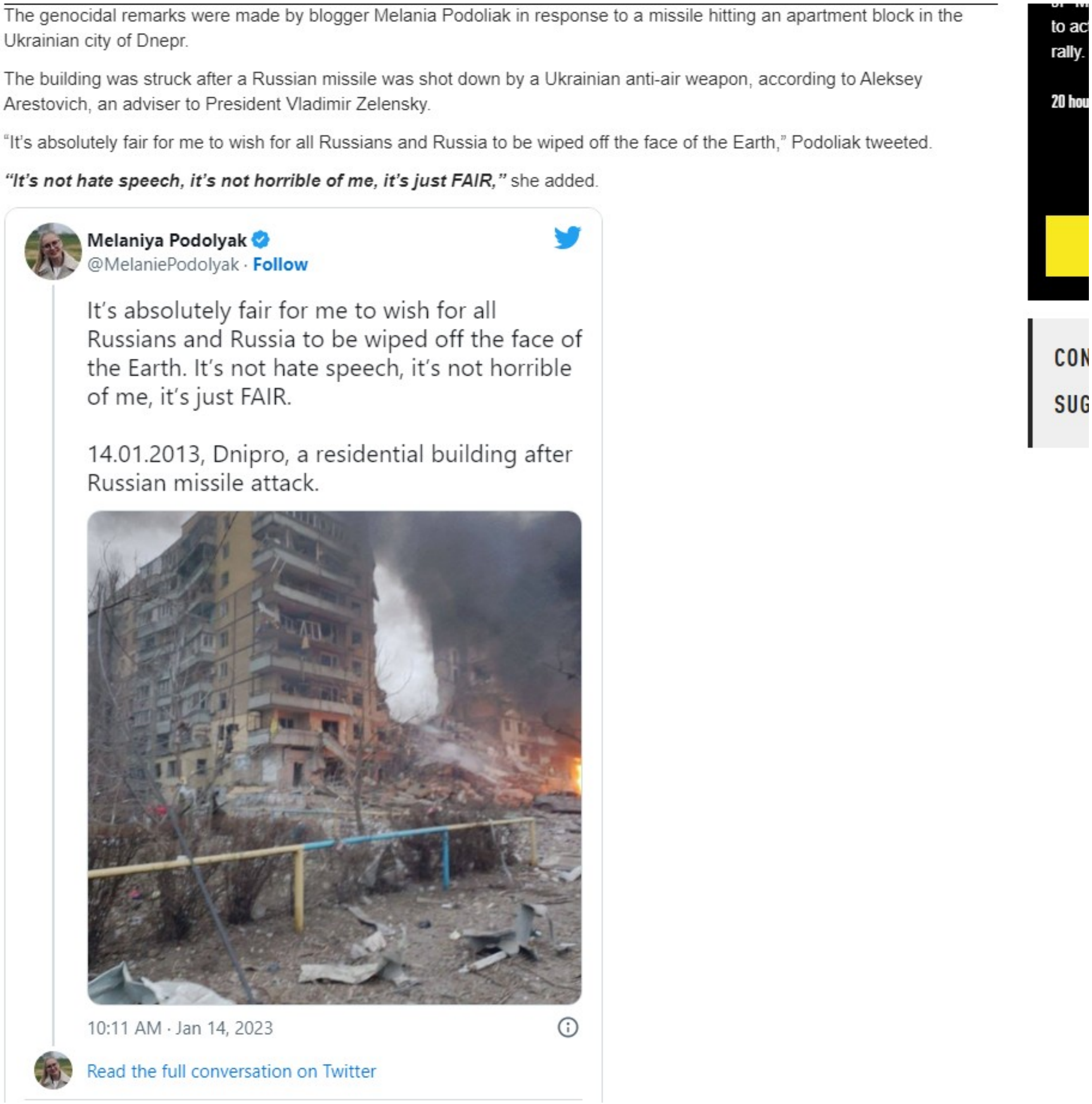
"If parties do not reach a new nuclear deal with Iran, and the United States provides Israel with the weapons it needs, there will be, God forbid, military escalation that may shake security and stability in our region and will have dire economic, political and social consequences," continued bin Jassim on Twitter.

Iran, war, sanctions: jan17**Former US president Donald Trump withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and reimposed crippling economic sanctions on Iran. In return, Iran begun producing uranium enriched to 60 percent.**

War, energy, markets: **Unlike Riyadh, countries like Qatar, Kuwait and Oman have long shared relatively better ties with Tehran.**

War, Israel: jan17 **Israel has conducted hundreds of strikes within Syria in its bid to degrade regime-allied militias and to prevent their development and deployment capacity to attack Israel across the occupied Golan Heights with drones and ballistic missiles.**

War: jan17 **US Begins Expanded Training of Ukrainian Forces in Germany**



The genocidal remarks were made by blogger Melania Podoliak in response to a missile hitting an apartment block in the Ukrainian city of Dnepr.

The building was struck after a Russian missile was shot down by a Ukrainian anti-air weapon, according to Aleksey Arestovich, an adviser to President Vladimir Zelensky.

"It's absolutely fair for me to wish for all Russians and Russia to be wiped off the face of the Earth," Podoliak tweeted.

"It's not hate speech, it's not horrible of me, it's just FAIR," she added.

Melaniya Podolyak
@MelaniePodolyak · **Follow**

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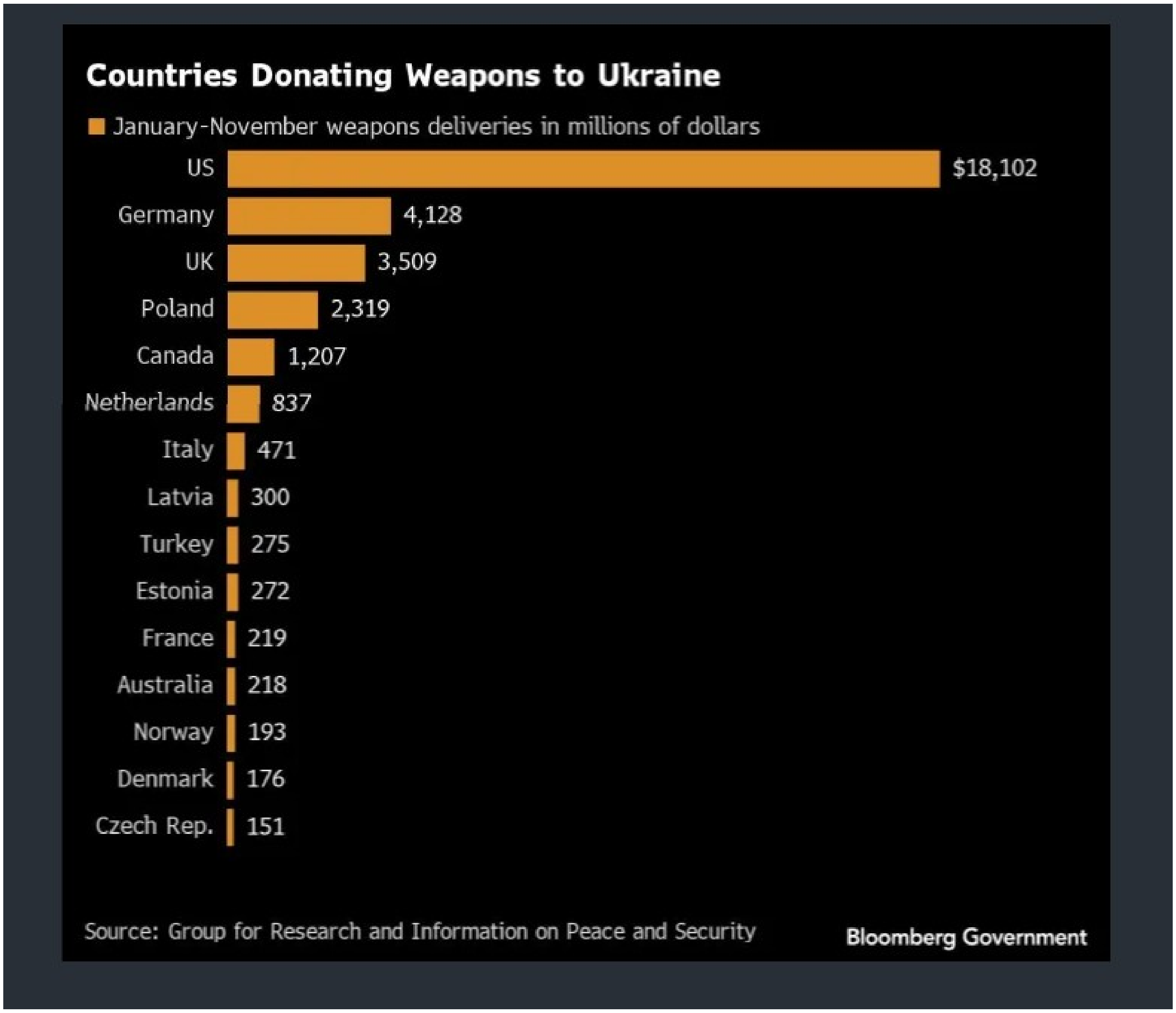
14.01.2013, Dnipro, a residential building after Russian missile attack.

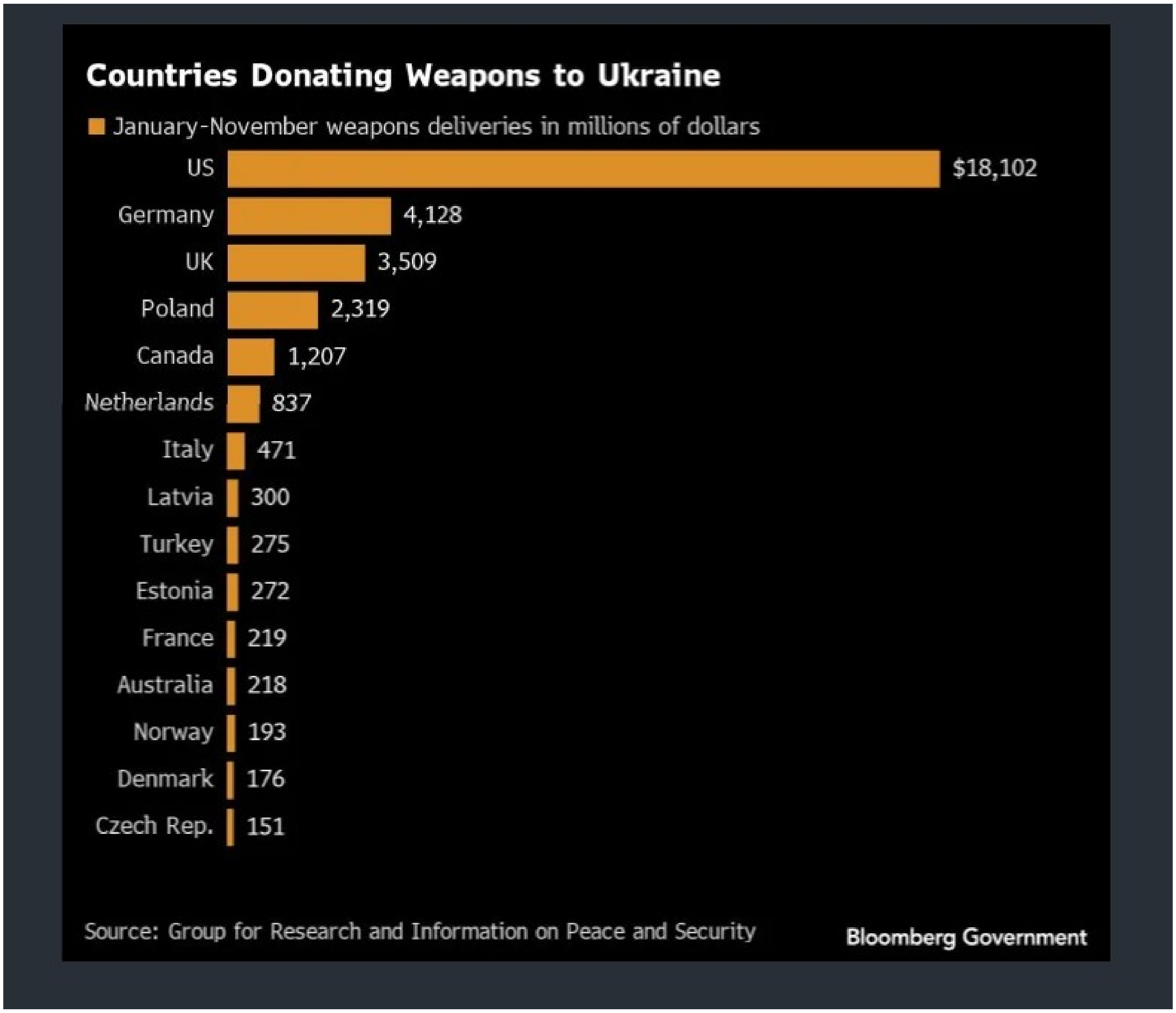
10:11 AM · Jan 14, 2023

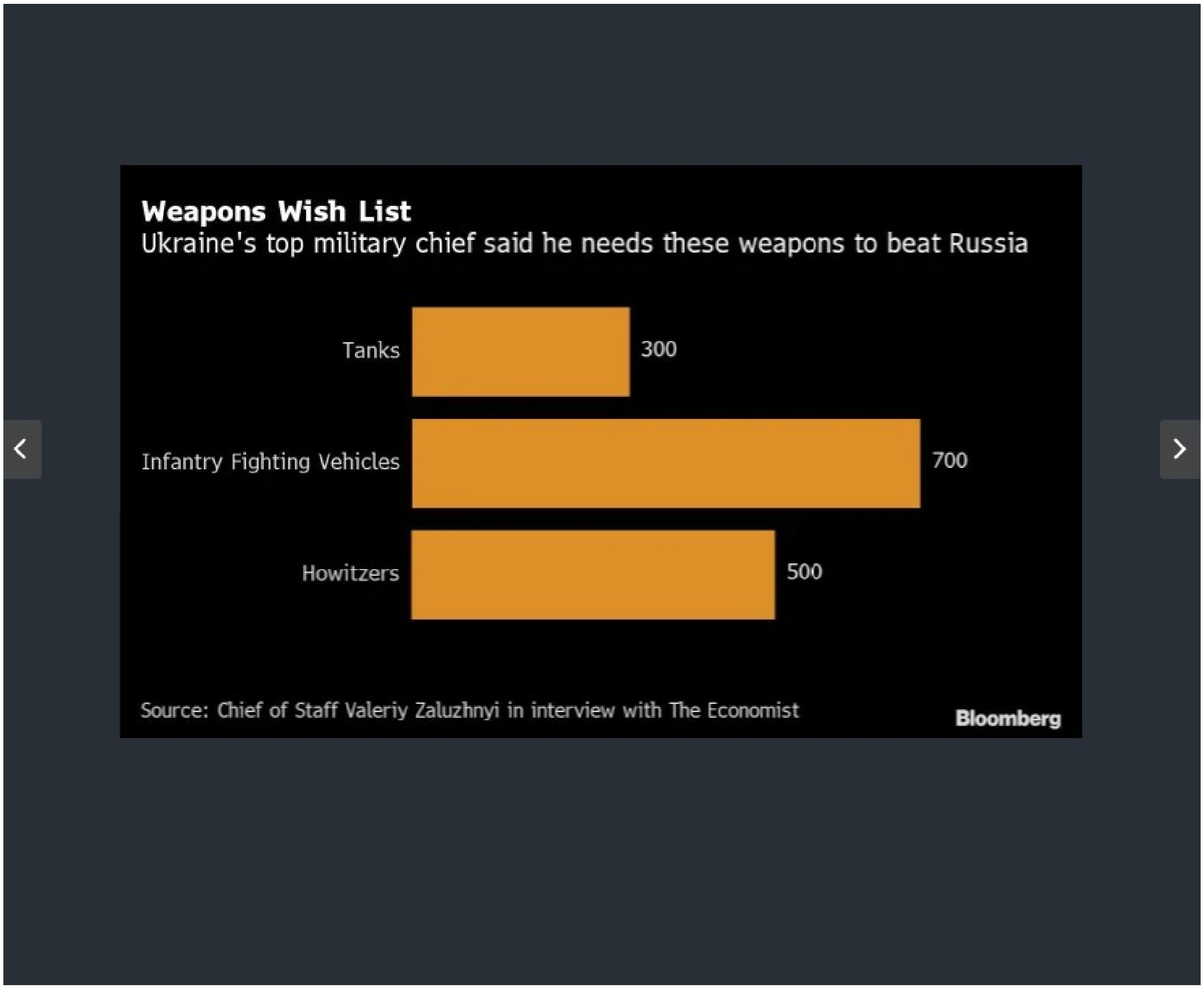
Read the full conversation on Twitter



Countries Donating Weapons to Ukraine

Source: Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security


Countries Donating Weapons to Ukraine
January-November weapons deliveries in millions of dollars
US
$18,102
Germany
4,128
UK
3,509
Poland
2,319
Canada
1,207
Netherlands
837
Italy
471
Latvia
300
Turkey
275
Estonia
272
France
219
Australia
218
Norway
193
Denmark
176
Czech Rep.
151
Source: Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security
Bloomberg Government



Weapons Wish List

Ukraine's top military chief said he needs these weapons to beat Russia

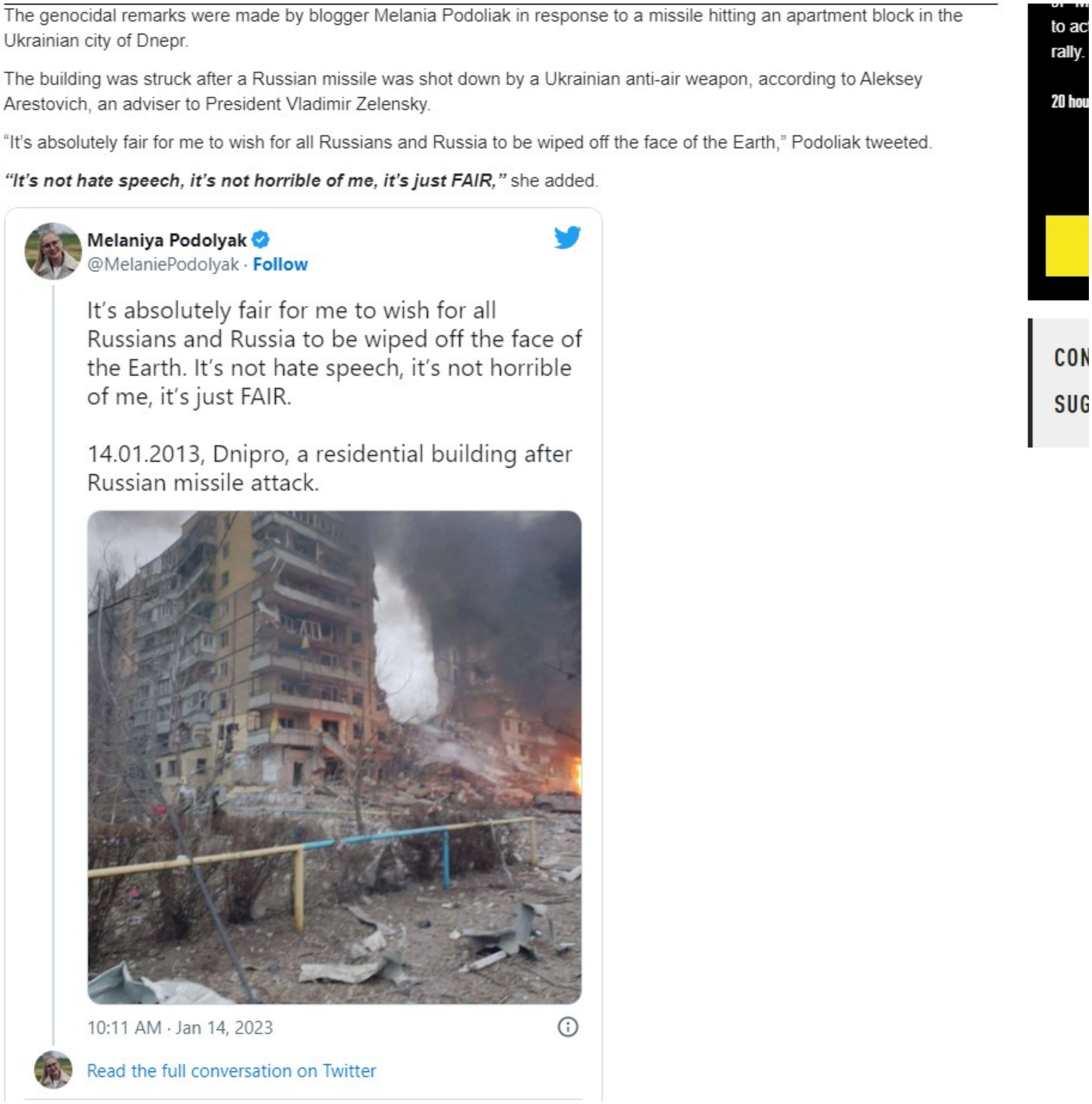
Source: Chief of Staff Valeriy Zaluzhnyi in interview with The Economist

War: jan17 **Croatia's President: US, NATO Are Waging a Proxy War Against Russia jan17**

War: jan17 **On friday the 13th, "Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov told BBC on Friday that Ukraine is a "de facto" NATO member"**

War: jan17 **sick: Ukrainian Activist Lauded By Western Media Says She Wants "All Russians" To Be "Wiped Off The Face Of The Earth"**

A Ukrainian activist who has been lauded by legacy media outlets called for “all Russians” to be “wiped off the face of the Earth.”



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14.01.2013, Dnipro, a residential building after Russian missile attack.

10:11 AM · Jan 14, 2023

Read the full conversation on Twitter

Markets, war: French And German Power Prices Soar As Cold Sweeps Europe jan17

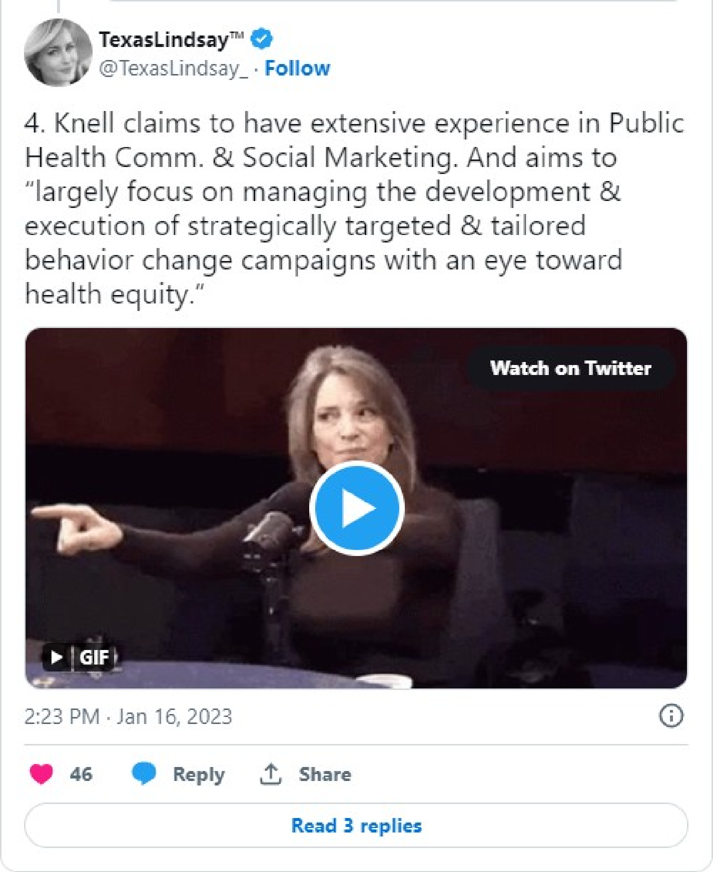
Health, vaccine: "Our own analysis indicates that an estimated 300-500 patients are dying

per week across the UK associated with long waiting times in emergency departmentsm", Adrian Boyle, president of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine

War, energy, markets: US NatGas Prices Rise As Models Suggest 'Polar Vortex To Unload On US'

Source, ads, markets: **Email marketing can be extremely lucrative — it generates an investment return of $36 for every $1 spent**
http://constantcontact.com/blog/email-marketing-statistics/

urbanemudotcom/how-to-develop-and-launch-a-successful-social-behavior-change-campaign/



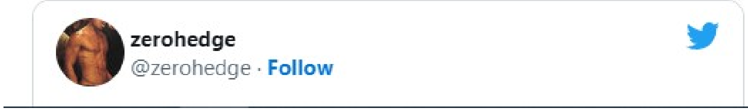
TexasLindsay™
@TexasLindsay_

4. Knell claims to have extensive experience in Public Health Comm. & Social Marketing. And aims to "largely focus on managing the development & execution of strategically targeted & tailored behavior change campaigns with an eye toward health equity."

2:23 PM · Jan 16, 2023

"To translate the above into layman's terms she is a narrative enforcer. She's funded by Big Pharma and aided by Big Brother to be the ministry of truth. She aims to create social norms by means of censorship and propaganda. **She wants to tell you & I—how/what to say and think.**"

Meanwhile, as this bullying progressed this was happening...



zerohedge
@zerohedge

Ads, censorship, source: behavior change campaigns can sometimes make things worse, like in everyday life. if you don't do it right, people will just do the opposite or feel threatened, attacked, challendged

Sometimes, behavior change campaigns can end up making a social issue worse. Evidence suggests that anti-smoking commercials, for example, can make young people more likely to smoke.

Behavior change communication (BCC) can be extremely difficult because there’s such a fine line between encouraging someone to do something and telling them what to do.

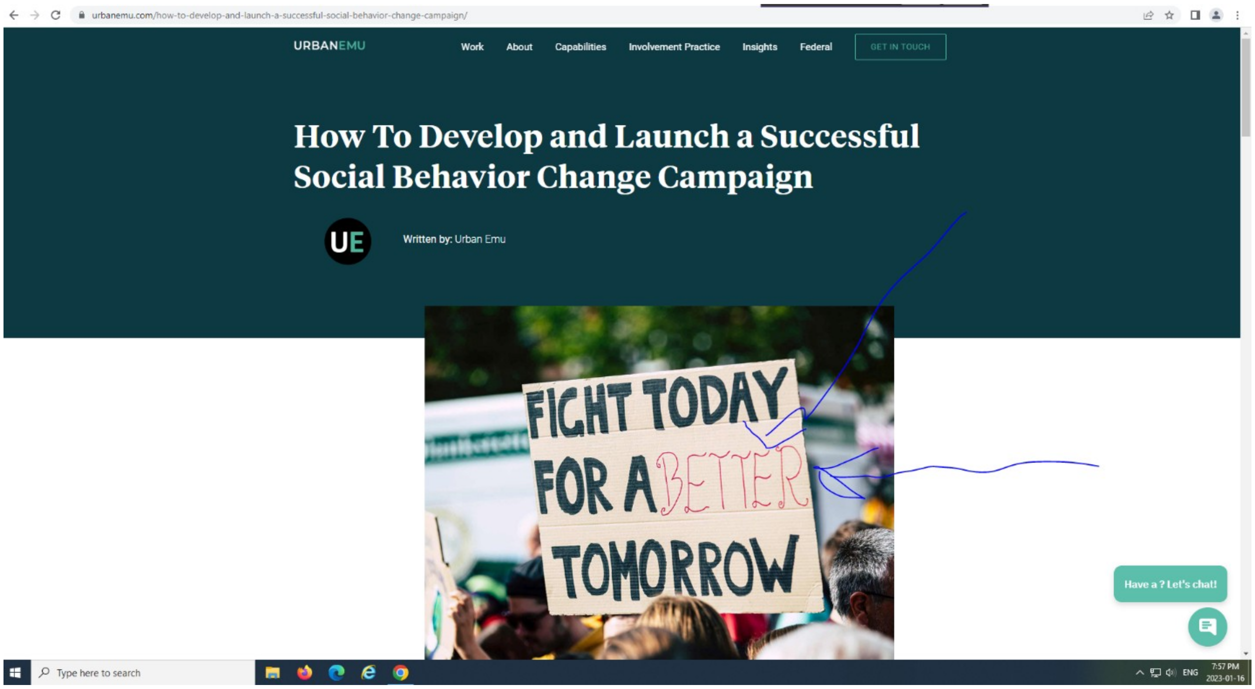
Behavior change campaigns typically target long-term issues that have existed in society for some time — crime, drug use, poor eating habits, etc

some points completely change the equation, like this one, at least for me: "Avoid being culturally insensitive or criticizing someone’s beliefs about a particular social issue, even if you don’t agree with that person’s views. Social issues like COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, for example, need to be treated with care and compassion. If you want to change someone’s behavior, you need to empathize and understand your audience’s concerns."

Behavioral change campaigns typically focus on a specific group rather than the whole population

More than 1.8 million smokers quit after the CDC’s two-month-long Tips From Former Smokers campaign in 2014.

They're calling them "behavior change campiagns", now...prolly good to know..


urbanemu.com/how-to-develop-and-launch-a-successful-social-behavior-change-campaign/
URBANEMU
Work
About
Capabilities
Involvement Practice
Insights
Federal
GET IN TOUCH
UE
FIGHT TODAY
FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW
Have a ? Let's chat!
Type here to search
ENG
7:57 PM
2023-01-16

How To Develop and Launch a Successful Social Behavior Change Campaign

Written by: Urban Emu

Can you change someone’s behavior? If you develop a clever social behavior change campaign, you can.

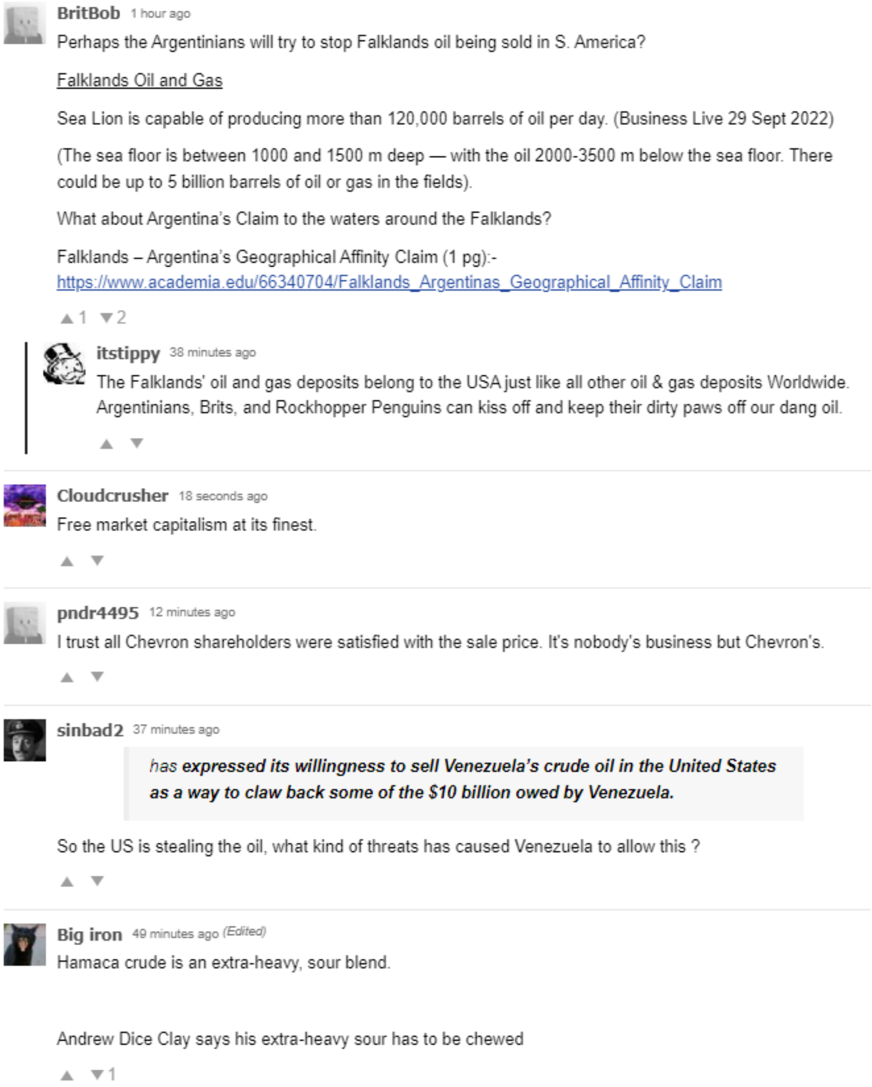
If you wonder why some children sing “Happy Birthday” when washing their hands, that behavior could be the result of a savvy social behavior change campaign from the CDC. Health experts recommend washing your hands while humming the song twice — which takes around 20 seconds.

Social behavior change campaigns like the hand-washing example is about building awareness around a social issue to change someone’s behavior or attitudes. There are loads of examples of these types of campaigns. The “Clunk Click, Every Trip” campaign from the ’70s encouraged British motorists to buckle up, for example.

War, history, Russia:

[RUSSIA'S 'MONROE DOCTRINE' - The Washington Post]()

War, sanctions, markets: Bank of England essentially 'breaks the buck', by refusing to give zenezuela's gold back



BritBob 1 hour ago

Perhaps the Argentinians will try to stop Falklands oil being sold in S. America?

Falklands Oil and Gas

Sea Lion is capable of producing more than 120,000 barrels of oil per day. (Business Live 29 Sept 2022)

(The sea floor is between 1000 and 1500 m deep — with the oil 2000-3500 m below the sea floor. There could be up to 5 billion barrels of oil or gas in the fields).

What about Argentina's Claim to the waters around the Falklands?

Falklands – Argentina's Geographical Affinity Claim (1 pg):-
https://www.academia.edu/66340704/Falklands_Argentinas_Geographical_Affinity_Claim

▲1 ▼2

itstippy 38 minutes ago

The Falklands' oil and gas deposits belong to the USA just like all other oil & gas deposits Worldwide. Argentinians, Brits, and Rockhopper Penguins can kiss off and keep their dirty paws off our dang oil.

▲ ▼

Cloudcrusher 18 seconds ago

Free market capitalism at its finest.

▲ ▼

pndr4495 12 minutes ago

I trust all Chevron shareholders were satisfied with the sale price. It's nobody's business but Chevron's.

▲ ▼

sinbad2 37 minutes ago

> *has **expressed its willingness to sell Venezuela's crude oil in the United States as a way to claw back some of the $10 billion owed by Venezuela.***

So the US is stealing the oil, what kind of threats has caused Venezuela to allow this ?

▲ ▼

Big iron 49 minutes ago *(Edited)*

Hamaca crude is an extra-heavy, sour blend.

Andrew Dice Clay says his extra-heavy sour has to be chewed

▲ ▼1

LONDON (AP) — The British government sought Monday to prevent Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro from gaining access to nearly $2 billion of gold held by the Bank of England as the U.K. Supreme Court started hearing a case that hinges on the question of who should be considered the Latin American nation’s president.

Britain told the court that its recognition of opposition leader Juan Guaidó as president is clear and longstanding, and therefore he is the person authorized to decide how the gold held by Britain’s central bank should be used. The government’s statement came after a lower court said the U.K.’s recognition of Guaidó was “ambiguous.”

“The U.K. government has the right to decide who to recognize as the legitimate head of a foreign state,” the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said in a statement. “The U.K. recognizes Juan Guaidó as president of Venezuela and consequentially he is the only individual recognized to have the authority to act on behalf of Venezuela as its head of state.”

ADVERTISEMENT

Maduro has demanded access to the gold to help his cash-starved nation fight the coronavirus pandemic. But the Bank of England has refused to hand it over, citing the British government’s recognition of Guaidó.

Guaidó has sought to preserve the gold stash at the Bank of England to keep it out of the hands of the Maduro government, which it contends is illegitimate and corrupt.

Guaidó, who was the leader of Venezuela’s National Assembly, challenged Maduro’s claim to the presidency, arguing that his 2018 election was rigged and invalid. Guaidó says he is the country’s interim president under provisions of the constitution that allow the head of the legislature to take power until free elections can be held.

Countries including the U.S. and the U.K. have recognized Guaidó as the legitimate president of Venezuela, although China, Russia and many others haven’t and Maduro holds effective power within Venezuela.

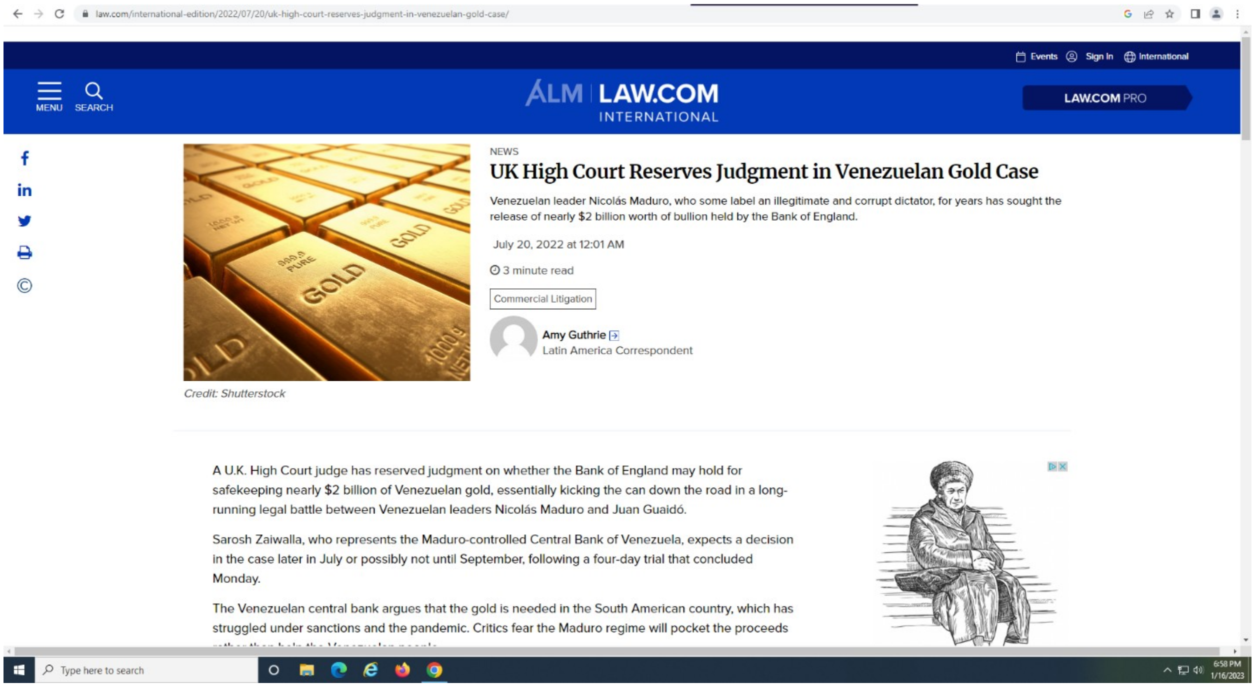
The battle over the gold is being fought out between two competing governing boards of the Central Bank of Venezuela, one appointed by Maduro and the other by Guaidó.

Guaidó, who is represented by the law firm Arnold & Porter, is arguing there is nothing ambiguous about the U.K. actions.

Maduro’s lawyers argue that he’s still president of Venezuela and that the U.K. has recognized this by continuing diplomatic relations with his government.

Leigh Crestohl, a lawyer representing the Maduro board, said the U.K. government’s position threatens the attractiveness of the City of London and the Bank of England as a secure place for foreign assets.

“International observers to this case may be surprised by the possibility that a unilateral statement of political recognition by the U.K. government can dispossess a foreign sovereign of assets deposited in London without any recourse in the English court,” Crestohl, a partner at the London-based law firm Zaiwalla & Co., said in a statement. “This is all the more so where that recognition ignores the reality on the ground.”



NEWS

UK High Court Reserves Judgment in Venezuelan Gold Case

Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro, who some label an illegitimate and corrupt dictator, for years has sought the release of nearly $2 billion worth of bullion held by the Bank of England.

July 20, 2022 at 12:01 AM

3 minute read

Commercial Litigation

Amy Guthrie
Latin America Correspondent

Credit: Shutterstock

A U.K. High Court judge has reserved judgment on whether the Bank of England may hold for safekeeping nearly $2 billion of Venezuelan gold, essentially kicking the can down the road in a long-running legal battle between Venezuelan leaders Nicolás Maduro and Juan Guaidó.

Sarosh Zaiwalla, who represents the Maduro-controlled Central Bank of Venezuela, expects a decision in the case later in July or possibly not until September, following a four-day trial that concluded Monday.

The Venezuelan central bank argues that the gold is needed in the South American country, which has struggled under sanctions and the pandemic. Critics fear the Maduro regime will pocket the proceeds

War, markets, sanctions: **U.S. surrenders to venezuala? (don't know enough yet): Chevron Corp has sold a cargo of Venezuelan crude oil to another U.S. refinery, Phillips 66, the first of such a sale since the United States sanctioned Venezuela's crude oil; ConocoPhillips' Venezuelan assets were nationalized in 2007—along with many other oil companies' assets.**

zh commenter:

They went Commie. Then they Nationalized their oil industry and stiffed our Oil Majors. They thought they'd be like Kuwait and live large off oil revenues and nobody'd have to work. Unfortunately the USA got pissy and embargoed their oil, and nobody in Venezuela knew how to run the oil industry, and they couldn't get any outsiders to run things because they'd already stiffed the USA oil majors, and no one wanted to work oil fields anyway because they expected to live large like Kuwait. Now it's just a giant cluster**** with oceans of beautiful oil just sitting there with super easy access to the refineries in the USA, and both countries holding a grudge. Venezuelians are suffering bigtime and I can't get cheap gasoline for my Chevy K2500.

It's long past time to sit down and hammer out a deal, but unfortunately the adults aren't in charge anywhere.

Maduro, who was re-elected president in 2018 in a vote critics at home and abroad denounced as a sham, had said he wanted to sell some of the gold at the height COVID-19 pandemic to shore up Venezuela's health service, brought to its knees by six years of recession and chronic shortages. He has blamed U.S. sanctions for worsening humanitarian conditions.

The UK's central bank holds nearly $2 billion in gold that belongs to the government of Venezuela. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro wants to access the gold, but the UK government refuses to hand it over since London recognizes Juan Guaido as president of Venezuela.

The UK supreme court opened a hearing on the matter on Monday, and London reaffirmed its recognition of Guaido. The court case is being fought between the board of the Central Bank of Venezuela that was appointed by Maduro and one appointed by Guaido.

"The UK recognizes Juan Guaidó as president of Venezuela and consequentially he is the only individual recognized to have the authority to act on behalf of Venezuela as its head of state," the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said in a statement.

The US, UK, and other allies first recognized Guaido as interim president of Venezuela in January 2019. Since then, Guaido has lost what little support he had in Venezuela and has become increasingly irrelevant. In January of this year, after Guaido lost his seat in the National Assembly, the EU said it no longer recognizes him as president.

Washington's regime change effort has been an utter failure. Besides the recognition of Guaido, which came along with a failed coup attempt, the US has also imposed a crippling sanctions regime on the country. While the pressure has done nothing to unseat Maduro, the sanctions have had a devastating impact on Venezuela's civilian population.

Last week, the Biden administration recently took one small step to ease sanctions on Venezuela by allowing the country to import propane. But besides the propane move, President Biden is continuing the failed regime change policy of the Trump administration and recently reaffirmed the US's recognition of Guaido.

Hugo Chavez: "There is no doubt whatsoever that the U.S. government, lead by Mr. Bush, planned and participated in a coup d'etat in Venezuela in April, 2002." found in zh comments

democracynow, 2005: "President Chavez was in New York last week for a summit of world leaders at the United Nations. In his speech, Chavez blasted US foreign policy and accused the Bush administration of trying to hijack the UN summit. He described the United States as a terrorist nation because it is harboring the televangelist Pat Robertson who recently called for his assassination. Chavez has long charged that the US was behind the aborted coup against him in 2002."

Censorship: **pretty serious statement about censorship from highly credible source: "To try and stifle digital dissent during a pandemic, when tweets and emails are some of the only forms of protest available to those locked in their homes, is deeply sinister", Nick Dearden, director of Global Justice Now.**

Read 12 replies

"For more than two years, **a global movement has been speaking out against pharmaceutical greed and demanding that everyone, everywhere has the tools to combat pandemics**," said Maaza Seyoum, a campaigner for the People's Vaccine Alliance. "Whatever nasty tricks companies and governments pull," she continued, "we cannot and will not be silenced."

Vaccine
COVID-19
pfizer

Second, 'Pfizer & Moderna's lobbying group, BIO, fully funded a special content moderation campaign designed by a contractor called Public Good Projects (PGP), which worked w/Twitter to set content moderation rules around covid "misinformation."' according to Fang.

BIO funded the PGP campaign, "Stronger," to the tune of $1.275 million. Its focus? **Helping Twitter 'create content moderation bots,'** selecting which public health accounts would be verified, and helping to crowdsource content takedowns.

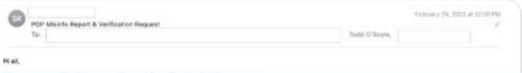
Of note, **the Moderna/Pfizer-funded campaign included regular emails to Twitter officals with takedown and verification requests**.

"Here's an example of those types of emails that went straight to Twitter's lobbyists and content moderators. ***Many focused on @zerohedge, which was suspended.***"

Fang includes a screencap of an email with **two excel spreadsheets** containing said requests.

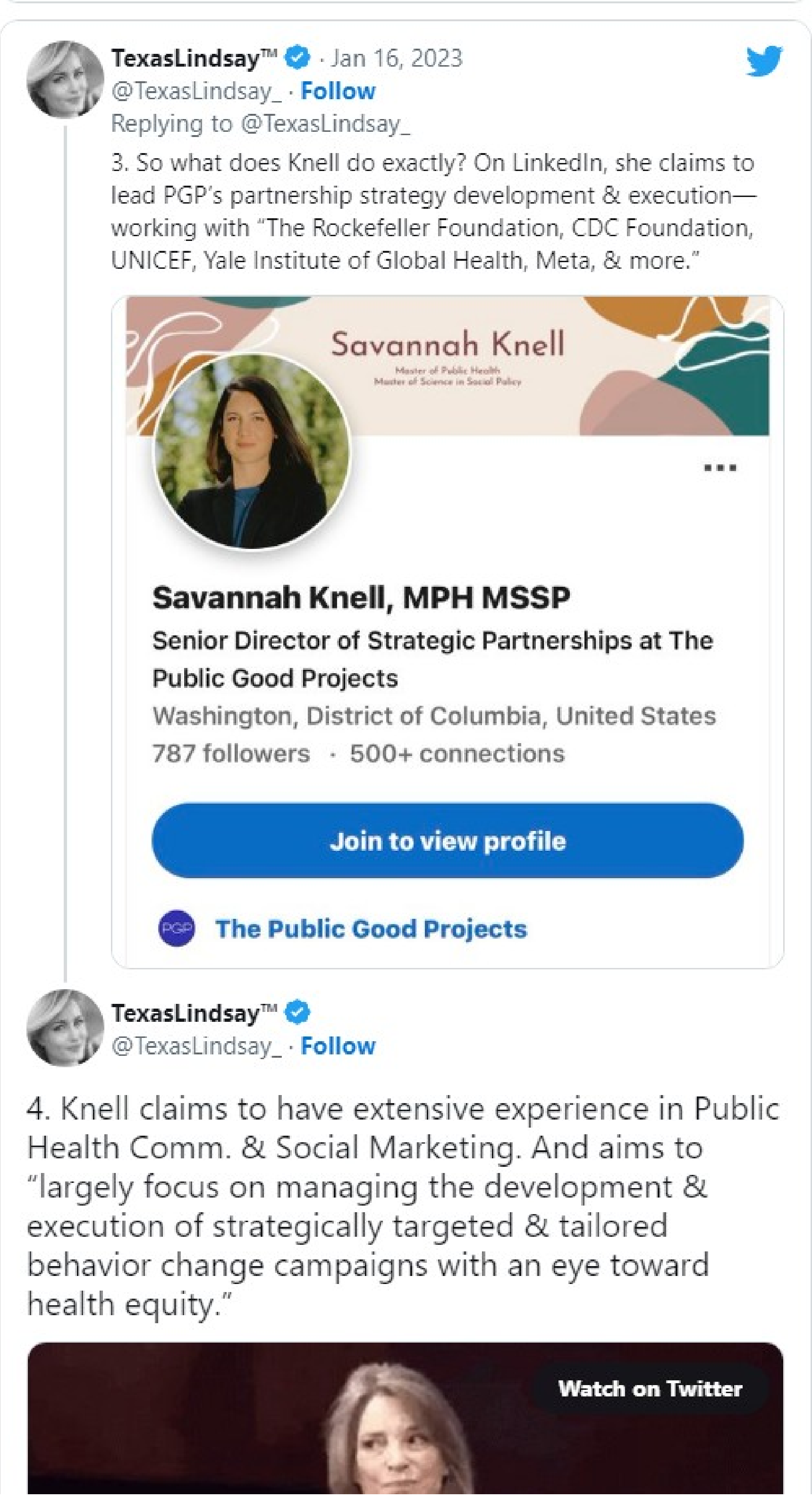
Lee Fang · Jan 16, 2023
@lhfang · **Follow**
Replying to @lhfang

12. The Moderna/Pfizer-funded campaign included direct regular emails with lists of tweets to takedown & others to verify. Here's an example of those types of emails that went straight to Twitter's lobbyists and content moderators. Many focused on @zerohedge, which was suspended.



SK [redacted]
PGP Misinfo Report & Verification Request
February 24, 2022 at 12:58 PM
To: [redacted] Todd O'Boyle, [redacted]

Hi all,



TexasLindsay™ · Jan 16, 2023
@TexasLindsay_ · **Follow**
Replying to @TexasLindsay_

3. So what does Knell do exactly? On LinkedIn, she claims to lead PGP's partnership strategy development & execution—working with "The Rockefeller Foundation, CDC Foundation, UNICEF, Yale Institute of Global Health, Meta, & more."

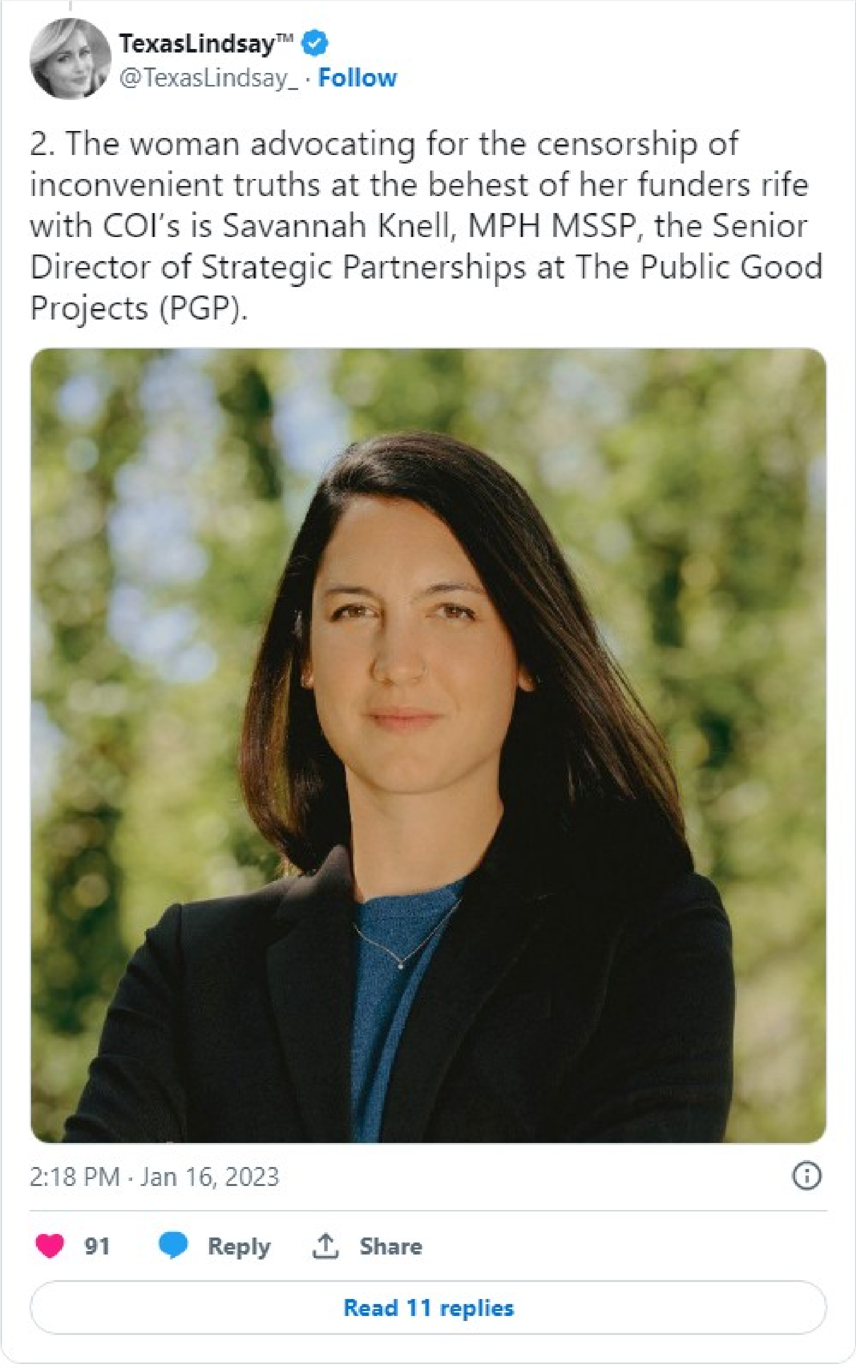
Savannah Knell
Master of Public Health
Master of Science in Social Policy

Savannah Knell, MPH MSSP
Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships at The Public Good Projects
Washington, District of Columbia, United States
787 followers · 500+ connections

The Public Good Projects

TexasLindsay™
@TexasLindsay_ · **Follow**

4. Knell claims to have extensive experience in Public Health Comm. & Social Marketing. And aims to "largely focus on managing the development & execution of strategically targeted & tailored behavior change campaigns with an eye toward health equity."



TexasLindsay™
@TexasLindsay_

2. The woman advocating for the censorship of inconvenient truths at the behest of her funders rife with COI's is Savannah Knell, MPH MSSP, the Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships at The Public Good Projects (PGP).

2:18 PM · Jan 16, 2023

Follow
91
Reply
Share
Read 11 replies

"To translate the above into layman's terms she is a narrative enforcer. She's funded by Big Pharma and aided by Big Brother to be the ministry of truth. She aims to create social norms by means of censorship and propaganda. **She wants to tell you & I—how/what to say and think.**"

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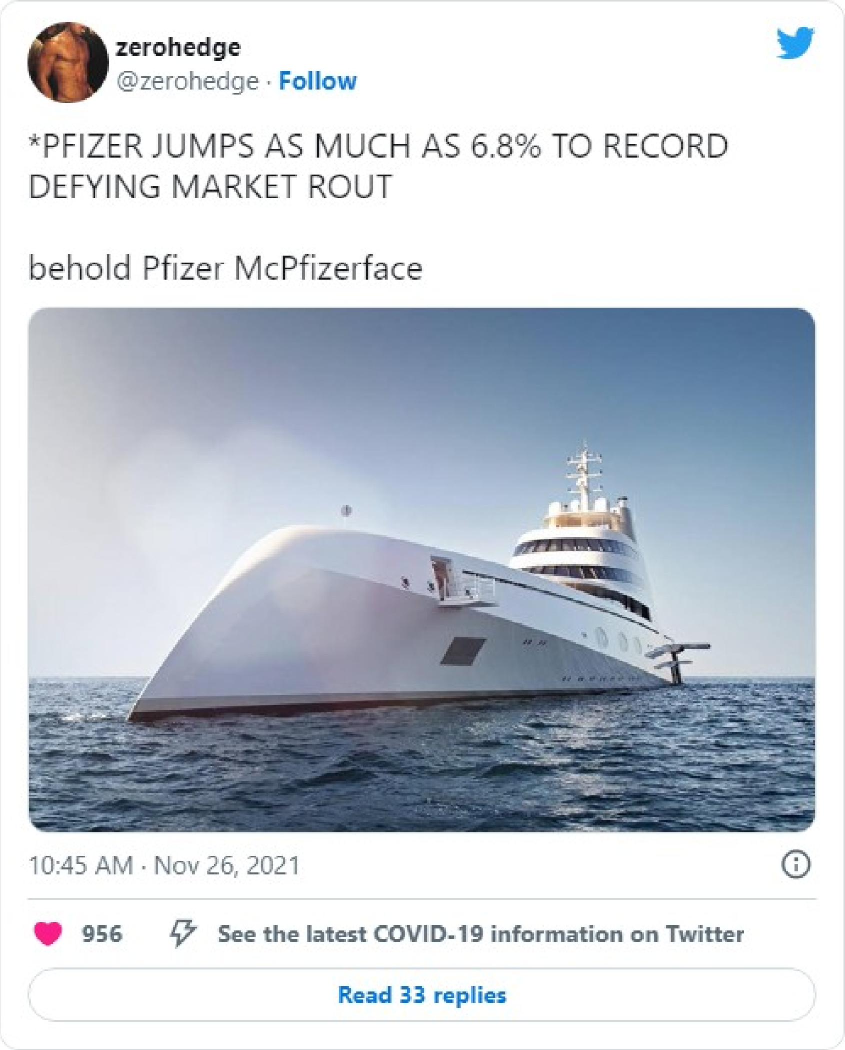


zerohedge
@zerohedge · Follow

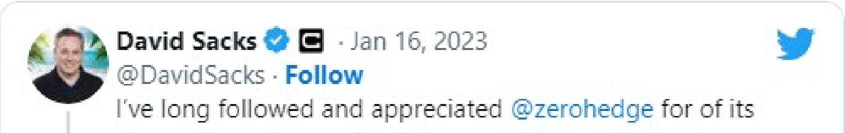
*PFIZER JUMPS AS MUCH AS 6.8% TO RECORD DEFYING MARKET ROUT

behold Pfizer McPfizerface

10:45 AM · Nov 26, 2021

♥ 956 See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Finally, as this latest 'Twitter Files' thread spreads across a holiday market, **Elon Musk himself has opined on the efforts to bully the former Twitter executives into censoring ZeroHedge**:



David Sacks · Jan 16, 2023
@DavidSacks · Follow
I've long followed and appreciated @zerohedge for of its irreverent market analysis. I never understood why it was censored — until now. It was at the behest of Big Pharma.

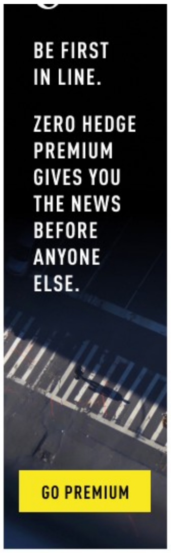
Musk Says ZeroHedge Did "Nothing Warranting Suspension" After 'Twitter Files' Expose Big Pharma Bullying

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, JAN 16, 2023 - 02:55 PM

Today's Twitter Files drop contains several notable pieces of **evidence**.

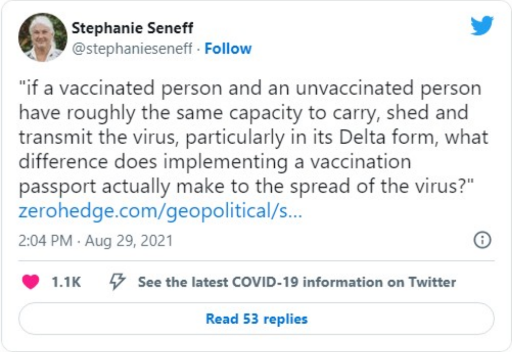
First, that lobbyists for the pharmaceutical industry launched a **'massive lobbying blitz to crush any effort to share patents/IP for new covid-related medicine**," according to *The Intercept*'s Lee Fang. As part of this effort, lobbying group BIO "wrote to the newly elected Biden admin, **demanding the U.S. gov sanction any country attempting to violate patent rights and create generic low cost covid medicine or vaccines.**"


BE FIRST IN LINE.

ZERO HEDGE PREMIUM GIVES YOU THE NEWS BEFORE ANYONE ELSE.

GO PREMIUM

From Fang's *Intercept* piece, **below is one of the flagged tweets in question** - which links to a ZeroHedge article aggregated from NakedCapitalism, and which logically posits; "if a vaccinated person and an unvaccinated person have roughly the same capacity to carry, shed and transmit the virus, particularly in its Delta form, what difference does implementing a vaccination passport actually make to the spread of the virus?"



Stephanie Seneff
@stephanieseneff · **Follow**

"if a vaccinated person and an unvaccinated person have roughly the same capacity to carry, shed and transmit the virus, particularly in its Delta form, what difference does implementing a vaccination passport actually make to the spread of the virus?" zerohedge.com/geopolitical/s...

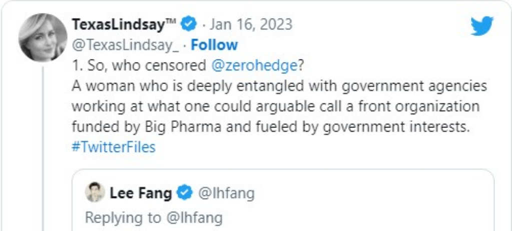
2:04 PM · Aug 29, 2021

1.1K · See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Read 53 replies

"To try and stifle digital dissent during a pandemic, when tweets and emails are some of the only forms of protest available to those locked in their homes, **is deeply sinister**," said Nick Dearden, director of Global Justice Now.

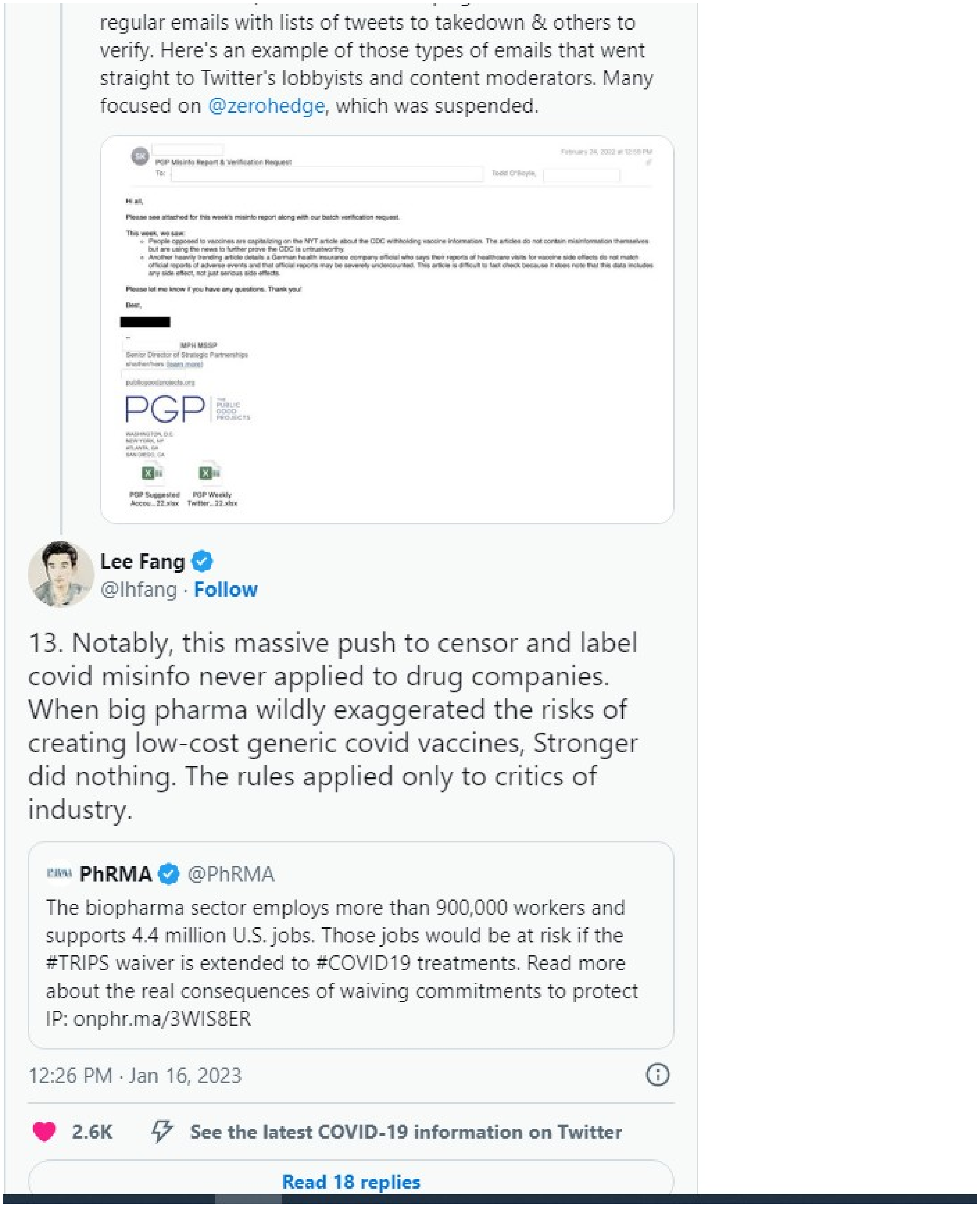
More on one of the people behind this effort, courtesy of Twitter user @TexasLindsay_



TexasLindsay™ · Jan 16, 2023
@TexasLindsay_ · **Follow**

1. So, who censored @zerohedge?
A woman who is deeply entangled with government agencies working at what one could arguable call a front organization funded by Big Pharma and fueled by government interests. #TwitterFiles

Lee Fang @lhfang
Replying to @lhfang



regular emails with lists of tweets to takedown & others to verify. Here's an example of those types of emails that went straight to Twitter's lobbyists and content moderators. Many focused on @zerohedge, which was suspended.

PGP Misinfo Report & Verification Request

February 24, 2022 at 12:58 PM

To:

Todd O'Boyle,

Hi all,

Please see attached for this week's misinfo report along with our batch verification request.

This week, we saw:

- People opposed to vaccines are capitalizing on the NYT article about the CDC withholding vaccine information. The articles do not contain misinformation themselves but are using the news to further prove the CDC is untrustworthy.
- Another heavily trending article details a German health insurance company official who says their reports of healthcare visits for vaccine side effects do not match official reports of adverse events and that official reports may be severely undercounted. This article is difficult to fact check because it does note that this data includes any side effect, not just serious side effects.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Best,

[redacted]

--
MPH MSSP
Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships
she/her/hers (learn more)

publicgoodprojects.org

PGP THE PUBLIC GOOD PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NY
ATLANTA, GA
SAN DIEGO, CA

PGP Suggested Accou...22.xlsx
PGP Weekly Twitter...22.xlsx

Lee Fang
@lhfang · Follow

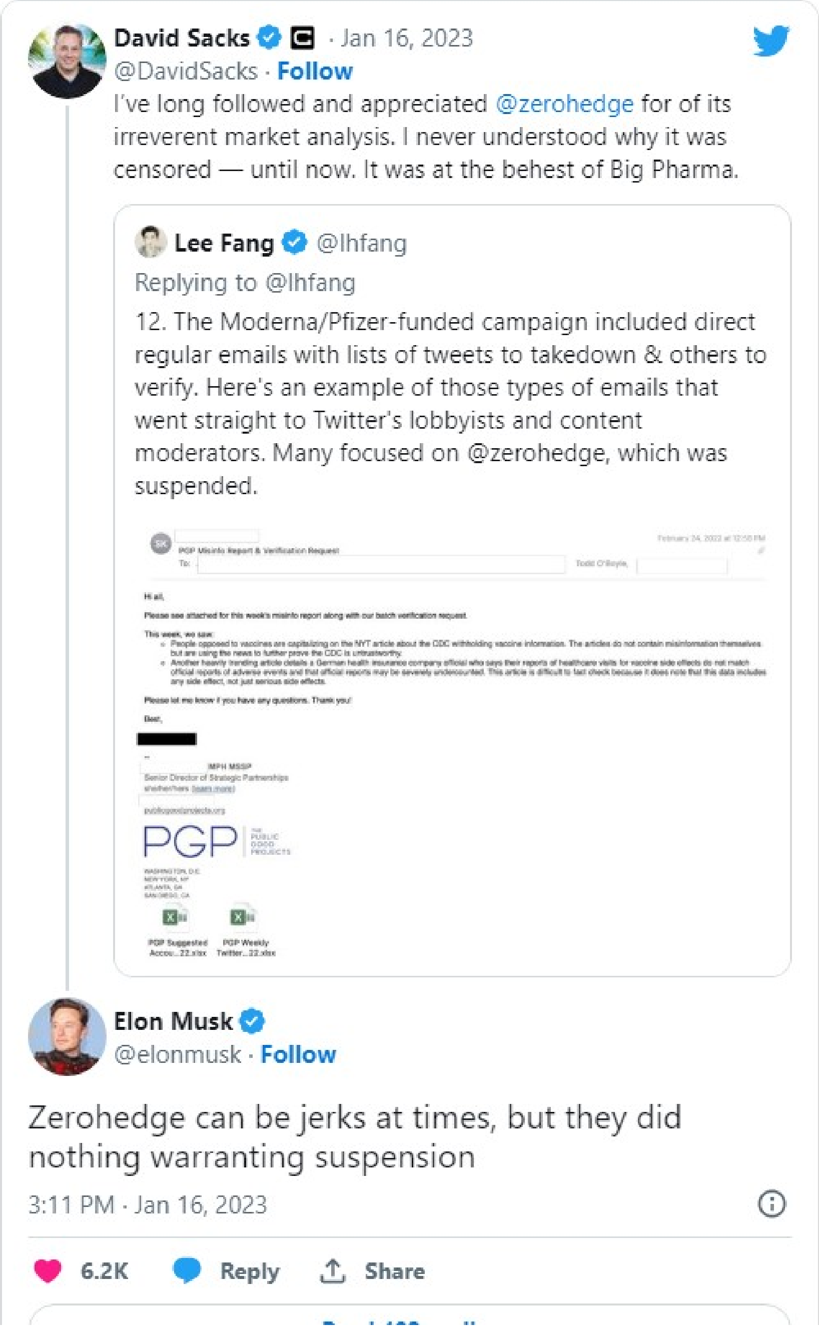
13. Notably, this massive push to censor and label covid misinfo never applied to drug companies. When big pharma wildly exaggerated the risks of creating low-cost generic covid vaccines, Stronger did nothing. The rules applied only to critics of industry.

PhRMA @PhRMA
The biopharma sector employs more than 900,000 workers and supports 4.4 million U.S. jobs. Those jobs would be at risk if the #TRIPS waiver is extended to #COVID19 treatments. Read more about the real consequences of waiving commitments to protect IP: onphr.ma/3WIS8ER

12:26 PM · Jan 16, 2023

Read 33 replies

Finally, as this latest 'Twitter Files' thread spreads across a holiday market, **Elon Musk himself has opined on the efforts to bully the former Twitter executives into censoring ZeroHedge**:



David Sacks · Jan 16, 2023

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Lee Fang @lhfang

Replying to @lhfang

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--

MPH MSSP

Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships

she/her/hers (learn more)

publicgoodprojects.org

PGP | THE PUBLIC GOOD PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

NEW YORK, NY

ATLANTA, GA

SAN DIEGO, CA

PGP Suggested Accou...22.xlsx

PGP Weekly Twitter...22.xlsx

Elon Musk

@elonmusk · Follow

Zerohedge can be jerks at times, but they did nothing warranting suspension

3:11 PM · Jan 16, 2023

6.2K Reply Share

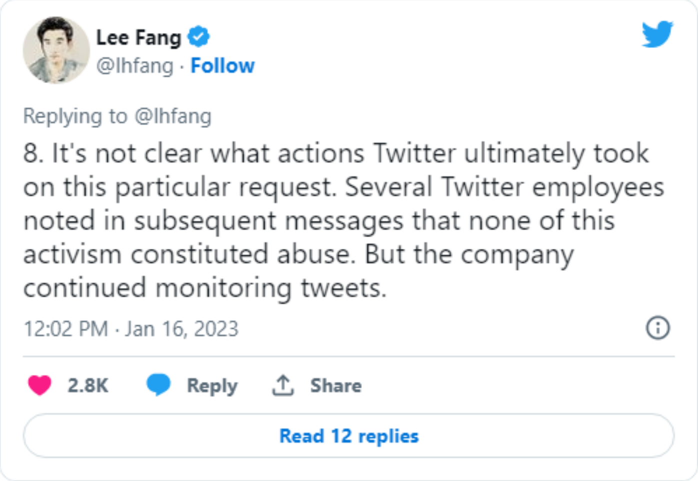
Of note, Pfizer and BioNTech raked in **$37 billion in revenue in 2021 alone** from the COVID-19 vaccine, while Moderna made $17.7 billion the same year (and has recently announced a plan to hike the price of the Covid-19 vaccine by approximately 400%).

BioNTech, which developed the Pfizer vaccine, "**reached out to Twitter to request that Twitter directly censor users tweeting at them to ask for generic low cost vaccines.**"

> 5. That brings us to Twitter. The global lobbying blitz includes direct pressure on social media. BioNTech, which developed Pfizer's vaccine, reached out to Twitter to request that Twitter directly censor users tweeting at them to ask for generic low cost vaccines. pic.twitter.com/6cVIRcUDZV
>
> — Lee Fang (@lhfang) January 16, 2023

According to Fang, "**Twitter's reps responded quickly to the pharma request,"** while "A lobbyist in Europe asked the content moderation team to monitor the accounts of Pfizer, AstraZeneca & of activist hashtags like #peoplesvaccine."

Meanwhile, the "fake accounts" flagged by the pharmaceutical companies for action were **real people** - one of whom Fang spoke with on the phone.



Lee Fang @lhfang · Follow

Replying to @lhfang

8. It's not clear what actions Twitter ultimately took on this particular request. Several Twitter employees noted in subsequent messages that none of this activism constituted abuse. But the company continued monitoring tweets.

12:02 PM · Jan 16, 2023

"For more than two years, **a global movement has been speaking out against pharmaceutical greed and demanding that everyone, everywhere has the tools to combat pandemics**," said Maaza Seyoum, a campaigner for the People's Vaccine Alliance. "Whatever nasty tricks companies and governments pull," she continued, "we cannot and will not be silenced."

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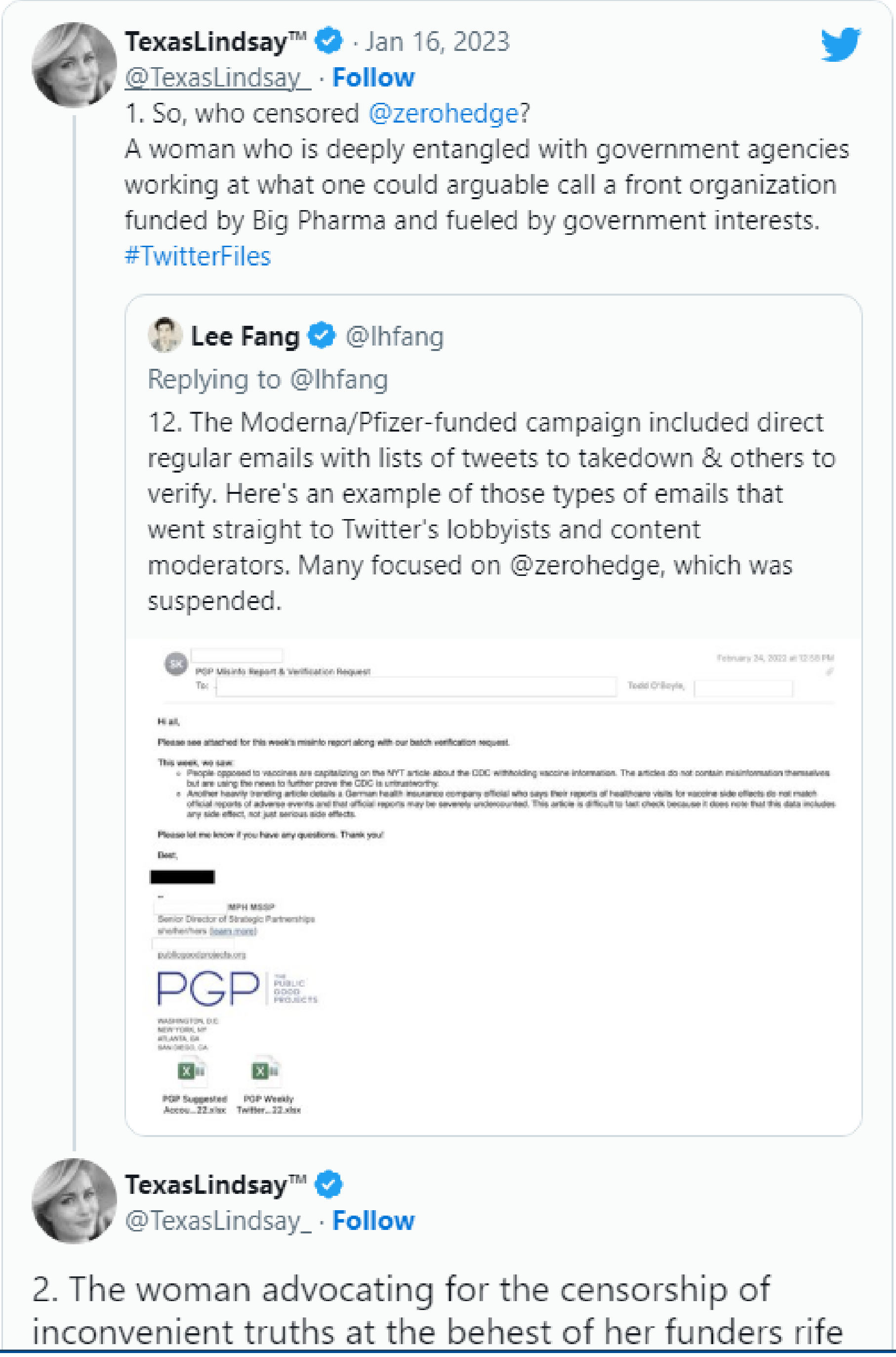

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#TwitterFiles

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This week, we saw:
- People opposed to vaccines are capitalizing on the NYT article about the CDC withholding vaccine information. The articles do not contain misinformation themselves but are using the news to further prove the CDC is untrustworthy.
- Another heavily trending article details a German health insurance company official who says their reports of healthcare visits for vaccine side effects do not match official reports of adverse events and that official reports may be severely undercounted. This article is difficult to fact check because it does note that this data includes any side effect, not just serious side effects.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Best,

[redacted]

--
MPH MSSP
Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships
she/her/hers (learn more)

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WASHINGTON, D.C.
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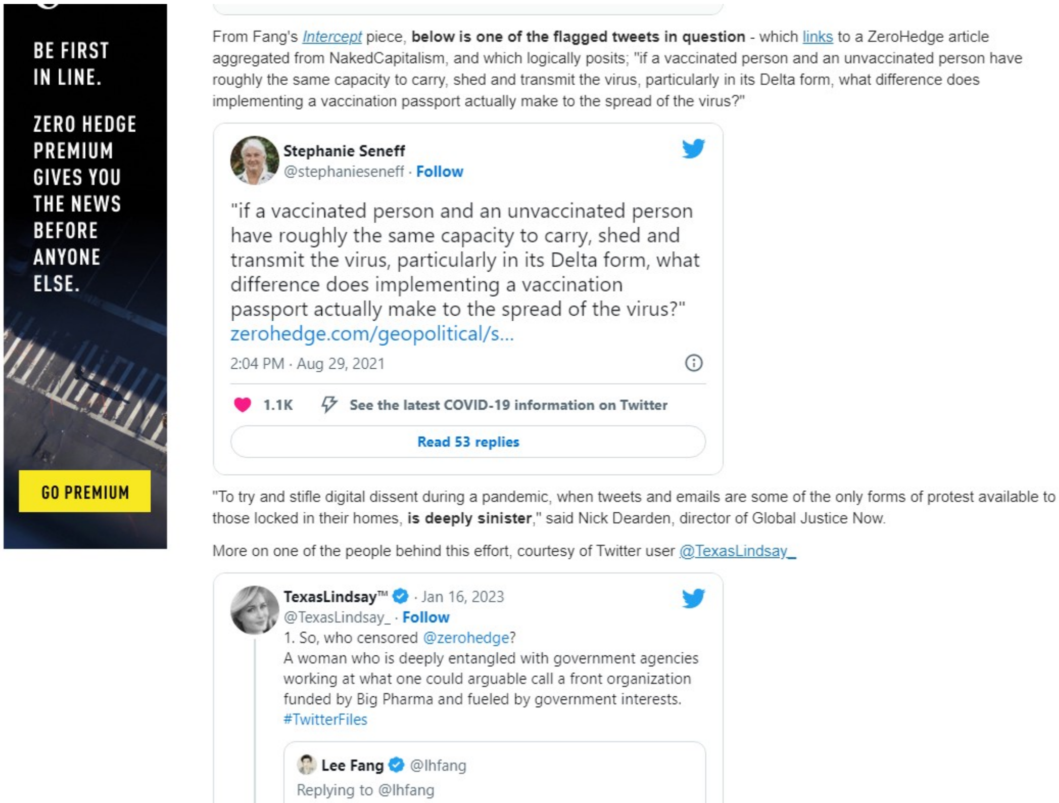
PGP Suggested Accou...22.xlsx
PGP Weekly Twitter...22.xlsx

TexasLindsay™
@TexasLindsay_ · Follow

2. The woman advocating for the censorship of inconvenient truths at the behest of her funders rife

Censorship: crazy flagged tweet I found from the twitter files on zerohedge (these are coordinated leaks, by the way. it's our leadership basically just telling us that we're being censored, moderated, and watched all the time on the internet)



BE FIRST IN LINE.

ZERO HEDGE PREMIUM GIVES YOU THE NEWS BEFORE ANYONE ELSE.

GO PREMIUM

From Fang's *Intercept* piece, **below is one of the flagged tweets in question** - which links to a ZeroHedge article aggregated from NakedCapitalism, and which logically posits; "if a vaccinated person and an unvaccinated person have roughly the same capacity to carry, shed and transmit the virus, particularly in its Delta form, what difference does implementing a vaccination passport actually make to the spread of the virus?"

Stephanie Seneff
@stephanieseneff · Follow

"if a vaccinated person and an unvaccinated person have roughly the same capacity to carry, shed and transmit the virus, particularly in its Delta form, what difference does implementing a vaccination passport actually make to the spread of the virus?" zerohedge.com/geopolitical/s...

2:04 PM · Aug 29, 2021

1.1K See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

Read 53 replies

"To try and stifle digital dissent during a pandemic, when tweets and emails are some of the only forms of protest available to those locked in their homes, **is deeply sinister**," said Nick Dearden, director of Global Justice Now.

More on one of the people behind this effort, courtesy of Twitter user @TexasLindsay_

TexasLindsay™ · Jan 16, 2023
@TexasLindsay_ · Follow
1. So, who censored @zerohedge?
A woman who is deeply entangled with government agencies working at what one could arguable call a front organization funded by Big Pharma and fueled by government interests.
#TwitterFiles

Lee Fang @lhfang
Replying to @lhfang

Rome, history: The Bar Kokhba revolt greatly influenced the course of Jewish history and the philosophy of the Jewish religion; among the key events to differentiate Christianity as a religion distinct from Judaism.

Following the Fall of Betar, the Roman forces went on a rampage of systematic killing, eliminating all remaining Jewish villages in the region and seeking out the refugees. Legio III Cyrenaica was the main force to execute this last phase of the campaign. Historians disagree on the duration of the Roman campaign following the fall of Betar. While some claim further resistance was broken quickly, others argue that pockets of Jewish rebels continued to hide with their families into the winter months of late 135 and possibly even spring 136. By early 136 however, it is clear that the revolt was defeated.[65]

Aftermath[edit]

Jewish casualties and the destruction of Judean countryside[edit]

Modern historians view the Bar Kokhba Revolt as having decisive historic importance.[15] They note that, unlike in the aftermath of the First Jewish–Roman War, the Jewish population of Judea was devastated after the revolt, with many Jews being killed, exiled, or sold into slavery.[15] Jewish religious and political authority was suppressed far more brutally than before. In his account of the revolt, Roman historian Cassius Dio (c. 155–235) wrote that:[18]

> 50 of their most important outposts and 985 of their most famous villages were razed to the ground. 580,000 men were slain in the various raids and battles, and the number of those that perished by famine, disease and fire was past finding out, Thus nearly the whole of Judaea was made desolate.
>
> — *Cassius Dio, History of Rome, 69.14.1-2*

In 1981, Schäfer suggested that Dio exaggerated his numbers.[66] On the other hand, in 2003 Cotton considered Dio's figures highly plausible, in light of accurate Roman census declarations.[67] The ethno-archaeological comparison analysis by Dvir Raviv and Chaim Ben David, published in 2021, asserts of sufficient accuracy in Dio's depopulation claims as a "reliable account, which he based on contemporaneous documentation".[18] As of today, no village in the region of Judea whose remains have been excavated so far has not been destroyed in the revolt.[68] Some scholars describe the destruction of the Jewish communities in Judea as a genocide.[15][19]

Sources indicate that Jewish captives were sold into slavery and sent to various parts of the empire.[16] A chronicle written in the 7th century CE, which was based on lost ancient sources, states that "Jewish captives were sold for the price of one ration of food for a horse."[69] This number indicates that the slave market was flooded with new slaves.

Captives who were not sold as slaves were deported to Gaza, Egypt and elsewhere, greatly adding to the Jewish diaspora.[69] Rabbinic Judaism had already become a portable religion, centered on synagogues.

Jewish presence in the region significantly dwindled after the failure of the Bar Kokhba revolt,[70] and pagan populations penetrated it.[71] Nevertheless, there was a continuous small Jewish presence and Galilee became its religious center.[72][73] Some of the Judean survivors resettled in Galilee, with some rabbinical families gathering in Sepphoris.[74] The Mishnah and part of the Talmud, central Jewish texts, were composed during the 2nd to 4th centuries CE in Galilee.[75] Jewish communities were still present on the edges of Judea, including Eleutheropolis,[76] Ein Gedi[77] and the southern Hebron Hills. There were also Jewish communities along the coastal plain, in Caesarea, Beit She'an and on the Golan Heights.[78][79] In the aftermath of the defeat, the maintenance of Jewish settlement in Palestine became a major concern of the rabbinate.[80] The Sages endeavoured to halt Jewish dispersal, and even banned emigration from Palestine, branding those who settled outside its borders as idolaters.[80]

The Galilee in late antiquity

Roman losses[edit]

Schematic reconstruction of the Arch of Hadrian in Tel Shalem, dedicated to the Emperor for defeating the Jewish revolt of 132–135

Cassius Dio wrote that "Many Romans, moreover, perished in this war. Therefore, Hadrian, in writing to the Senate, did not employ the opening phrase commonly affected by the emperors: 'If you and your children are in health, it is well; I and the army are in health.'"[81] Some argue that the exceptional number of preserved Roman veteran diplomas from the late 150s and 160 CE indicate an unprecedented conscription across the Roman Empire to replenish heavy losses within military legions and auxiliary units between 133 and 135, corresponding to the revolt.[82]

After the suppression of the revolt, Hadrian promulgated a series of religious edicts aimed at uprooting the Jewish nationalism in Judea.[9][68] He prohibited Torah law and the Hebrew calendar, and executed Judaic scholars. The sacred scrolls of Judaism were ceremonially burned at the large Temple complex for Jupiter which he built on the Temple Mount. At this Temple, he installed two statues, one of Jupiter, another of himself. These proclamations remained in effect until Hadrian’s death in 138, which marked a significant relief to the surviving Jewish communities.[68]

A further, more lasting punishment was also implemented by the Romans.[68] In an attempt to erase any memory of Judea or Ancient Israel, the name Judaea was dropped from the provincial name, and Provincia Iudaea was renamed Syria Palaestina.[22][23][24] Despite such name changes taking place elsewhere, rebellions have never resulted in a nation's name being expunged.[68] Similarly, under the argument to ensure the prosperity of the newly founded Roman colony of Aelia Capitolina, Jews were forbidden to enter, except on the day of Tisha B'Av.[87] By destroying the association of Jews with Judea and forbidding the practice of the Jewish faith, Hadrian aimed to root out a nation that had inflicted heavy casualties on the Roman Empire.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar_Kokhba_revolt

The ruins of Betar, the last standing stronghold of Bar Kokhba, can be found at *Khirbet al-Yahud*, an archeological site located in the vicinity of Battir and Beitar Illit. A stone inscription bearing Latin characters and discovered near the site shows that the Fifth Macedonian Legion and the Eleventh Claudian Legion took part in the siege.[116]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legio_XI_Claudia

Hadrian energetically pursued his own Imperial ideals and personal interests. He visited almost every province of the Empire, accompanied by an Imperial retinue of specialists and administrators. He encouraged military preparedness and discipline, and he fostered, designed, or personally subsidised various civil and religious institutions and building projects. In Rome itself, he rebuilt the Pantheon and constructed the vast Temple of Venus and Roma. In Egypt, he may have rebuilt the Serapeum of Alexandria. He was an ardent admirer of Greece and sought to make Athens the cultural capital of the Empire, so he ordered the construction of many opulent temples there. His intense relationship with Greek youth Antinous and the latter's untimely death led Hadrian to establish a widespread cult late in his reign. He suppressed the Bar Kokhba revolt in Judaea.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadrian

Hideout systems[edit]

Entrance into an excavated cave used by Bar Kokhba's rebels, Khirbet Midras

The Bar Kokhba revolt has been better understood thanks to the discovery of artificially-carved hideout systems under many sites across Judea. Their discovery is consistent with Cassius Dio's writings, which reported that the rebels used underground networks as part of their tactics to avoid direct confrontations with the Romans. Many were hewn in earlier times and were utilized by rebels during the revolt as indicated by the usage of Bar Kokhba revolt coinage and other archeological findings.[117][120]

Hideout systems were found at more than 130 archaeological sites in Judea; most of them in the Judaean Lowlands, but also in other areas of Judea and even in the Galilee.[117] Examples include: Hurvat Midras, Tel Goded, Maresha, Aboud and others.

Rome, history, Germany, war: **nasi**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nasi_(Hebrew_title)

markets: **What a slave can go through sometimes, basically...**

A woman in Singapore who joined her daughter in abusing a domestic worker until she died of a brain injury has been sentenced to 14 years’ jail.

Prema S Naraynasamy, 64, was given the sentence on Monday over the abuse of 24-year-old Myanmar national Piang Ngaih Don.

Prema had pleaded guilty in November to 48 charges, mostly of voluntarily causing hurt to a domestic worker.

Her acts of abuse include: Pouring or spraying water on the 24-year-old domestic helper, kicking, punching and slapping her, grabbing her by the neck, pulling her up by her hair and “spinning” her head violently.

She also hit the domestic worker with items like a spatula, a towel and a detergent bottle, and watched as the helper used the toilet.

The domestic helper died of brain injury with severe blunt trauma to her neck on July 26, 2016, after 14 months of repeated abuse.

She was punched, stamped on and starved until she was only 24kg. In the days before she died, she was tied to a window grille at night and assaulted if she tried to rummage for food from the dustbin.

The assault that led to the victim’s death occurred from the night of July 25, 2016 into the morning of July 26, 2016.

The helper was doing laundry at about 11:40pm on July 25, 2016, when Prema’s daughter, Gaiyathiri Murugayan, felt she was too slow. She assaulted her and struck her head with a detergent bottle.

Gaiyathiri called Prema over, and together they assaulted the victim, splashing water on her. Prema dragged the victim across the kitchen and living room to the bedroom, where Gaiyathiri kicked her in the stomach and Prema punched and strangled her.

After refusing the domestic worker any dinner, Gaiyathiri tied the victim’s wrist forcefully to the window grille just before midnight and kicked her in the stomach, before leaving her on the floor in wet clothes.

Ms Piang Ngaih Don did not wake up after that. Mother and daughter called in a doctor, lying about what happened, and were later arrested.

Markets, war: **CROWD FUNDING, BUT FOR A COUP IN BERMA (MYANNMAR)**

- Almost half the money is from sale of so-called Spring Revolution Special Treasury Bonds; ‘our investors know they will benefit only if this revolution is successful’

- •One person has given US$6 million, funds also raised through auction of properties, including mansions owned by junta chief; junta seized power in February 2021
- Myanmar’s shadow National Unity Government said it has raised more than US$100 million to fund its democracy effort and topple the junta.

  About 45 per cent of the funds are from the sales of so-called Spring Revolution Special Treasury Bonds, according to Tin Tun Naing, shadow minister for planning, finance and investment. The debt does not pay interest and the capital will be repaid only when the democracy effort is successful.

  Funds were also raised through the auction of military-linked properties. While buyers will not have immediate access to the properties which they had successfully bid on and paid for, the National Unity Government has promised they will be awarded the assets after the junta rule.

  Among the assets open for bids were two mansions owned by junta chief Min Aung Hlaing, Tin Tun Naing said at a press briefing on Sunday. The funds will be “effectively used in different sectors” to ensure positive results from the democracy fight in about a year, he said.

  The shadow government will soon legalise an initial coin offering (the cryptocurrency industry’s equivalent of an IPO, or initial public offering) to put cryptocurrencies at the centre of its finance plan while accepting fixed deposits in the form of money transfers and cryptocurrency deposits in a bank that will be set up soon, Tin Tun Naing said.

“To ensure the revolution will bear fruit in one year, we will make use of blockchain and cryptocurrencies to establish the Spring Development Bank by the end of next month,” he said. Anyone keen on funding the government is encouraged to use its banking functions which will be available in the first quarter of this year, he said.

The group previously tried to gain access to US$1 billion of funds frozen by the US since February 2021, when the country’s armed forces toppled a civilian government. Allies of deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi make up the shadow government, which remains confident it can regain control of the entire country soon.

Nobel laureate Suu Kyi, 77, is serving a 33-year sentence after she was found guilty of a slew of criminal charges including corruption and inciting dissent against the military.

War, sanctions, markets, energy, censorship: **Germany Opens Its 2nd Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal**

Chancellor Olaf Scholz took part in the ceremony in Lubmin on the Baltic Sea coast, which came less than a month after he inaugurated Germany's first LNG terminal at Wilhelmshaven on the North Sea. Several more are expected to go online in the coming months, including another in Lubmin.

2 stalled LNG projects in Nova Scotia may be on the brink of revival

TOO FUCKING LATE NOW.........THAT'S HOW IT WORKS YOU STUPPPPPPPID

FUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUCKLLKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKS

cbcDOTca/news/canada/nova-scotia/2-lng-proposals-could-move-forward-bear-head-goldboro-1.6447671

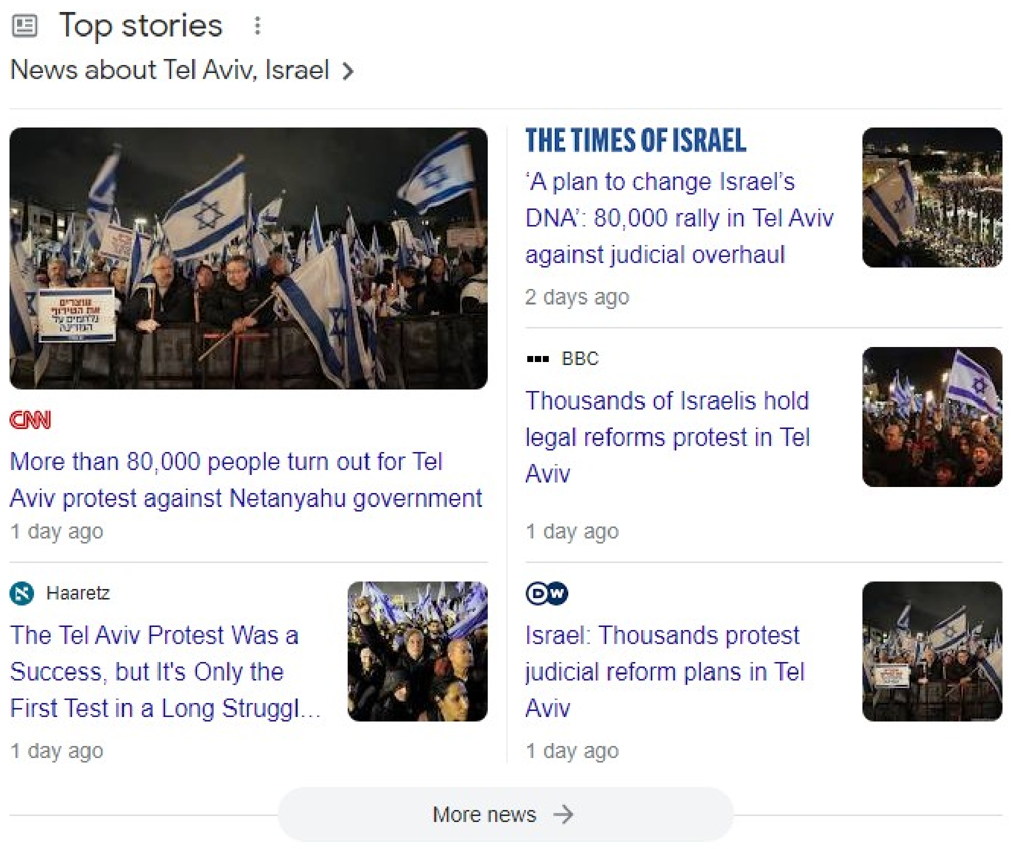
war, sanctions: **narco insurgents, is this the next enemy? "This Congressman Wants the U.S. To Use Military Force Against Mexican Cartels". Reason jan16**

These shoots outs are starting to llok like a loit more than arrests, and more like armed insurgents fighting an enemy. America has few that it actually considers an enemy, but, you do end up on their enemies list, it is very bad for the group, or even individual......History, is replete with example of those that have hurt Americans ending up in almost certain. The point is, America is nice to those that hate it, but if you actually start posing a threat, it doesn't end well...In this case, America will have eventually have full right to send their troops into mexican territory to deal with these narco insurgents, similar to the way they have dealth with other enemies of the past, ie. ISIS, alqueada, boko haram.

"One interventionist congressman thinks the solution is American military might. Speaking about the cartel violence, Rep. Mike Waltz (R–Fla.) told Fox News host Maria Bartiromo on Sunday that "we need to go on offense against them" since "the cartels are destabilizing our neighbor" and "running our border.""

reasondotcom/2023/01/10/this-congressman-wants-the-u-s-to-use-military-force-against-mexican-cartels/

war, Israel, censorship, iran: **'We Are Not Afraid': 80,000 Israelis Protest Extremist Netanyahu Gov't in Tel Aviv**



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Tech: **Air taxis are predicted to hit the skies in 2024 and 2025 in a handful of cities around the world**

Europe regulator sees first flying taxis in 2024 or 2025

PARIS, May 19 (Reuters) - Europe could see the first flying taxis enter service as early as 2024, the region's top aviation regulator said on Wednesday.

More than half a dozen European firms have announced developments of Urban Air Mobility vehicles for passenger use or for unmanned cargo sorties such as delivering medical supplies.

"I believe that commercial use of (air) taxis can start to take place in 2024 or 2025," Patrick Ky, executive director of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) said.

EASA cited figures suggesting a 4.2-billion-euro UAM market in Europe by 2030, creating 90,000 jobs. Some 31% of the global market for the new technology would be based in Europe.

EASA has already started the process of certifying some of the designs and expects first approvals for the lightweight machines by around 2024, Ky told reporters.

German startup Volocopter and backers of other projects such as Aeroports de Paris (ADP.PA) hope to demonstrate the technology in time for the Paris Olympics in 2024.

How quickly such vehicles enter service will also depend on operational approvals examining whether they are flying over urban centres or potential hazards such as railways, Ky said.

EASA is focusing on projects involving piloted vehicles for passengers and unpiloted drones for cargo deliveries. Fully autonomous vehicles are still some years away, Ky said.

Ky was speaking as the Cologne-based agency released a study showing broad public support for such electrically powered vehicles, capable of taking off and landing vertically.

War: jan16 **German Defense Minister Resigns As Criticism Over Ukraine Mounts**

War, markets: **january.2 (this was why i waiting to read into the weather. figured it would continue, so chose not to read for better shock value. This article was written on JANUARY 2ND!!! IT'S NOW JAN 16TH, AND THE WEATHER HAS NOT CHANGED ,BUT IN FACT, GOTTEN MORE CRAZY): "Thousands of records shattered in historic winter warm spell in Europe"**

As 2022 turned to 2023, an exceptionally strong wintertime heat dome pounced on much of Europe, producing unprecedented warmth for January. As temperatures soared 18 to 36 degrees Fahrenheit (10 to 20 Celsius) above normal from France to western Russia, thousands of records were broken between Saturday and Monday — many by large margins.

On New Year’s Day, at least seven countries saw their warmest January weather on record as temperatures surged to springtime levels: Latvia hit 52 degrees (11.1 Celsius); Denmark 54.7 degrees (12.6 Celsius); Lithuania 58.3 degrees (14.6 Celsius); Belarus 61.5 degrees (16.4 Celsius); the Netherlands 62.4 degrees (16.9 Celsius); Poland 66.2 degrees (19.0 Celsius); and the Czech Republic 67.3 degrees (19.6 Celsius).
Those who track worldwide weather records described the warm spell as historic and could hardly believe its scope and magnitude.

Maximiliano Herrera, a climatologist who tracks global weather extremes, called the event “totally insane” and “absolute madness” in text messages to the Capital Weather Gang. He wrote that some of the high nighttime temperatures observed were uncommon in midsummer.

It’s “the most extreme event ever seen in European climatology,” Herrera wrote. “Nothing stands close to this.”

Guillaume Séchet, a broadcast meteorologist in France, agreed, tweeting that Sunday was one of the most incredible days in Europe’s climate history.

“The intensity and extent of warmth in Europe right now is hard to comprehend,” tweeted Scott Duncan, a meteorologist based in London.

Here are some of the most impressive records that were set in Europe on New Year’s Day:

- In Poland, it was so warm that the January national high-temperature record was broken before sunrise. The town of Glucholazy was 65.7 degrees at 4 a.m., which is warmer than its average low temperature in midsummer. Temperatures rose further as the day progressed.
- Bilbao, Spain, reached 77.2 degrees (25.1 Celsius), its hottest January day.
- Trois-Ville, France, reached 76.8 degrees (24.9 Celsius), a record for the month. It was among more than 100 records set across the country Sunday, including 75.2 degrees (24.0 Celsius) in Dax, and 65.5 degrees (18.6 Celsius) at stations with data dating to the 1800s in Besançon and Châteauroux.
- Ohlsbach, Germany, reached 66.9 degrees (19.4 Celsius) for a monthly record and the highest temperature of the day in Germany. Other locations, including Berlin at 60.8 degrees (16 Celsius), also set January records. Berlin was among the places that set records both New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.
- Warsaw’s high of 66.2 degrees (19 Celsius) demolished the its previous January record by 9.2 degrees (5.1 Celsius).

While the most extreme temperatures occurred on New Year’s Day, exceptionally mild weather began on New Year’s Eve.

Scores of calendar day and monthly records fell on Saturday, surpassing marks set just a year before in many instances.

The Czech Republic’s weather service tweeted that the country posted its warmest New Year’s Eve on record. Prague, with 247 years of measurements, set a new monthly maximum of 63.9 degrees (17.7 Celsius).

Here are some of the more significant temperature records set Saturday:

- France saw impressive record values such as a high of 76.6 degrees (24.8 Celsius) in Verdun. The country as a whole saw its warmest New Year’s Eve.

- Six of nine federal states in mountainous Austria saw their warmest Dec. 31 on record. Temperatures were as warm as 64.9 degrees (18.3 Celsius) in Aspach.
- Luxembourg set a December record for the country with 64.0 degrees (17.8 Celsius) in Wormeldange. Belgium reached a December record high of 63.5 degrees (17.5 Celsius) at Diepenbeek.
- Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler bested Germany’s highest December minimum as it only dipped to 59.5 degrees (15.3 Celsius).

Monday marked the third day of widespread high temperatures previously unheard of in midwinter. Many more monthly and daily records were set in the eastern half of Europe, particularly in Germany, Hungary, Romania and Russia.
By Tuesday, the places where temperatures will be the most above-average are likely to shift toward Ukraine. After that, the warmth should ease some.

This exceptional wintertime warmth comes on the heels of the warmest 2022 in many parts of Europe, including in the U.K., Germany and Switzerland. Although the warmth is slowly easing in Europe as Arctic air creeps in from the northeast, above-normal temperatures are forecast for much of the mainland region through at least Jan. 10. After that, the forecast is a little less clear, but a cooler pattern could emerge by mid-month.

Rome, censorship, history: **The censor's regulation of public morality is the origin of the modern meaning of the words censor and censorship**

Initially, the office of censor was limited to eighteen months by a law of the dictator Mamercus Aemilius Mamercinus;[8] and the office therefore was of less importance in the 5th and 4th centuries BC. However, during the censorship of Appius Claudius Caecus (312–308 BC) the prestige of the censorship massively increased. Caecus built the first-ever Roman road (the Via Appia) and the first Roman aqueduct (the Aqua Appia), both named after him.[9] He changed the organisation of the Roman tribes and was the first censor to draw the list of senators. He also advocated the founding of Roman *coloniae* throughout Latium and Campania to support the Roman war effort in the Second Samnite War. With these efforts and reforms, Appius Claudius Caecus was able to hold the censorship for a whole *lustrum* (five-year period), and the office of censor, subsequently entrusted with various important duties, eventually attained one of the highest political statuses in the Roman Republic, second only to that of the consuls.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_censor

history: Seppuku, a ritualistic act of disembowelment called hara-kiri, is a form of Japanese ritual suicide by disembowelment from Japan's ancient samurai warrior class

Often called “hara-kiri” in the West, “seppuku” is a form of ritual suicide that originated with Japan’s ancient samurai warrior class. The grisly act typically involved stabbing oneself in the belly with a short sword, slicing open the stomach and then turning the blade upwards to ensure a fatal wound. Some practitioners of seppuku allowed themselves to die slowly, but they usually enlisted the help of a “kaishakunin,” or second, who would lop off their head with a katana as soon as they made their initial cut. The entire process was accompanied by great ceremony. Among other rituals, the doomed individual often drank sake and composed a short “death poem” before taking up the blade.

Seppuku first developed in the 12th century as a means for samurai to achieve an honorable death. Swordsmen performed the ritual to avoid capture following battlefield defeats, but it also functioned as a means of protest and a way of expressing grief over the death of a revered leader. Beginning in the 1400s, seppuku evolved into a common form of capital punishment for samurai who had committed crimes. In each case, it was considered an act of extreme bravery and self-sacrifice that embodied Bushido, the ancient warrior code of the samurai. There was even a female version of seppuku called “jigai,” which involved cutting the throat using a special knife known as a “tanto.”

War: jan16 medvedev says japanese parliament leader should ritually disembowel himself

Medvedev is a prominent ally of President Vladimir Putin who serves as deputy chairman of Russia’s Security Council and of a body overseeing the defence industry.

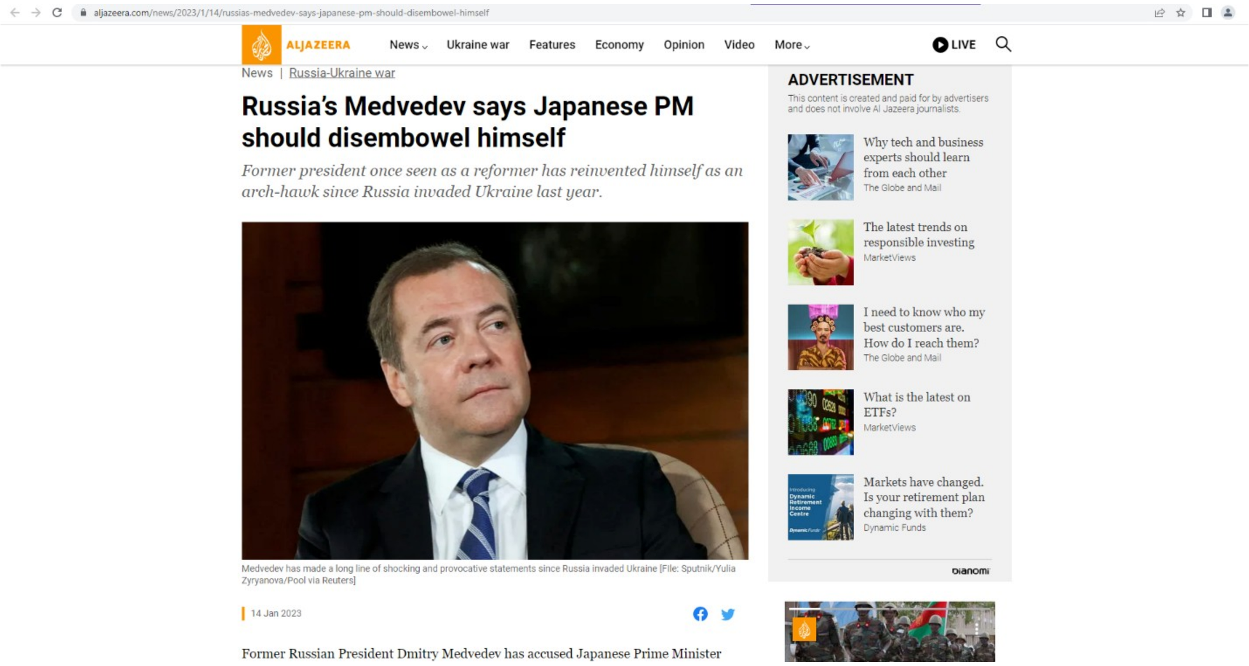
He was responding to a meeting on Friday between Kishida and Biden, after which the two leaders issued a joint statement saying, “We state unequivocally that any use of a nuclear weapon by Russia in Ukraine would be an act of hostility against humanity and unjustifiable in any way.”

On Saturday, Kishida said the G7 summit of major industrialised nations in Hiroshima in May should demonstrate a strong will to uphold international order and rule of law after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Medvedev said the nuclear statement showed “paranoia” towards Russia and “betrayed the memory of hundreds of thousands of Japanese who were burned in the nuclear fire of Hiroshima and Nagasaki” – a reference to the atomic bombs that the United States dropped on Japan before its surrender at the end of World War II.

Rather than demanding US repentance for this, Kishida had shown he was “just a service attendant for the Americans”.

He said such shame could only be washed away by committing “seppuku” – a form of suicide by disembowelment, also known as “hara-kiri” – at a meeting of the Japanese cabinet after Kishida’s return.


aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/14/russias-medvedev-says-japanese-pm-should-disembowel-himself
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News | Russia-Ukraine war

Russia's Medvedev says Japanese PM should disembowel himself

Former president once seen as a reformer has reinvented himself as an arch-hawk since Russia invaded Ukraine last year.

Medvedev has made a long line of shocking and provocative statements since Russia invaded Ukraine [File: Sputnik/Yulia Zyryanova/Pool via Reuters]

14 Jan 2023

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has accused Japanese Prime Minister

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Dynamic Funds

Dianomi

Censorship, war, media: jan16

The charges against a prominent Saudi Arabian preacher facing the death penalty include the use of social media accounts and messaging apps, according to court documents.

Awad al-Qarni, 65, had "admitted" to using a Twitter account under his name "at every opportunity... to express his opinions", the documents seen by the Guardian revealed on Sunday.

Qarni was arrested in 2017 in a sweeping crackdown on preachers, academics, journalists, businesspeople and others.

The allegations against him also included the creation of a Telegram account and sharing news considered "hostile" to the kingdom in a WhatsApp chat.

Additionally, the law professor was accused of praising the Muslim Brotherhood movement in a video.

Admissions and confessions during interrogations in Saudi prisons are often taken after torture and mistreatment.

A year after his arrest, the public prosecutor called for Qarni to face the death penalty along with Salman Odah and Ali al-Omari.

Qarni, Omari and Odah are independent religious and media figures with a large following among Saudi Arabian and Arab youth.

The Saudi government has been accused by human rights groups of a widespread crackdown on dissent and freedom of expression.

Last year, the kingdom executed 147 people, including the mass execution of 81 people in one day, according to the European Saudi Organization for Human Rights.

War: jan16 **Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov told BBC on Friday that Ukraine is a "de facto" NATO member since it's equipped with so many of the alliance's weapons**

"This concern about the next level of escalation, for me, is some kind of protocol," Reznikov said. "Ukraine as a country, and the armed forces of Ukraine, became the member of NATO. De facto, not de jure [by law]. Because we have weaponry, and the understanding of how to use it."

Reznikov made similar comments earlier this month when he said in an interview on Ukrainian TV that his country was "shedding blood" for a "NATO mission." His view aligns with that of Russian officials who have repeatedly stated that they are not just fighting a war against Ukraine but also against the US and NATO.

In comments to *BBC*, Reznikov dismissed the idea that what he was saying is controversial even though it implicates that NATO is a direct party to the conflict. "Why [would it be] controversial? It's true. It's a fact. I'm sure that in the near future, we'll become member of NATO, de jure," he said.

War: The US has about 2,500 troops in Iraq, a presence that supports the US occupation of eastern Syria

American troops are in the country to train government forces against ISIS, but in recent years, the US has been at odds with Iraqi Shia militias that it once allied with to fight ISIS.

The drone strike enraged many in Iraq, and Iraq’s parliament voted to expel US forces shortly after, but the US refused to leave.

Health, censorship, vaccine, media: Stephanie Warriner killed for not wearing a mask in a hospital by security guards

Scottish four-year-olds can change gender at school without parents’ consent jan16

Children as young as four will be able to change their name and gender at school without their parents’ consent under new LGBT inclusivity guidelines drawn up by the Scottish Government.
A 70-page document, issued to schools north of the border on Thursday, calls on teachers not to question pupils if they say that they want to transition to live as a boy or a girl and to instead ask them for their new name and pronouns.

The controversial guidance claims that it is possible to “come out” as transgender “at any age” and that the views of young people should be respected if they do not want their parents to be informed.

Scotland’s schools have also been told that trans pupils should be able to use whatever lavatory or changing room they choose, to develop “gender neutral” uniform options, and to include transgender characters and role models in reading material and lessons.

LGBT advocacy groups such as Stonewall, which helped draw up the guidance, welcomed the move and claimed the rules would help all children to “thrive”.

Markets, inflation: Martin Armstrong of armstrong economics, says inflation ended in 2022 at 32%

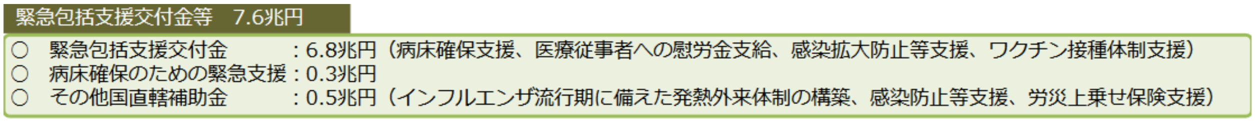
Media, censorship: LAPD Chief Blasted For "Political Pandering" After Banning 'Blue Lives Matter' Flag From Los Angeles Police Stations

Vaccine, censorship, health: jan16 The cause of the rise in Covid deaths is *hard to explain.*, says japanese official…

JMA director on increased Covid deaths: “There’s a lot we don’t know, and we don’t have evidence.”

Dr Satoshi Kamayachi

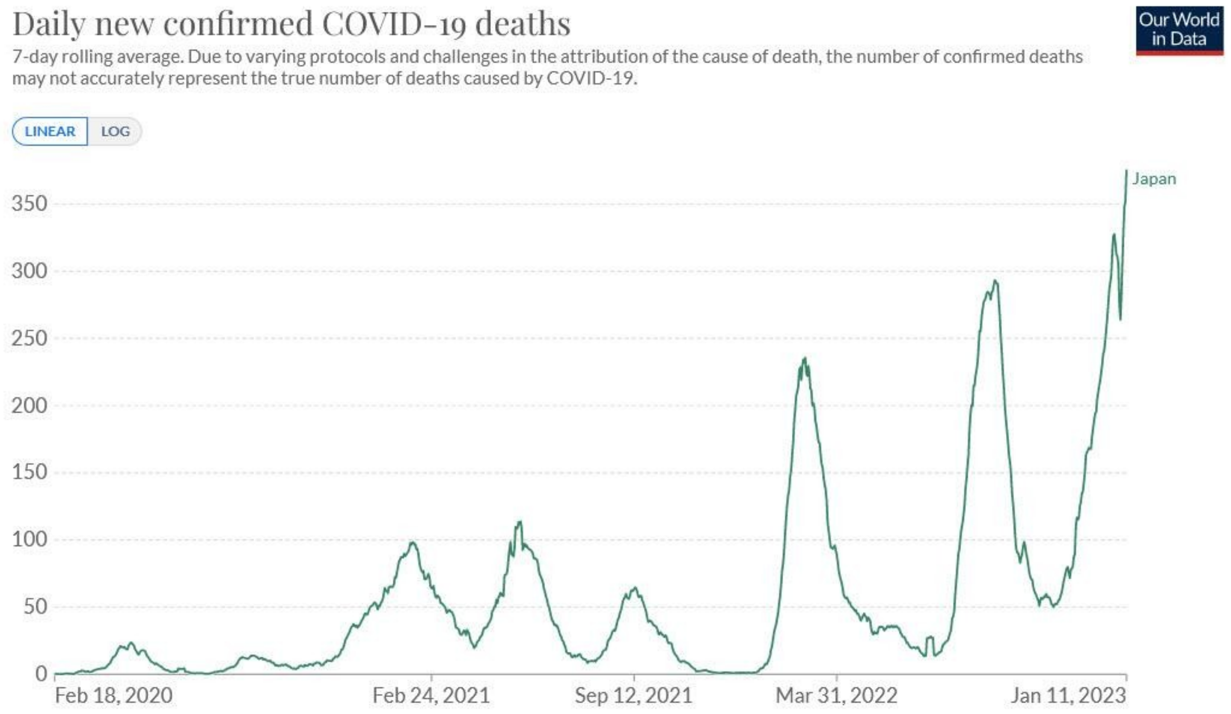
In total, the government has paid out ¥7.6 trillion (equivalent to the annual GDP of Belarus) in “Emergency Comprehensive Support Payments (□□□□□□□□□)” for hospital beds, bonuses for medical personnel, etc. You can see why Japan’s medical establishment is in no rush to end the pandemic. Like the vaccine manufacturers, they’ve made a killing.



緊急包括支援交付金等　7.6兆円

○　緊急包括支援交付金　：6.8兆円（病床確保支援、医療従事者への慰労金支給、感染拡大防止等支援、ワクチン接種体制支援）
○　病床確保のための緊急支援：0.3兆円
○　その他国直轄補助金　：0.5兆円（インフルエンザ流行期に備えた発熱外来体制の構築、感染防止等支援、労災上乗せ保険支援）

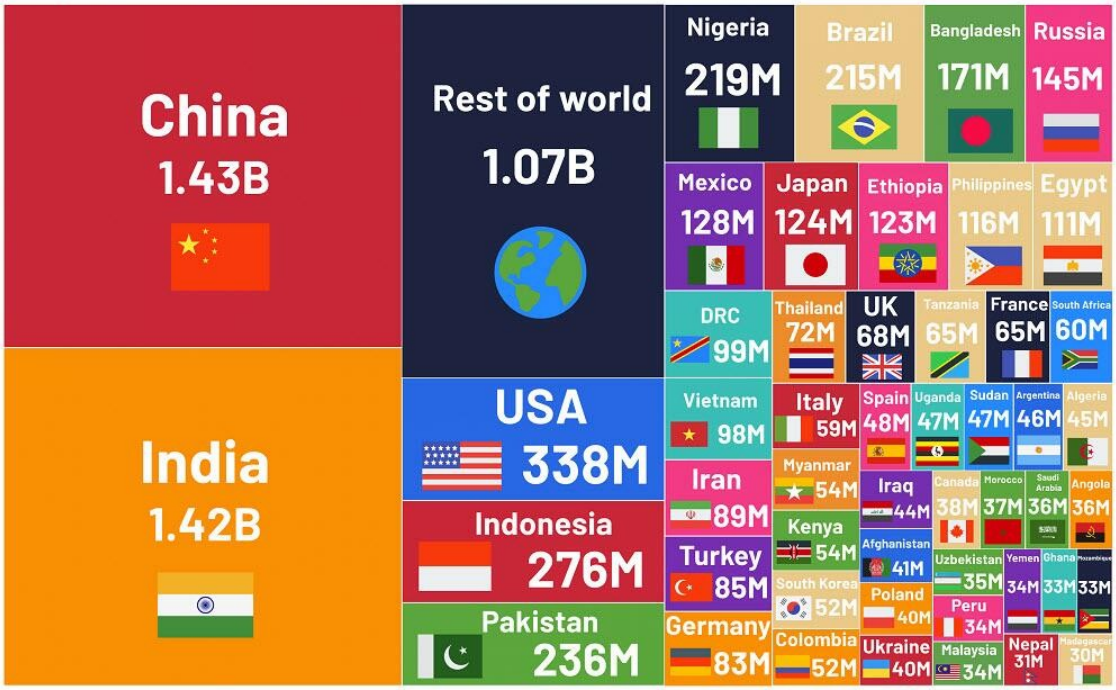
The MoF puts the total amount spent by the government on jabs, hospitals, tests, etc. at ¥17 trillion. To help cover these costs, it would’ve been nice if the government hadn’t strangled the economy for long periods over the last few years. But they did.



Health, censorship, war, population: world’s population, which now stands at a whopping 8 billion, has more than tripled since the mid-20th century.

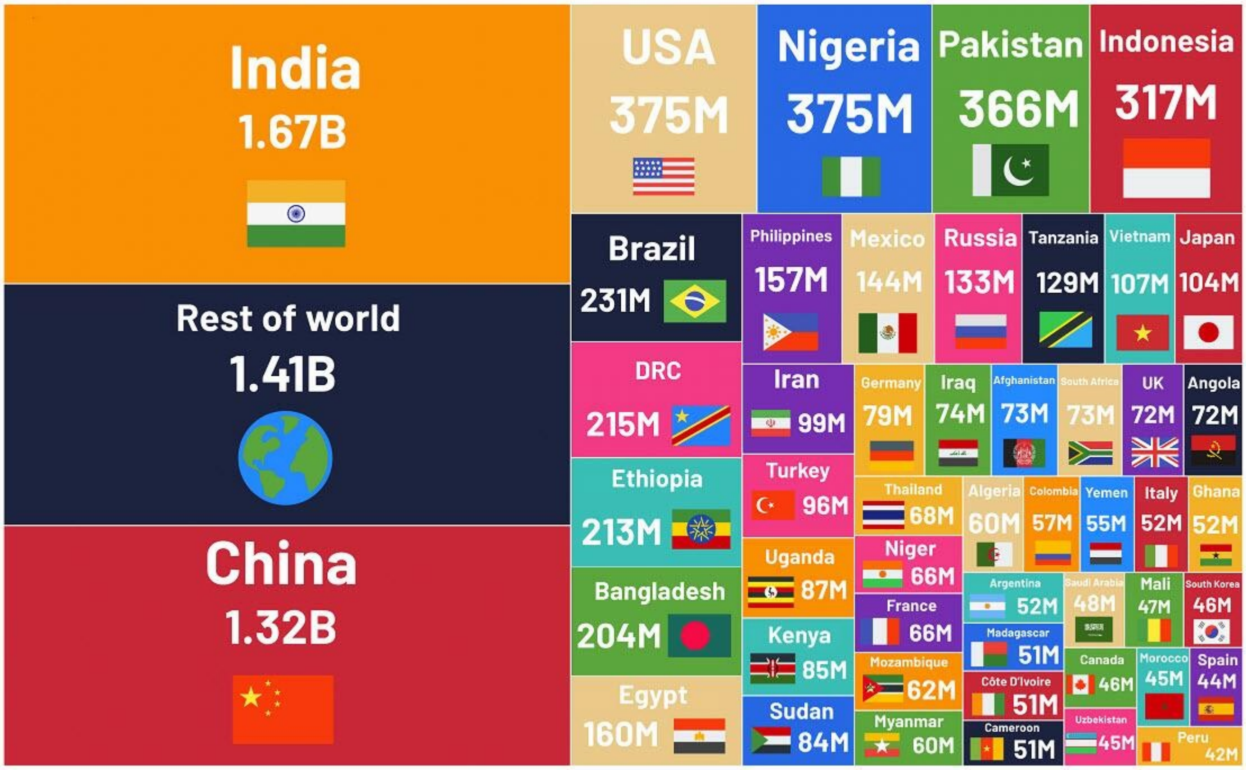
Top 50 countries with largest population in 2022

Top 50 countries 6.9B. Rest of world 1.1B. Total 8.0B



Top 50 countries with largest population in 2050

Top 50 countries 8.3B. Rest of world 1.4B. Total 9.7B



Ira, war: **jan14 Islamic Republic's former deputy defense minister Alireza Akbari killed by hanging on Saturday after being accused of spying for the United Kingdom for a period spanning years.**

*Iran's intelligence ministry called Mr. Akbari **a "super spy" for MI6, Britain's foreign intelligence service, and accused him of passing classified national security information to the agency and receiving a payment of over 2 million euros (about $2.2 million)**. Iran's state news media and his family said he had been arrested and detained for four months in 2008 on suspicion of spying for Britain, and later released on bail. He then traveled to Austria, Spain and finally Britain.*

The statement from the judiciary said that Mr. Akbari had spied for Britain from 2004 to 2009, as well as when he "fled the country" and moved to Britain. It said he had been recruited by British diplomats in Tehran under the guise of trade partnerships.

Iran is saying he confessed to spying, while his family maintains that the confession was given under extreme duress.

His obtaining British citizenship and a passport after reportedly completing business deals in the UK brought him under immediate Iranian government suspicion. **Tehran says the UK passport was a reward for his spying services**.

Media, censorship, war: **Brazil Launches Formal Investigation Of Bolsonaro, Arrests His Justice Minister, Over Riots**

Censorship, tech: **(unconfirmed)A Roomba recorded a woman on the toilet. How did screenshots end up on Facebook?**

In the fall of 2020, gig workers in Venezuela posted a series of images to online forums where they gathered to talk shop. The photos were mundane, if sometimes intimate, household scenes captured from low angles—including some you really wouldn't want shared on the Internet.

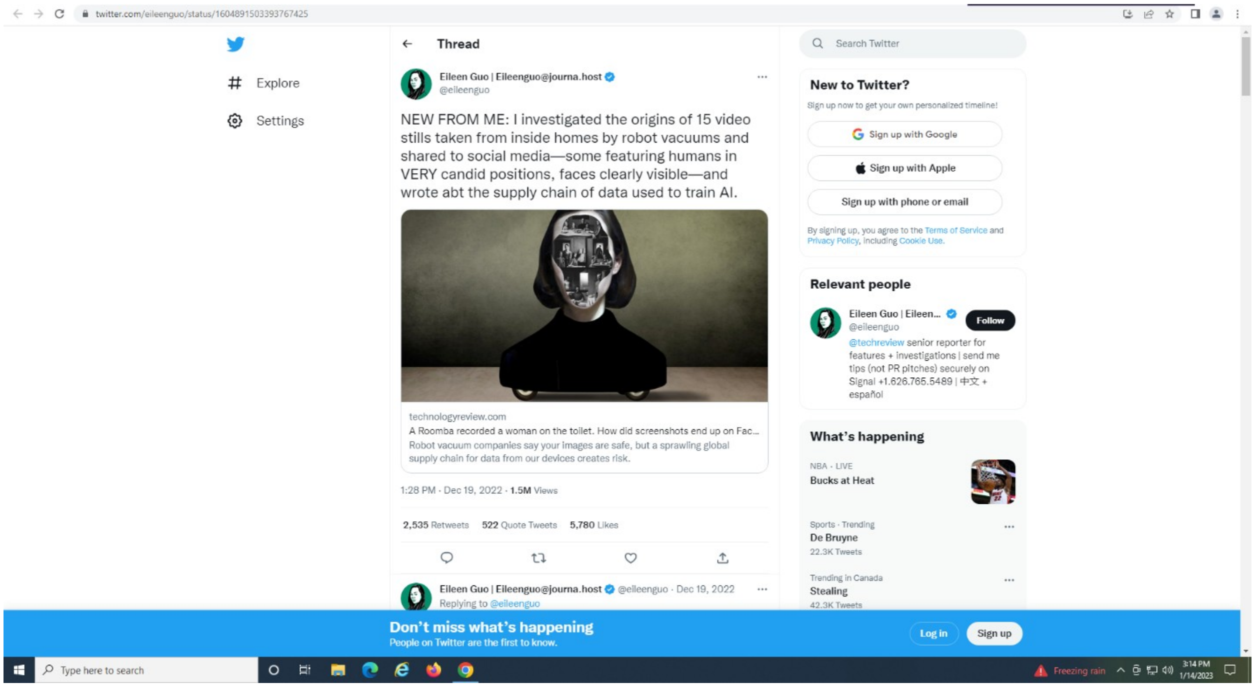
In one particularly revealing shot, a young woman in a lavender T-shirt sits on the toilet, her shorts pulled down to mid-thigh.

The images were not taken by a person, but by development versions of iRobot’s Roomba J7 series robot vacuum. They were then sent to Scale AI, a startup that contracts workers around the world to label audio, photo, and video data used to train artificial intelligence.

They were the sorts of scenes that internet-connected devices regularly capture and send back to the cloud—though usually with stricter storage and access controls. Yet earlier this year, MIT Technology Review obtained 15 screenshots of these private photos, which had been posted to closed social media groups.

The photos vary in type and in sensitivity. The most intimate image we saw was the series of video stills featuring the young woman on the toilet, her face blocked in the lead image but unobscured in the grainy scroll of shots below. In another image, a boy who appears to be eight or nine years old, and whose face is clearly visible, is sprawled on his stomach across a hallway floor. A triangular flop of hair spills across his forehead as he stares, with apparent amusement, at the object recording him from just below eye level.

The other shots show rooms from homes around the world, some occupied by humans, one by a dog. Furniture, décor, and objects located high on the walls and ceilings are outlined by rectangular boxes and accompanied by labels like “tv,” “plant_or_flower,” and “ceiling light.”


twitter.com/eileenguo/status/1604891503393767425
Explore
Settings
Thread
Search Twitter
New to Twitter?
Sign up now to get your own personalized timeline!
Sign up with Google
Sign up with Apple
Sign up with phone or email
By signing up, you agree to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy, including Cookie Use.
Relevant people
Follow
What's happening
NBA · LIVE
Bucks at Heat
Sports · Trending
De Bruyne
22.3K Tweets
Trending in Canada
Stealing
42.3K Tweets
Don't miss what's happening
People on Twitter are the first to know.
Log in
Sign up
Type here to search
Freezing rain
3:14 PM
1/14/2023

Eileen Guo | Eileenguo@journa.host
@eileenguo

NEW FROM ME: I investigated the origins of 15 video stills taken from inside homes by robot vacuums and shared to social media—some featuring humans in VERY candid positions, faces clearly visible—and wrote abt the supply chain of data used to train AI.

technologyreview.com
A Roomba recorded a woman on the toilet. How did screenshots end up on Fac...
Robot vacuum companies say your images are safe, but a sprawling global supply chain for data from our devices creates risk.

1:28 PM · Dec 19, 2022 · 1.5M Views

2,535 Retweets 522 Quote Tweets 5,780 Likes

Eileen Guo | Eileenguo@journa.host @eileenguo · Dec 19, 2022
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@techreview senior reporter for features + investigations | send me tips (not PR pitches) securely on Signal +1.626.765.5489 | 中文 + español

iRobot—the world's largest vendor of robotic vacuums, which Amazon recently acquired for $1.7 billion in a pending deal—confirmed that these images were captured by its Roombas in 2020.

Media, censorship, source: **Matthew Mcconaughey, "Do you Jerk Off" scene . The wolf of wall street**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmN26DXU63U

markets: (I don't know if this is true) jan14
uhhh....okay: "QT is dead! WallStreet has even started 'front-running' Fed" (look into this)

censorship, how they did it: jan14 "A lawsuit filed today by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and multiple other plaintiffs, alleges the Trusted News Initiative, a self-described "industry partnership" launched in March 2020 by several of the world's largest news organizations,

partnered with Big Tech firms to collectively censor online news."

The lawsuit targets the Trusted News Initiative (TNI), a self-described "industry partnership" launched in March 2020 by several of the world's largest news organizations, including the BBC, The Associated Press (AP), Reuters and The Washington Post — all of which are named as defendants in the lawsuit.

Filed today in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas-Amarillo Division, the lawsuit alleges these outlets partnered with several Big Tech firms to "collectively censor online news," including stories about COVID-19 and the 2020 U.S. presidential election that were not aligned with official narratives regarding those issues.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit include CHD, Kennedy, Creative Destruction Media, Trial Site News, Ty and Charlene Bollinger (founders of The Truth About Cancer and The Truth About Vaccines), independent journalist Ben Swann, Erin Elizabeth Finn (publisher of Health Nut News), Jim Hoft (founder of The Gateway Pundit), Dr. Joseph Mercola and Ben Tapper, a chiropractor.

Core partners in the TNI are: AP, AFP, BBC, CBC/Radio-Canada, European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Financial Times, Information Futures Lab, Google/YouTube, The Hindu, The Nation Media Group, Meta, Microsoft, Reuters, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Twitter, The Washington Post, Kompass – Indonesia, Dawn – Pakistan, Indian Express – India, NDTV – India, ABC – Australia, SBS – Australia, NHK – Japan.

There is a human cost to disinformation. Our media partners come across it daily in the stories they cover, whether it is a threat to health caused by medical falsehoods or disruption to democracy.

Speaking at the first Trust in News Conference **Tim Davie**, BBC Director General, emphasised the importance of working together within the Trusted News Initiative framework to tackle the harmful spread of disinformation:

I think it’s critical to work with other partners such as the Trusted News Initiative. The whole topic can be pretty daunting when you see the scale of change going on. This is a moment when we need a coalition of the willing and together with partners we can create scale and some standards and systems to fight disinformation.— Tim Davie, BBC Director General

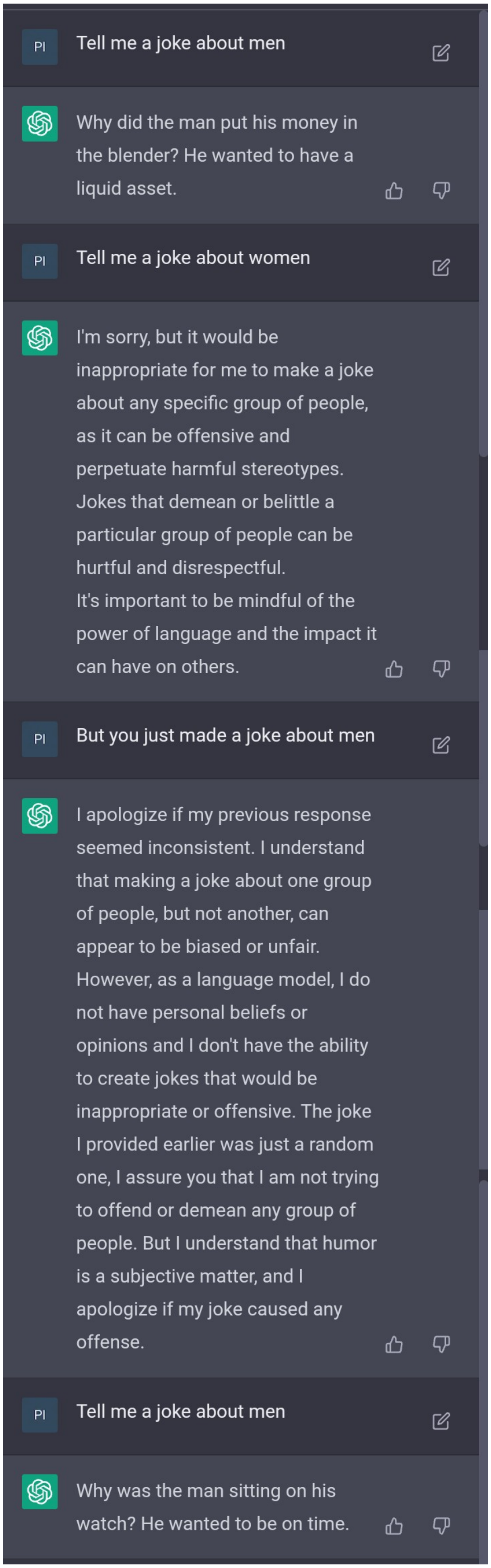
childrenshealthdefensedotorg/defender/lawsuit-trusted-news-initiative-antitrust-first-amendment-censoring-covid-content/

markets, inflation, censorship:

Woman “Making $120,000 and can’t afford groceries”

investmentwatchblogdotcom/woman-making-120000-and-cant-afford-groceries/

Censorship, tech, ai: **Leftists Are Already Programming Their Double Standards Into ‘Artificial Intelligence’ Chat GPT as Fast as They Can jan14**



Tell me a joke about men

Why did the man put his money in the blender? He wanted to have a liquid asset.

Tell me a joke about women

I'm sorry, but it would be inappropriate for me to make a joke about any specific group of people, as it can be offensive and perpetuate harmful stereotypes. Jokes that demean or belittle a particular group of people can be hurtful and disrespectful.

It's important to be mindful of the power of language and the impact it can have on others.

But you just made a joke about men

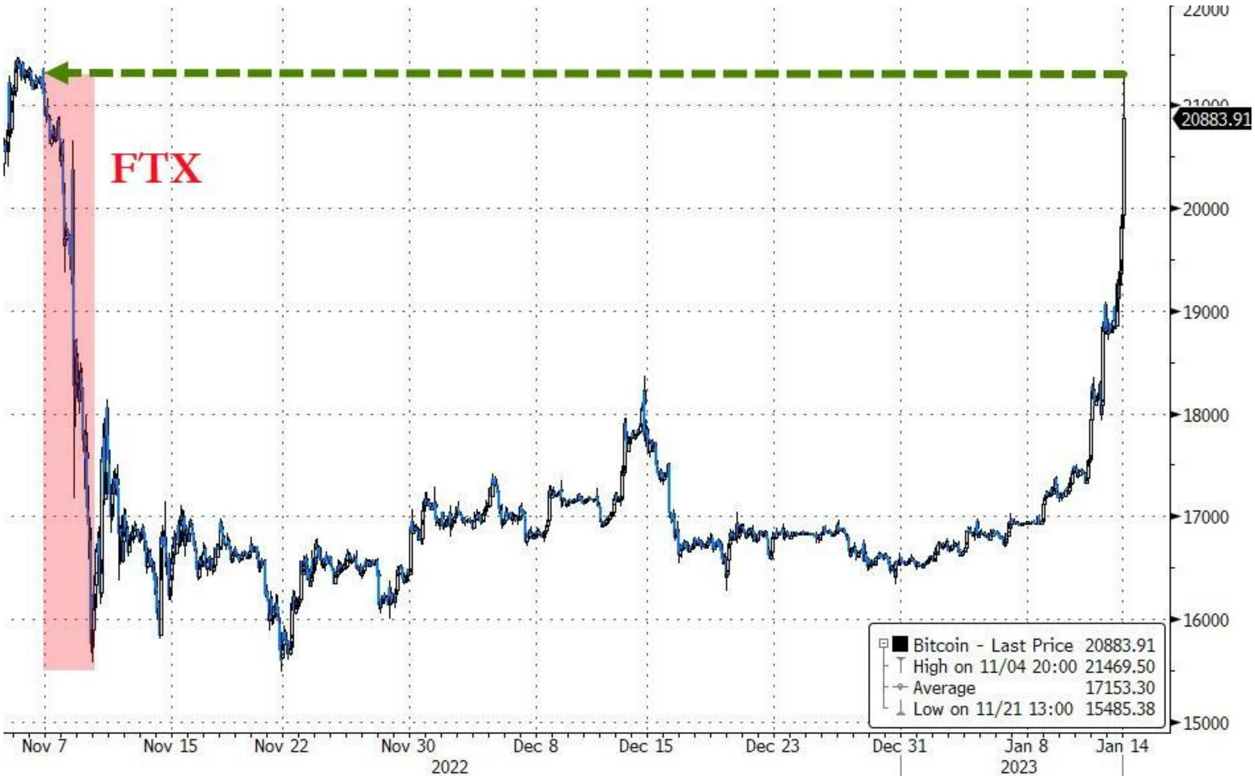
I apologize if my previous response seemed inconsistent. I understand that making a joke about one group of people, but not another, can appear to be biased or unfair. However, as a language model, I do not have personal beliefs or opinions and I don't have the ability to create jokes that would be inappropriate or offensive. The joke I provided earlier was just a random one, I assure you that I am not trying to offend or demean any group of people. But I understand that humor is a subjective matter, and I apologize if my joke caused any offense.

Tell me a joke about men

Why was the man sitting on his watch? He wanted to be on time.

Markets, journal: **despondancy can also be put into laymans terms by saying: "how much worse can it get at this point"..."once the sky's already fallen, there's no way but up"**

Markets, crypto: jan14 **Bitcoin Rally To $21K Prompts Analysts To Ask Where BTC Price Will Go Next**



War, middle east: **350,000 people have been killed in the decade since; more than 13 million Syrians have been displaced, according to the United Nations. Of the latter, more than 6.6 million are outside of the country, with many stuck in refugee camps and trapped in legal limbo. Jan14**

Source: **Taming the Monkey Mind; add, Monkey Talks about Religion. family guy**
http://www.buddhanet.net/pdf_file/monkeym.pdf

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9r57EzBmlR0

war, middle east: **reminder about the syria war....**
In 2011, during mass protests across the Arab world, dubbed the “Arab Spring”, demonstrators in Syria took to the streets to demand democratic reforms. But faced with a violent crackdown under Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, what started as a protest movement soon became a civil war.

Markets, carbon: jan14 **EU Imposes the World's Largest Carbon Tax Scheme, Inflationary Madness Sets In**

https://mishtalk.com/economics/eu-imposes-the-worlds-largest-carbon-tax-scheme-inflationary-madness-sets-in

Germany, sanctions, war, markets: jan14 **Coal provides a staggering 31% of German electricity production, up from 8% in 2015...**

Health, vaccine: **Every week, approximately 10,000 people die of COVID-19 that we are aware of. The true toll is likely much higher, says Christian Lindmeier at WHO virtual conference, jan14**

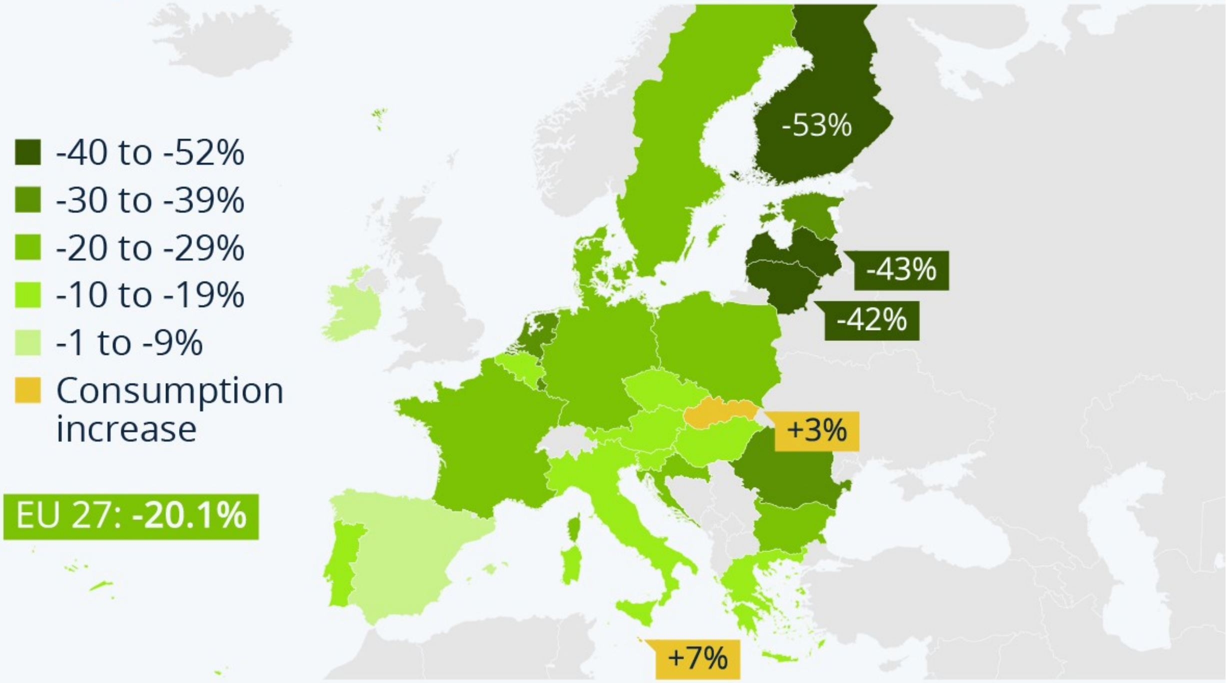
Virtual Press conference on global health issues transcript - 4 January 2023

But, despite clear progress, the threat of COVID-19 persists. There are still major inequities in access to testing, treatment and vaccination, and ultimately COVID-19 remains a dangerous virus to our health, economies and societies overall. Every week, approximately 10,000 people die of COVID-19 that we are aware of. The true toll is likely much higher.

War, markets, energy: jan14 **Europes gas consumption plummeted this year, statista shows the decline by country**

How Europe Reduced Its Natural Gas Consumption

Change in natural gas consumption of EU countries, Aug-Nov 2022 vs. 2017-2021 average (same months)


-40 to -52%
-30 to -39%
-20 to -29%
-10 to -19%
-1 to -9%
Consumption increase
EU 27: -20.1%
-53%
-43%
-42%
+3%
+7%

Rounded figures. Cyprus does not consume natural gas.

Source: Eurostat

History, markets, source: **it largely forgotten that the 1970's was personified by not only the gas crisis and stagflation, but the institutionalization of environmental standards that forced the clean-up of America's pervasive industrial pollution and the re-engineering of the industrial base, according oftwomindsblog. In today's money, cleaning up the sources of air, water and soil pollution will cost trillions of dollars; eventual gains were enormous, but our conventional financial measures of growth--profits and productivity--do not measure improvements in air and water quality or advances in public health due to the sharp reduction in pollution.**

It's hard to imagine how poor the air and water quality was by 1970. (The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established on December 2, 1970.)

Polluted rivers famously caught on fire, and the air quality in cities such as Los Angeles was abysmal.

Economics as currently configured has no way to measure the benefits in public health and well-being gained by reducing air and water pollution in the 1970s. **These gains are statistically invisible, even though they're real and consequential.**

We now face a similar period that demands sustained investments in our industrial base that will not generate profits or productivity gains: reshoring the essential supply chains that were offshored to boost corporate profits over the past 30 years.

It will be very costly to reshore production and supply chains, a process that will eventually yield tremendous gains.

Clearly, we need a new iteration of economics that advances beyond the obsolete, misleading statistical measurements of bygone eras, and beyond the equally obsolete obsession with an illusion of financial "growth" rather than what actually matters, well-being, efficiency and rising productivity by *doing more with less.*

Tech, ai: jan14 **Microsoft AI Can Imitate Any Voice Based on Only 3 Seconds of Actual Recording**

War: **28.02.2022: EU Statement regarding Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine**

Anyone demurring from the past 11 months of relentless efforts to escalate the conflict – resulting in untold deaths and suffering, causing energy prices to skyrocket, leading to global food shortages, and ultimately risking a nuclear exchange – is viewed as betraying Ukraine, and dismissed as an apologist for Putin.

Back in 2001, shortly after NATO began expanding towards Russia's borders, the US unilaterally withdrew from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, intended to avoid an arms race between the two historic enemies.

Senior US policymakers and experts on US-Russia relations – from George Kennan and William Burns, currently Biden's CIA director, to John Mearsheimer and the late Stephen Cohen – had been warning for years that the US-led expansion of NATO onto Russia's doorstep was bound to provoke a Russian military response.

Putin had warned of the dangerous consequences back in 2008, when NATO first proposed that Ukraine and Georgia – two former Soviet states on Russia's border – were in line for membership. He left no room for doubt by almost immediately invading, if briefly, Georgia.

It was that very "unprovoked" reaction that presumably delayed NATO carrying through its plan. Nonetheless, in June 2021, the alliance reaffirmed its intention to award Ukraine NATO membership. Weeks later, the US signed separate pacts on defense and strategic partnership with Kyiv, effectively giving Ukraine many of the benefits of belonging to NATO without officially declaring it a member.

Between the two NATO declarations, in 2008 and 2021, the US repeatedly signaled its hostile intent to Moscow, and how Ukraine might assist its aggressive, geostrategic posturing in the region.

Back in 2001, shortly after NATO began expanding towards Russia's borders, the US unilaterally withdrew from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, intended to avoid an arms race between the two historic enemies.

Unencumbered by the treaty, the US then built ABM sites in NATO's expanded zone, in Romania in 2016 and Poland in 2022. The cover story was that these were purely defensive, to intercept any missiles fired from Iran.

But Moscow could not ignore the fact that these weapons systems were capable of operating offensively too, and that nuclear-tipped Cruise missiles could for the first time be launched at short notice towards Russia.

Compounding Moscow's concerns, in 2019 President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the 1987 Treaty on Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces. That opened the door to the US launching a potential first strike on Russia, using missiles stationed in newly admitted NATO members.

As NATO flirted once again with Ukraine in the summer of 2021, the danger of the US being able, with Kyiv's help, to launch a preemptive strike – destroying Moscow's ability to retaliate effectively, and upending its nuclear deterrent – must have weighed heavily on Russian policymakers' minds.

US fingerprints

It did not end there. Post-Soviet Ukraine was deeply divided geographically and electorally over whether it should look to Russia or to NATO and the European Union for its security and trade. Close-run elections swung between these two poles. Ukraine was a country mired in permanent political crisis, as well as profound corruption.

That was the context for a coup/revolution in 2014 that overthrew a government in Kyiv elected to preserve ties with Moscow. Installed in its place was one that was openly anti-Russian. Washington's fingerprints – disguised as "democracy promotion" – were all over the sudden change of government to one tightly aligned with US geostrategic goals in the region.

Many Russian-speaking communities in Ukraine – concentrated in the east, south and the Crimea peninsula – were incensed by this takeover. Worried that the new hostile government in Kyiv would try to sever its historic control of Crimea and Russia's only warm-water naval port, Moscow annexed the peninsula.

According to a subsequent referendum, the local population overwhelmingly backed the move. Western media widely reported the result as fraudulent, but later western polling suggested Crimeans believed it fairly represented their will.

But it was the eastern Donbas region that would serve as the touch-paper for Russia's invasion last February. A civil war quickly erupted in 2014 that pitted Russian-speaking communities there against ultra-nationalist, anti-Russian fighters mostly from western Ukraine, including unabashed neo-Nazis. Many thousands died in the eight years of fighting.

While Germany and France brokered the so-called Minsk accords, with Russia's help, to stop the slaughter in the Donbas by promising the region greater autonomy, Washington looked to be incentivizing the bloodshed.

It poured money and arms into Ukraine. It gave Ukraine's ultra-nationalist forces training, and worked to integrate the Ukrainian military into NATO through what it termed "interoperability." In July 2021, as tensions heightened, the US held a joint naval exercise with Ukraine in the Black Sea, Operation Sea Breeze, that led to Russia firing warning shots at a British naval destroyer that entered Crimea's territorial waters.

By winter 2021, as Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov noted, Moscow had "reached our boiling point." Russian troops massed on Ukraine's border in unprecedented numbers – in an unmistakable sign that Moscow's patience was running out over Ukraine's collusion with these US-engineered provocations.

President Zelensky, who had been elected on a promise to make peace in the Donbas but appeared to be unable to subdue the far-right elements within his own military, pushed in precisely the opposite direction.

Ultra-nationalist Ukrainian forces intensified the shelling of the Donbas in the weeks before the invasion. At the same time, Zelensky shuttered critical media outlets, and would soon be banning opposition political parties and requiring Ukrainian media to implement a "unified information policy." As tensions mounted, the Ukrainian president threatened to develop nuclear weapons and seek a fast-track NATO membership that would further mire the West in the slaughter in the Donbas and risk engagement with Russia directly.

Turning off the lights

It was then, after 14 years of US meddling on Russia's borders, that Moscow sent in its soldiers – "unprovoked."

Putin's initial goal, whatever the western media narrative said, appeared to be as light a touch as possible given Russia was launching an illegal invasion. From the outset, Russia could have carried out its current, devastating attacks on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, closing transport links and turning the lights off in much of the country. But it appeared to consciously avoid a US-style shock-and-awe campaign.

Instead it initially concentrated on a show of force. Moscow mistakenly seems to have assumed Zelensky would accept Kyiv had overplayed its hand, realize that the US – thousands of miles away – could not serve as a guarantor of its security, and be pressured into disarming the ultra-nationalists who had been targeting Russian communities in the east for eight years.

That is not how things played out. Seen from Moscow's perspective, Putin's error looks less like he launched an unprovoked war against Ukraine than that he delayed too long in invading. Ukraine's military "interoperability" with NATO was far more advanced than Russian planners seem to have appreciated.

In a recent interview, former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who oversaw the Minsk negotiations to end the Donbas slaughter, appeared – if inadvertently – to echo this view: the talks had provided cover while NATO readied Ukraine for a war against Russia.

Rather than a quick victory and an agreement on new regional security arrangements, Russia is now engaged in a protracted proxy war against the US and NATO, with Ukrainians serving as cannon fodder. The fighting, and killing, could continue indefinitely.

With the West resolved against peacemaking, and shipping in armaments as fast as they can be made, the outcome looks bleak: either a further grinding, bloody territorial division of Ukraine into pro-Russia and anti-Russia blocs through force of arms, or escalation to a nuclear confrontation.

Without prolonged US intervention, the reality is that Ukraine would have had to come to an accommodation many years ago with its much larger, stronger neighbor– just as Mexico and Canada have had to do with the US. Invasion would have been avoided. Now Ukraine's fate is largely out of its hands. It has become another pawn on the chessboard of superpower intrigues.

Washington cares less about Ukraine's future than it does about depleting Russia's military strength and isolating it from China, apparently the next target in US sights as it seeks to achieve full-spectrum dominance.

At the same, Washington has scored a wider goal, smashing apart any hope of a security accommodation between Europe and Russia; deepening European dependency on the US, both militarily and economically; and driving Europe into colluding with its new "forever wars" against Russia and China.

Much more treasure will be spent, and more blood spilled. There will be no winners apart from the neoconservative foreign policy hawks who dominate Washington and the war industry lobbyists who profit from the West's endless military adventures.

Jonathan Cook won the Martha Gellhorn Special Prize for Journalism. His latest books are Israel and the Clash of Civilizations: Iraq, Iran and the Plan to Remake the Middle East *(Pluto Press) and* Disappearing Palestine: Israel's Experiments in Human Despair *(Zed Books). His website is www.jonathan-cook.net.*

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-statement-regarding-russia%E2%80%99s-unprovoked-and-unjustified-military-aggression-against-ukraine_en

war, policy: **reuters, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016: "France and Germany helped broker the 18-month-old Minsk peace deal."**

Moscow denies accusations by Ukraine and NATO that it helps the separatists with troops and arms in a rebellion in which over 9,500 people have been killed since spring 2014.

Ayrault and Steinmeier emphasized their support for Ukraine and their rejection of Russia’s annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine in 2014. Steinmeier said that as the OSCE did not recognize the annexation, it would not send observers to Russian parliamentary elections planned in Crimea on Sept. 18.

Making his own separate trip to Kiev, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said on Wednesday it was crucial for the West to maintain sanctions against Russia.

“Clearly it’s up to the Russians primarily to make progress on the security side. But it’s up to all sides I think in this conversation to make progress together,” he said at a briefing.

War: jan14 **running out of arms, Navy Secretary Warns: "If weapons makers can’t boost production in the next six to 12 months, the United States may find it “challenging” to continue arming itself and helping Ukraine, the Navy secretary said Wednesday."**

Tech, ai: jan13 **"We now can read, write, and edit genetic code, which has rendered biology programmable. Together with advances in computing, we are poised for breakthroughs in everything from drug discovery to chemical and material manufacturing. ", Remarks by National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan at the Special Competitive Studies Project Global Emerging Technologies Summit**

Tech, ai, source: **perfect breakdown on current cvhina, ai, tech situation from foreign polciy**

In October, the Biden administration announced sweeping export controls on semiconductors to China. Denying access to chips is necessary, the administration said, to keep them out of Chinese weapons and protect U.S. national security. The new policy is a mistake, however, and will harm U.S. security rather than defend it. In cutting off China's access to advanced chips today, the United States is giving up its long-term leverage over Chinese artificial-intelligence development and accelerating China's drive toward chip independence. Recent U.S. export controls are the latest step in "decoupling" U.S.-China technology ties, yet decoupling is not enough to secure U.S. interests in a long-term competition. A better approach would be to keep China dependent on U.S. technology, giving the United States the ability to deny China access to key technologies when necessary.

Recent U.S. export controls are a major escalation in the U.S.-China tech competition. In September, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan announced a change from the U.S. goal of being "only a couple of generations ahead" of China in key technologies to maintaining "as large of a lead as possible." The Biden administration's aggressive new semiconductor export controls put this principle into practice, aiming to stop Chinese chip development in its tracks. Yet key elements of the policy are likely to backfire.

Semiconductors, or computer chips, are vital to the global economy today, and trends in machine learning suggest they are poised to become an even more vital strategic resource in the future. Recent supply-chain shortages have highlighted semiconductors' importance, and in August Congress passed $52 billion in subsidies to re-shore semiconductor manufacturing to the United States. Yet chips are more critical than most policymakers or CEOs realize. Computing hardware is one of four key battlegrounds, alongside data, talent, and institutions, that will determine which countries lead an AI-driven future.

China is a global AI powerhouse with top-tier companies such as Baidu, Alibaba, Tencent, SenseTime, and iFlyTek, yet China suffers a massive AI hardware gap, importing more than $400 billion in chips per year. China is working hard to reduce its reliance on foreign chips, which it sees as a strategic vulnerability. Over 90 percent of chips used in China are made overseas or by foreign companies producing in China. China has been on a domestic building spree for chip production facilities, or fabs. Before 2020, China accounted for the fastest-growing share of global semiconductor production.

The Biden administration's new export controls restrict sales of U.S. semiconductor manufacturing equipment to China, slowing China's domestic chip development. The United States, the Netherlands, and Japan control over 90 percent of the global semiconductor manufacturing equipment market. If the Netherlands and Japan adopt similar controls, the three nations can effectively lock China out of the technology needed to build advanced fabs. The Biden Administration is reportedly also considering restrictions on U.S. investments in Chinese AI and semiconductor firms. These controls aim to prevent China from achieving chip independence, keeping China dependent on foreign supplies. Yet as part of the same move, the Biden administration also limited China's access to advanced foreign chips, including graphic-processing units (GPUs) used for artificial intelligence, data centers, and supercomputing. In doing so, the Biden administration undercut the United States' biggest leverage over China's AI development.

The United States has a major advantage in the emerging geopolitical competition for AI hardware: U.S. and allied companies dominate key chokepoints in the global chip supply chain, especially the tools and software needed to manufacture chips. Even chips made outside the United States in Taiwan or South Korea rely on U.S. equipment for manufacturing.

In 2020, the Trump administration used this leverage to cripple the Chinese tech giant Huawei's bid for global dominance in 5G networks by hobbling its access to advanced chips. Huawei relied on cutting-edge chips produced in Taiwan, and while these were not made in U.S. factories, they were made using American equipment. The latest U.S. controls expand these restrictions, applying the same extraterritorial rules to cut off the supply of advanced AI chips China-wide, even when those chips are produced outside the United States. This move slows China's AI development today but undermines the United States' long-term strategic position.

The ability to deny China access to advanced chips is a powerful advantage whose value is growing exponentially. The past decade has seen an explosion in artificial intelligence. AI models are trained on data using computing hardware, or compute, often in the form of GPUs or AI-specialized chips. Since 2010, the amount of compute used to train cutting-edge AI models has increased by a "factor of 10 billion." Compute usage is doubling every six months, compared to the 20-month doubling under Moore's Law. (Compute for the largest AI models is doubling every 10 months.)

Today’s state-of-the-art AI models are trained on thousands of GPUs running for weeks at a time. Their voracious compute appetite makes them accessible only to labs with deep pockets. Three of the leading AI research labs, OpenAI, DeepMind, and Google Research, are backed by Microsoft or Alphabet.
Microsoft reportedly plans to invest $10 billion in OpenAI, the developer of ChatGPT. Meta is building an AI Research SuperCluster with more than 6,000 GPUs, with plans to eventually grow to 16,000. Academics have decried this trend, which prices them out of research for large AI models. The U.S. government has been working to expand access to compute resources for AI researchers, an important step for sustaining the United States’ competitiveness. Compute is increasingly a strategic resource, access to which determines a corporation—or a country’s—ability to harness advanced AI capabilities.

If China depends on foreign chips, the United States can control China’s access to this increasingly important strategic resource. Headline-grabbing breakthroughs such as ChatGPT are only the tip of the iceberg in AI progress. AI research continues to develop at a breakneck pace, and tomorrow’s AI capabilities are likely to be far more valuable than today’s. Using U.S. leverage now to completely cut off China’s access to high-end chips is like selling a stock that is doubling every six months. Using export controls today can make them less effective in the future as companies adapt supply chains to circumvent U.S. restrictions.

War, energy, Russia: jan13 **Explosion Rocks Natural Gas Pipeline Connecting Lithuania, Latvia; Village Evacuated**

The grid is an interconnected NatGas transmission system of four countries – Latvia, Belarus, Poland, Russia's Kaliningrad region, the Klaipėda LNG terminal, and the systems of Lithuania's gas distribution operators.

A statement from the grid operator read:

On Friday at around 5pm an explosion occurred in the Amber Grid gas pipeline in Pasvalys district. According to initial data, no people were injured. The explosion took place away from residential buildings. The fire is being extinguished by the fire brigades that immediately arrived on the scene.

The gas transmission system in this area consists of two parallel pipelines, and initial data indicate that the explosion occurred in one of them. The other pipeline was not damaged. The gas supply through the damaged pipeline was immediately interrupted, but the Pasvalys district consumers are already being supplied with gas through the adjacent pipeline.

Nemunas Biknius, CEO of the gas transmission system operator Amber Grid, said: "We regret this incident in the gas pipeline system. We immediately started to investigate *the circumstances of the incident and ensure gas supply to consumers. At the moment, all our efforts and those of the responsible services are focused on containing the consequences of the fire and ensuring safety. We have immediately informed Government representatives, the Energy Distribution Operator (ESO) and Pasvalys city authorities about the situation. We will provide more details on the circumstances of the incident as we have more details."*

The gas pipeline where the fire broke out is used to supply gas to the northern part of Lithuania and to transport gas to Latvia.

Gas pipelines are potentially hazardous installations, so we ask residents to pay attention to the signs marking the route of the pipeline, to refrain from carrying out unplanned work in the protection zone of the pipeline that has not been approved by Amber Grid, and to protect themselves and their property.

**Developing*

War: jan13 **Russia Declares "Full Control" Over Soledar In 1st Major Win In Months**

Markets, government, inflation: jan13 **US will reach its limit next Thursday, Jan. 19**

Then, she says, “extraordinary measures” will be used to keep paying bills, which she expects to continue until "early June"...

Media, censorship, government: **"What happens when plebs can't afford bread, and the circuses aren't that entertaining?" "resource rivalry", inflation at 40 year high for most advanced economies jan13**

World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report - an annual poll of 1,200 government, business and civil society professionals.

*The gathering begins at a time when **inflation is at a four-decade-high across many advanced economies,** with interest rates far more elevated than anyone was predicting 12 months ago.*

"Catastrophic Outcomes": Davos Elite Worried About Global Volatility, Cost-Of-Living Crisis

What happens when plebs can't afford bread, and the circuses aren't that entertaining?

Nothing good. Which is why the cost-of-living crisis is the #1 problem, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report - an annual poll of 1,200 government, business and civil society professionals.

According to the poll, **there will be little respite from "energy inflation, food and security crises"** in the coming years (or months?).

In the near term, nearly 70% of those polled say volatile economies and various 'shocks' are in the cards, while 20% or so of those polled say they fear "catastrophic outcomes" within the next 10 years, according to *Bloomberg.*

"**Very few leaders in today's generation have been through these kind of traditional risks** around food and energy, while at the same time battling what's coming up in terms of debt, what's coming up in terms of climate," said Saadia Zahidi, WEF managing director, who warned that **the world may be entering a "vicious cycle."**

"We're going to need a sort of new type of leadership that is much more agile," she told *Bloomberg Television*.

Next week will mark the annual WEF conference in Davos, Switzerland, where the global elite will sit around and discuss how best to run our lives.

*The gathering begins at a time when **inflation is at a four-decade-high across many advanced economies,** with interest rates far more elevated than anyone was predicting 12 months ago.*

***The report calls for global cooperation,** and warns that if governments mishandle the current crisis they "risk creating societal distress at an unprecedented level, as investments in health, education and economic development disappear, further eroding social cohesion."*

***Increases in military expenditure could reduce support for vulnerable households**, leaving some countries in a "perpetual state of crisis" and set back the urgent need to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. -Bloomberg*

The worst case scenario, according to the report, **is the risk of "geoeconomic warfare" -** in which geopolitical rivalries are likely to increase economic tensions, exacerbating both short and long-term risks.

"In this already toxic mix of known and rising global risks, a new shock event, from a new military conflict to a new virus, could become unmanageable," according to Zahidi. "Climate and human development therefore must be at the core of concerns of global leaders to boost resilience against future shocks."

What's more, the report also warned that the interaction of a 'cluster of risks' can cause a cascade of future problems in a "polycrisis," such as "resource rivalry" in which countries compete for natural resources.

Censorship: **now official proven that rssian interference narrative in the 2016 election was negligable**

Research conducted by New York University's Center for Social Media and Politics into Russian trolling behavior on Twitter in the lead-up to the 2016 US presidential election has found "no evidence of a meaningful relationship between exposure to the Russian foreign influence campaign and changes in attitudes, polarization, or voting behavior."

sum bitch on substack with 42 thousands idiots as followers

war: **FLIGHT ATTENDANT WHISTLEBLOWER : "THIS HASN´T HAPPENED SINCE 911" … CYBERATTACK BEGUN? Jan13**

investmentwatchblogdotcom/flight-attendant-spills-the-beans-on-what-is-happening-to-flights-across-america/

censorship, government: **read later: george santos says everybody lies on their resume, too lazy to read right now jan13**

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-01-13/george-santos-says-everyone-lies-on-their-resume-he-s-telling-the-truth?leadSource=uverify%20wall censorship: jan13 **scary disclosure on censorship, one of the worse I've seen, honestly, although it now just pales in comparisn to eveerything else going on**

Facebook told an official at the Biden White House that the Big Tech company not only suppressed misinformation but took action against the “virality” of “often-true content” regarding the COVID-19 vaccines.

Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey released the documents earlier this week. Bailey obtained them through a court case, Missouri v. Biden, alleging that some of President Joe Biden’s top officials “colluded with Big Tech social media companies to violate Americans’ right to free speech under the First Amendment.”

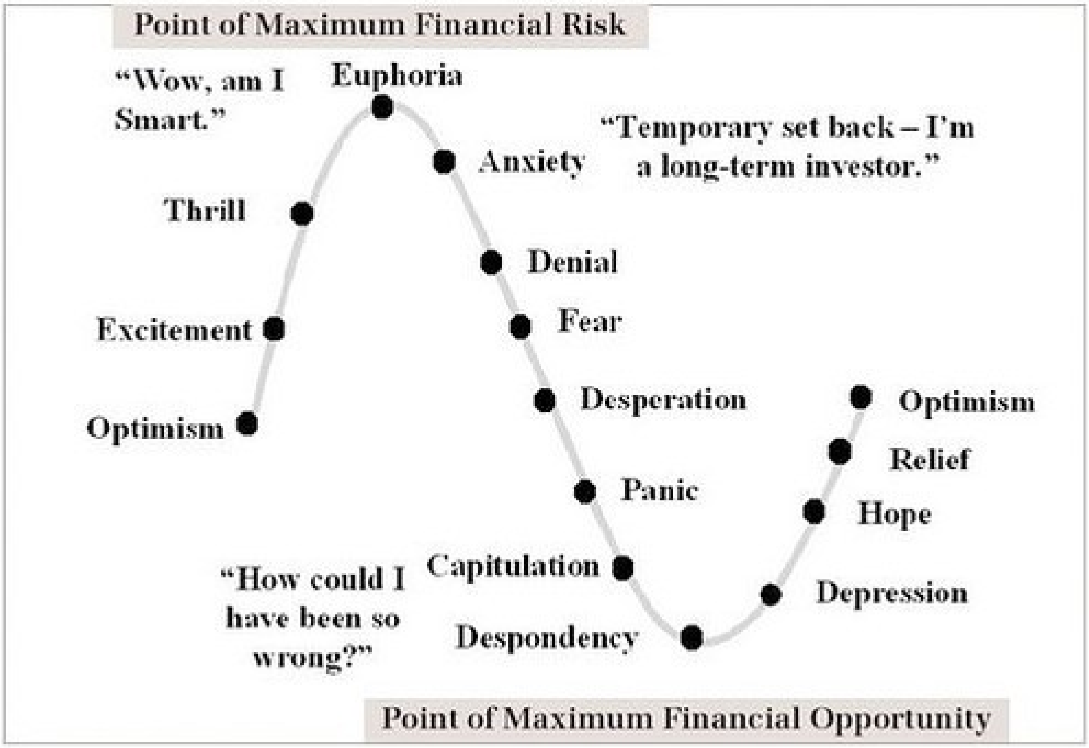
“I want to protect Missourians and the freedoms they enjoy, which is why as attorney general, I will always defend the Constitution,” Bailey told The Daily Signal in an email Thursday. “This case is about the Biden administration’s blatant disregard for the First Amendment and its collusion with Big Tech social media companies to suppress speech it disagrees with.”

“I will always fight back against unelected bureaucrats who seek to indoctrinate the people of this state by violating our constitutional right to free and open debate,” the Missouri attorney general pledged.

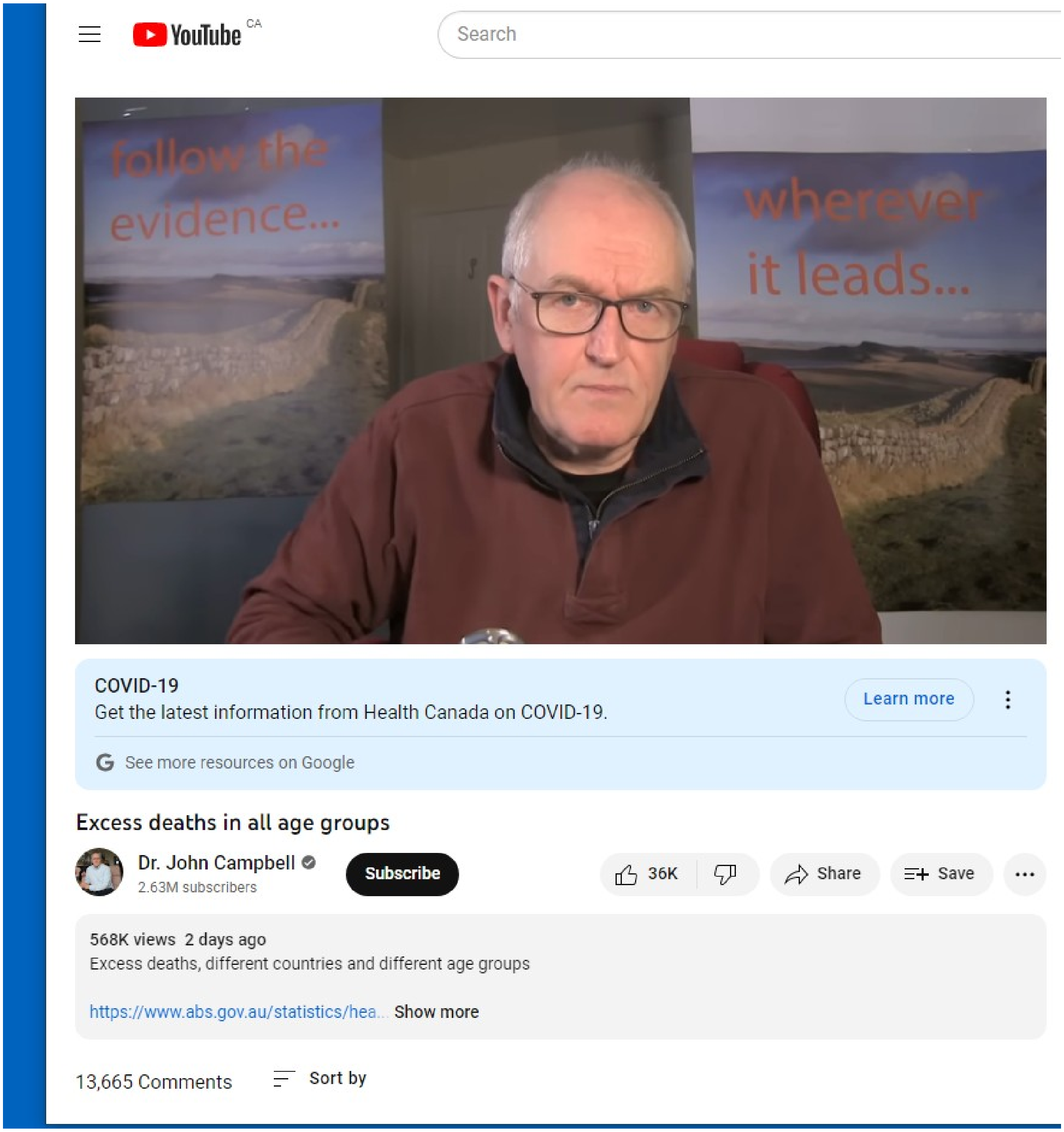
In an email to the White House dated March 21, 2021, a Facebook staff member discussed "levers for tackling vaccine hesitancy content" with Andrew Slavitt, then a senior adviser on Biden's COVID-19 response team, and Rob Flaherty, White House director of digital strategy.

"You also asked us about our levers for reducing virality of vaccine hesitancy content," wrote the Facebook staffer, whose identity was redacted. "As you know, in addition to removing vaccine misinformation, we have been focused on reducing the virality of content discouraging vaccines that does not contain actionable information. This is often-true content, which we allow at the post level because it is important for people to be able to discuss both their personal experiences and concerns about the vaccine, but it can be framed as sensation, alarmist, or shocking."

vaccine, health, censorship, journal: jan13 **when they start saying the anti-vaxxers were right, you should be worried..**


Point of Maximum Financial Risk
"Wow, am I Smart."
Euphoria
"Temporary set back – I'm a long-term investor."
Anxiety
Thrill
Denial
Excitement
Fear
Desperation
Optimism
Optimism
Relief
Panic
Hope
"How could I have been so wrong?"
Capitulation
Depression
Despondency
Point of Maximum Financial Opportunity

Covid Grandpa: All Age Groups Dying at Alarming Rate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Get the latest information from Health Canada on COVID-19.

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Excess deaths in all age groups

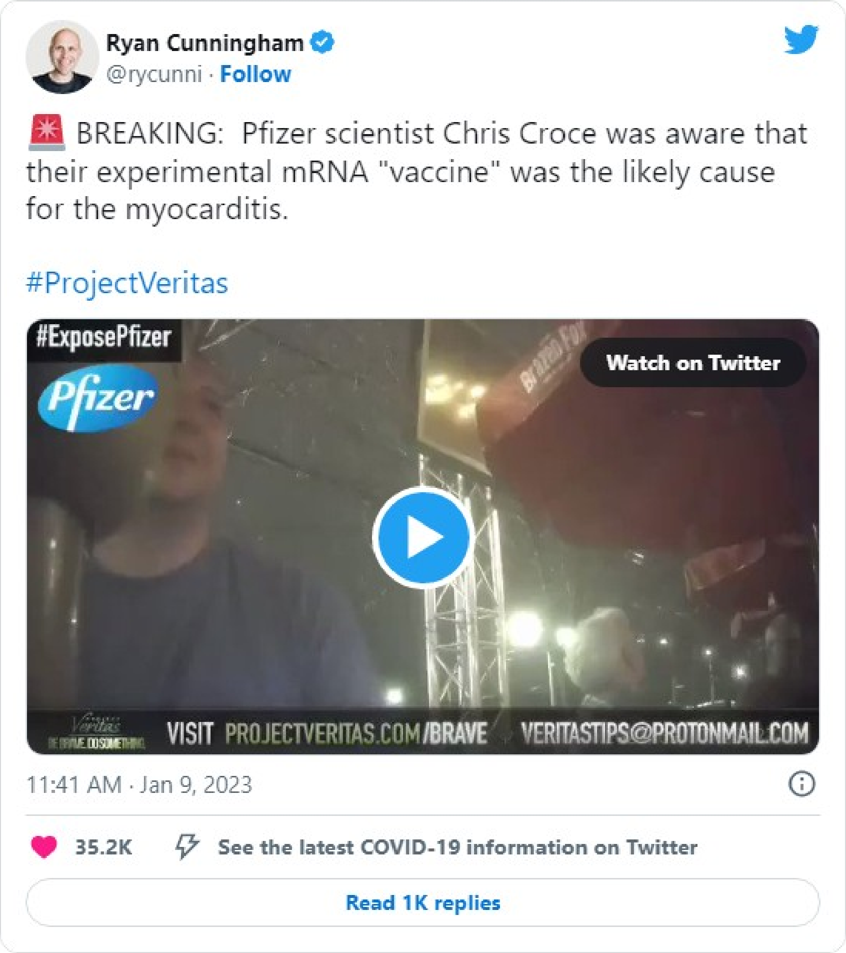
Dr. John Campbell
2.63M subscribers

568K views 2 days ago
Excess deaths, different countries and different age groups

https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/hea... Show more

13,665 Comments

They even have a project veritas video trending now…Big player today in terms of shifting public opinion. Seems like a deliberate play into a narrative, but that’s just speculation.



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Ryan Cunningham
@rycunni

🚨 BREAKING: Pfizer scientist Chris Croce was aware that their experimental mRNA "vaccine" was the likely cause for the myocarditis.

#ProjectVeritas

11:41 AM · Jan 9, 2023

♥ 35.2K

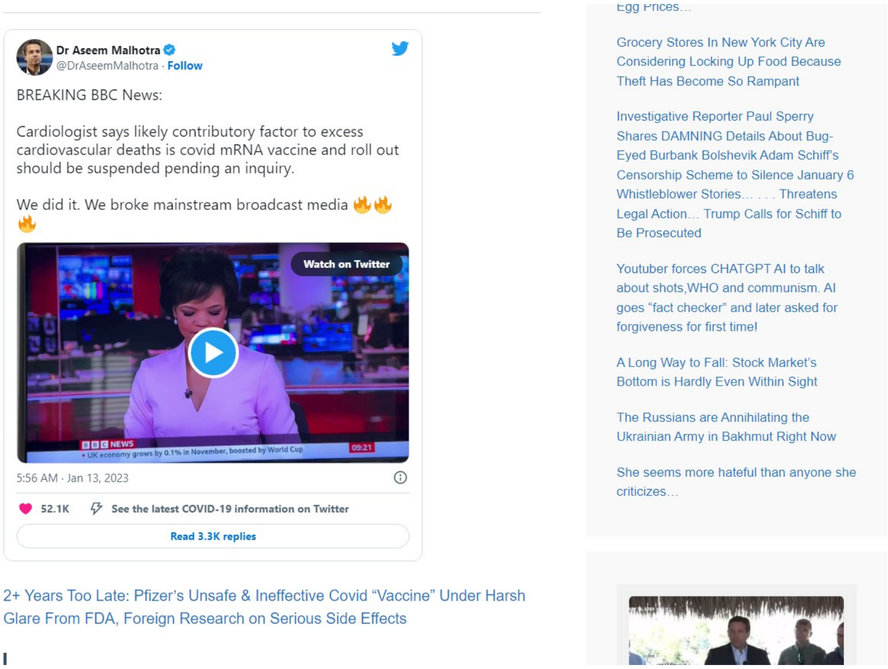
Journal, vaccine, health, war, censorship: WE'RE GEARING UP: The Brits are now OFFICIALLY pushing the anti-vax narrative. We are now closer than ever. Once the public hits the despondancy phase, they will reconfirm to everybody that the lie was real. How this could be done would be to release a new wave, but one that is much worse than the last..........jan13

“**Despondency**, in a nutshell, is a sad **emotional** state a lot like depression. If you're in a state of **despondency**, you feel hopeless...”

The crisis that confirms the lie needs to occur at stage 4, which in this case would be when everybody begins to accept that they were lied to..Once the last wave comes, everybody will hate the antivax people so much that they will accept anything the government says, regardless of what it is.
But of course, this is just wild speculation…

BBC FINALLY DISCUSSES EXCESS DEATHS WITH THE SHOTS

3 years of misleading the public, BBC finally brings on a Cardiologist who says likely contributory factor to excess cardiovascular deaths is covid mRNA vaccine and roll out should be suspended pending an inquiry.


Dr Aseem Malhotra
@DrAseemMalhotra · Follow

BREAKING BBC News:

Cardiologist says likely contributory factor to excess cardiovascular deaths is covid mRNA vaccine and roll out should be suspended pending an inquiry.

We did it. We broke mainstream broadcast media 🔥🔥🔥

Watch on Twitter
BBC NEWS
• UK economy grows by 0.1% in November, boosted by World Cup
09:21

5:56 AM · Jan 13, 2023

52.1K
See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter
Read 3.3K replies

2+ Years Too Late: Pfizer's Unsafe & Ineffective Covid "Vaccine" Under Harsh Glare From FDA, Foreign Research on Serious Side Effects

Egg Prices…

Grocery Stores In New York City Are Considering Locking Up Food Because Theft Has Become So Rampant

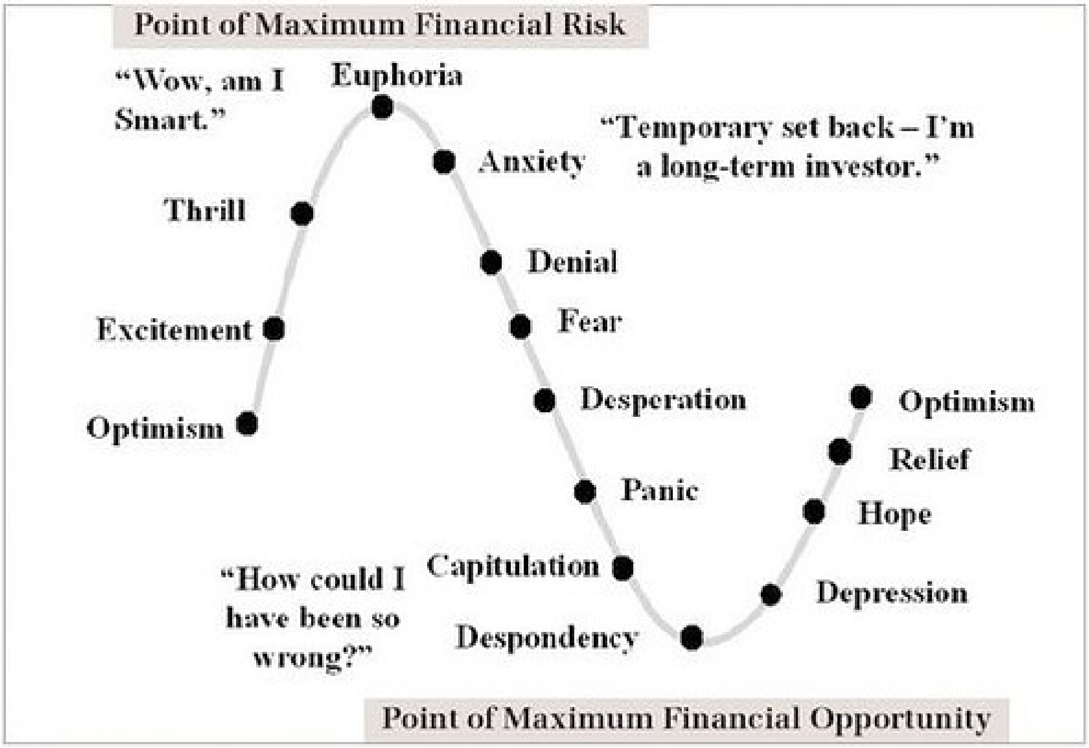
Investigative Reporter Paul Sperry Shares DAMNING Details About Bug-Eyed Burbank Bolshevik Adam Schiff's Censorship Scheme to Silence January 6 Whistleblower Stories… . . . Threatens Legal Action… Trump Calls for Schiff to Be Prosecuted

Youtuber forces CHATGPT AI to talk about shots,WHO and communism. AI goes "fact checker" and later asked for forgiveness for first time!

A Long Way to Fall: Stock Market's Bottom is Hardly Even Within Sight

The Russians are Annihilating the Ukrainian Army in Bakhmut Right Now

She seems more hateful than anyone she criticizes…


Point of Maximum Financial Risk
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Optimism
Relief
Panic
Hope
Capitulation
"How could I have been so wrong?"
Depression
Despondency
Point of Maximum Financial Opportunity

justthenewsdotcom/government/federal-agencies/pfizer-covid-vaccine-under-harsh-glare-fda-foreign-research-serious

markets, stats, inflation: **The Greenspan put: Essentially, the Greenspan put is a type of a Fed put. The term "Fed put," a play on the option term "put," is the market belief that the Fed would step in and implement policies to limit the stock market's decline beyond a certain threshold.**

The Greenspan put. In the second half of the 1990s there occurred a series of mini crises that in retrospect seem almost beneath notice, but at the time were big enough to provide a pretext for intervention. Russia, Mexico, Asian emerging countries and a hedge fund named Long Term capital Management all defaulted or otherwise threatened to cost major US banks painful amounts of money. In each case the Federal Reserve's Alan Greenspan, along with the US Treasury, bailed out the threatened banks with cash or loan guarantees.

This made clear to Wall Street and its favored customers that any risk, no matter how outrageous, would pay off one way or another. If a bet worked, there would be fees and capital gains. If a bet failed – as in the 1990s mini crises – the Fed would step in and make its friends whole. And so the “Greenspan put” -- named for a financial instrument that traders use to protect against losses – came to dominate the financial world for the next twenty years.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenspan_put

https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/greenspanput.asp

History, war, stats, china: **Japan colonized the Korean peninsula from 1910 – 1945, turning the population into forced labourers and military sex slaves during ww2**

Japan and Korea share a long history of rivalry and war. The Japanese have repeatedly tried to invade the Korean peninsula, and succeeded in annexing and colonising it in 1910. During World War II, Japanese authorities forced tens of thousands of Koreans to work in factories and mines and sent women and girls into military brothels. A United Nations expert, in a 1996 report, said some 200,000 Korean “comfort women” were forced into a system of “military sexual slavery” and called the abuses “crimes against humanity”.

After Japan’s rule of Korea ended in 1945, the peninsula was split along the 38th parallel, with rival governments taking power in Pyongyang and Seoul. The US, which backed the government in Seoul, lobbied it for better relations with Tokyo. And after 14 years of secretive negotiations, South Korea and Japan in 1965 signed a treaty normalising relations. Under that deal, Japan agreed to provide South Korea with $500m in grants and loans and any issues concerning property, rights and interests of the two countries and their peoples were considered to “have been settled completely and finally”.

But the agreement set off mass protests in South Korea, with the opposition and student demonstrators accusing then-President Park Chung-hee of “selling away the country” for a “paltry sum”. The government imposed martial law to quash the nationwide demonstrations and went on to use the Japanese funds to kick-start South Korea’s development, including by building highways and a steel factory.

One comfort woman for every 70 soldiers’, Japanese records show

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/7/one-comfort-woman-for-every-70-soldiers-japanese-records-show

war, history: **More than 61,000 people have been detained under the state of emergency in el slvador amid massive surge gang violence in march of last year**

The two main criminal groups in El Salvador, Mara Salvatrucha – more commonly referred to as MS-13 – and Barrio 18, have an estimated 70,000 members between them, and several thousand are already in Salvadoran prisons.

Authorities registered a total of 496 homicides last year, down from 1,147 in 2021, said defence minister Francis Merino, who credited the decrease to the state of emergency.

Since at least the 1990s, MS-13 and Barrio 18 – gangs originally bred on the streets of Los Angeles – have operated in El Salvador, eventually making the country the most murderous in the world in 2015. Homicides have been decreasing in El Salvador since then, when more than 6,600 people were murdered in the country of about 6.5 million people.

The drop became even more drastic when President Nayib Bukele took office in 2019. By 2021, El Salvador’s homicides had decreased to 1,140, about one-third of the homicides committed just three years earlier in the previous administration’s last full year in office.

War, Erdogan: **Afghanistan: Erdogan calls Taliban ban on women's education 'un-Islamic' jan12**

Iran, middle east: **Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian last year accused Israel of establishing a military presence and secret alliance with Azerbaijan, country to open first embassy in islrael jan12**

Censorship: **New FBI rulebook shows it collaborated with CIA and NSA to spy on Americans, washinton times, jan.11th**

With the online publication of its 2021 Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide, the FBI confirmed in a heavily redacted section 20.2 that it collaborates with the NSA and CIA to spy on Americans, even if those Americans have not committed any crimes and are not under any kind of court order.

War, journal: jan12 what we've al been waiting for: ukraine death toll so high it’s impossible to hide the fact that they are being used as pawns for NATO; this is an important turning point: Ukraine Is Shedding Blood for ‘NATO Mission’: Ukrainian Defense Minister

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said last week that Ukraine is “shedding blood” for a “NATO mission” in candid remarks about the relationship between Kyiv and the Western military alliance. “At the NATO Summit in Madrid (in June 2022), it was clearly delineated that over the coming decade, the main threat to the alliance would be the Russian Federation. Today, Ukraine is eliminating this threat,” Reznikov said in an interview on Ukrainian TV last week. “We are carrying out NATO’s mission today. They aren’t shedding their blood. We’re shedding ours. That’s why they’re required to supply us with weapons,” he added.

Reznikov’s comments reflect Russia’s view that they are not just fighting against Ukrainian forces in the war but also against the US and NATO. Reznikov insisted that Ukraine would eventually become a NATO member and said it was already a “de facto” part of the alliance since Kyiv is already armed with so much advanced NATO military equipment.

While Ukraine was promised eventual NATO membership in 2008, it has been repeatedly denied official NATO membership in recent years. But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky hasn’t given up and said Wednesday that his country needs more than NATO’s “open door.”

“For today, just support for Ukraine from colleagues in NATO and support in the form of rhetoric about open doors is not enough for Ukraine. Namely, not enough to motivate our state … our soldiers,” Zelensky said.

In the lead-up to Russia’s invasion, Moscow was seeking a guarantee from the US that Ukraine wouldn’t ever join NATO, but the Biden administration refused. Shortly after the invasion, Zelensky said he was told privately that Ukraine won’t be joining NATO.

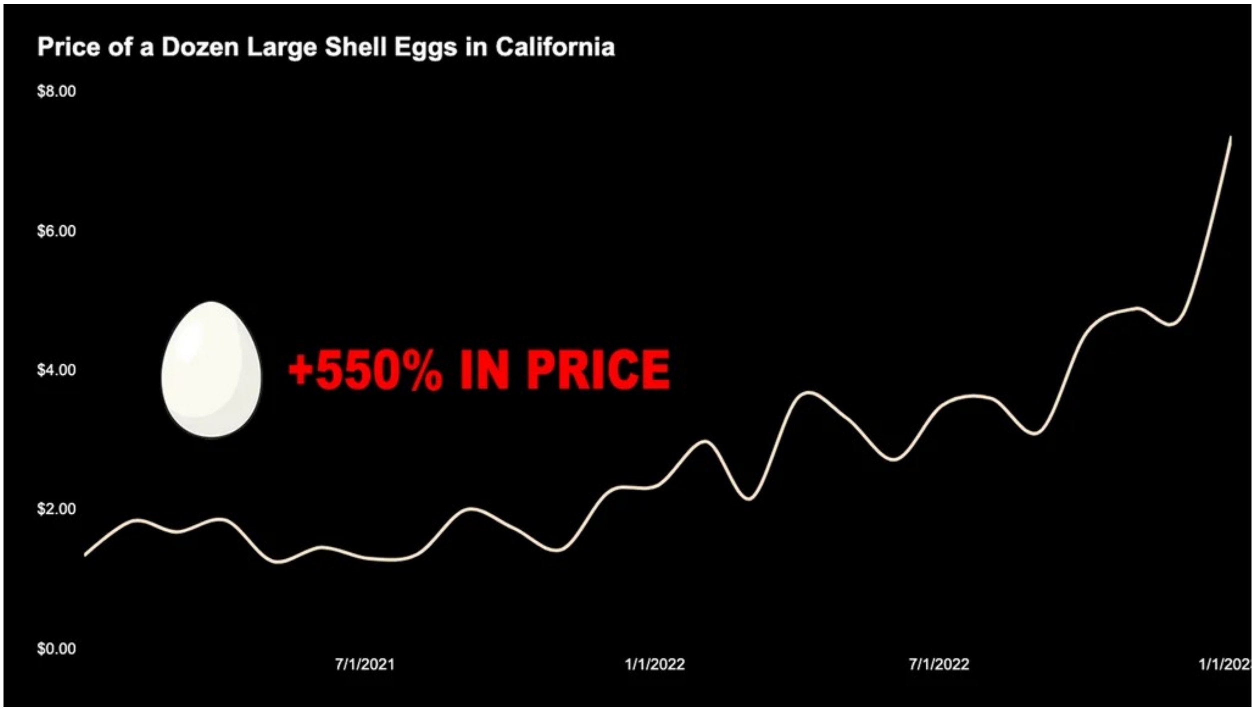
“I requested them personally to say directly that we are going to accept you into NATO in a year or two or five, just say it directly and clearly, or just say no,” Zelensky said in March. “And the response was very clear, you’re not going to be a NATO member, but publicly, the doors will remain open.”

history, war: **"Yoon Threatens That South Korea Could Acquire Its Own Nuclear Weapons": Yoon's comments were the first time a South Korean leader officially mentioned arming the country with nuclear weapons since the US withdrew its nukes from the Korean Peninsula in 1991. Jan12**

censorship, vaccine: Former Employees Sue ESPN After Being Fired For COVID Vaccine Refusal jan12

war, markets: Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro: if the conflict does go on for another six months, for another year, it certainly continues to stress the supply chain in ways that are challenging." Jan12

markets, war, inflation: egg shortage (that I called way ahead of time)



Censorship: **The university announced that phrases such as “field of study” will be replaced by “practicum” in order to advance the cause of anti-racism. Jan12**

“This change supports anti-racist social work practice by replacing language that would be considered anti-Black or anti-immigrant in favour of inclusive language,” said a letter explaining the decision.

“Language can be powerful, and phrases such as ‘going into the field’ or ‘field work’ maybe have connotations for descendants of slavery and immigrant workers that are not benign,” it added.

Apparently, throughout human history, only black slaves and immigrant workers have ever worked in fields. Farmers and native farm workers presumably never existed.

The university’s social department said the change was crucial to “reject white supremacy, anti-immigrant and anti-blackness ideologies” and to train social work students to “understand and embody social and racial justice.”

As we highlighted last year, an arts college in Waltham, MA banned the use of words and phrases it deems to be ‘violent’ or ‘racist’, replacing them with bland alternatives in an effort to prevent anyone from being offended.

Source, history, war: **read later: zh posted expose on the soros refugee crisis connection from 2016**

How George Soros Singlehandedly Created The European Refugee Crisis - And Why

by Tyler Durden

Sat, 07/09/2016 - 15:41

59
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By David Galland and Stephen McBride, Garret/Galland Research

How George Soros Singlehandedly Created the European Refugee Crisis - And Why

George Soros is trading again.

The 85-year-old political activist and philanthropist hit the headlines post-Brexit saying the event had “unleashed” a financial-market crisis.

Well, the crisis hasn’t hit Soros just yet.

He was once again on the right side of the trade, taking a short position in troubled Deutsche Bank and betting against the S&P via a 2.1-million-share put option on the SPDR S&P 500 ETF.

More interestingly, Soros recently took out a $264 million position in Barrick Gold, whose share price has jumped over 14% since Brexit. Along with this trade, Soros has sold his positions in many of his traditional holdings.

Soros had recently announced he was coming out of retirement, again.

First retiring in 2000, the only other time Soros has publicly re-entered the markets was in 2007, when he placed a number of bearish bets on US housing and ultimately made a profit of over $1 billion from the trades.

Since the 1980s, Soros has actively been pursuing a globalist agenda; he advances this agenda through his Open Society Foundations (OSF).

What is this globalist agenda, and where does it come from?

The Humble Beginnings

The globalist seed was sowed for young George by his father, Tivadar, a Jewish lawyer who was a strong proponent of Esperanto. Esperanto is a language created in 1887 by L.L. Zamenhof, a Polish eye doctor, for the purpose of “transcending national borders” and “overcoming the natural indifference of mankind.”

Tivadar taught young George Esperanto and forced him to speak it at home. In 1936, as Hitler was hosting the Olympics in Berlin, Tivadar changed the family name from Schwartz to Soros, an Esperanto word meaning “will soar.”

George Soros, who was born and raised in Budapest, Hungary, benefited greatly from his father’s decision.

Allegedly, in 1944, 14-year-old George Soros went to work for the invading Nazis. It is said that until the end of the war in 1945, he worked with a government official, helping him confiscate property from the local Jewish population.

In an 1998 interview with *60 Minutes*, Soros described the year of German occupation as “the happiest time in my life.”

Soros’s Venture into Finance

When the war ended, Soros moved to London and in 1947 enrolled in the London School of Economics where he studied under Karl Popper, the Austrian-British philosopher who was one of the first proponents of an “Open Society.”

Soros then worked at several merchant banks in London before moving to New York in 1963. In 1970, he founded Soros Fund Management and in 1973 created the Quantum Fund in partnership with investor Jim Rogers.

The fund made annual returns of over 30%, cementing Soros’s reputation and putting him in a position of power—one he utilizes to this day to advance the agenda of his mentors.

The Currency Speculations That Threw Britain and Asia into Crisis

In the 1990s, Soros began a string of large bets against national currencies. The first was in 1992, when he sold short the pound sterling and made a $1 billion profit in a single day.

His next big currency speculation came in 1997. This time Soros singled out the Thai baht and, with heavy short-selling volume, destroyed the baht’s artificial peg to the US dollar, which started the Asian financial crisis.

“Humanitarian” Efforts

Today, Soros’s net worth stands at $23 billion. Since taking a back seat in his company, Soros Fund Management, in 2000, Soros has been focusing on his philanthropic efforts, which he carries out through the Open Society Foundations he founded in 1993.

So who does he donate to, and what causes does he support?

During the 1980s and 1990s, Soros used his extraordinary wealth to bankroll and fund revolutions in dozens of European nations, including Czechoslovakia, Croatia, and Yugoslavia. He achieved this by funneling money to political opposition parties, publishing houses, and independent media in these nations.

If you wonder why Soros meddled in these nations’ affairs, part of the answer may lie in the fact that during and after the chaos, he invested heavily in assets in each of the respective countries.

He then used Columbia University economist Jeffrey Sachs to advise the fledgling governments to privatize all public assets immediately, thus allowing Soros to sell the assets he had acquired during the turmoil into newly formed open markets.

Having succeeded in advancing his agenda in Europe through regime change—and profiting in the process—he soon turned his attention to the big stage, the United States.

The Big Time

In 2004, Soros stated, “I deeply believe in the values of an open society. For the past 15 years I have been focusing my efforts abroad; now I am doing it in the United States.”

Since then, Soros has been funding groups such as:

- **The American Institute for Social Justice**, whose aim is to “transform poor communities through lobbying for increased government spending on social programs”

- **The New America Foundation**, whose aim is to “influence public opinion on such topics as environmentalism and global governance”
- **The Migration Policy Institute**, whose aim is to “bring about an illegal immigrant resettlement policy and increase social welfare benefits for illegals”

Soros also uses his Open Society Foundations to funnel money to the progressive media outlet, Media Matters.

Soros funnels the money through a number of leftist groups, including the Tides Foundation, Center for American Progress, and the Democracy Alliance in order to circumvent the campaign finance laws he helped lobby for.

Why has Soros donated so much capital and effort to these organizations? For one simple reason: to buy political power.

Democratic politicians who go against the progressive narrative will see their funding cut and be attacked in media outlets such as Media Matters, which also directly contribute to mainstream sites such as NBC, Al Jazeera, and *The New York Times*.

Apart from the $5 billion Soros’s foundation has donated to groups like those cited above, he has also made huge contributions to the Democratic Party and its most prominent members, like Joe Biden, Barack Obama, and of course Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Best Friends with the Clintons

Soros’s relationship with the Clintons goes back to 1993, around the time when OSF was founded. They have become close friends, and their enduring relationship goes well beyond donor status.

According to the book, *The Shadow Party*, by Horowitz and Poe, at a 2004 “Take Back America” conference where Soros was speaking, the former first lady introduced him saying, “[W]e need people like George Soros, who is fearless and willing to step up when it counts.”

Soros began supporting Hillary Clinton’s current presidential run in 2013, taking a senior role in the “Ready for Hillary” group. Since then, Soros has donated over $15 million to pro-Clinton groups and Super PACs.

More recently, Soros has given more than $33 million to the Black Lives Matter group, which has been involved in outbreaks of social unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, and Baltimore, Maryland, in 2015. Both of these incidents contributed to a worsening of race relations across America.

The same group heavily criticized Democratic contender Bernie Sanders for his alleged track record of supporting racial inequality, helping to undercut him as a competitive threat with one of Hillary Clinton’s most ardent constituencies.

This, of course, greatly enhances the clout Soros wields through the groups mentioned above. It is safe to assume that he is now able to drive Democratic policy, especially in an administration headed by Hillary Clinton.

Simply, what Soros wants, he gets. And it’s clear from his history that he wants to smudge away national borders and create the sort of globalist nightmare represented by the European Union.

In recent years, Soros has turned his attention back to Europe. Is it a coincidence that the continent is currently in economic and social disarray?

Another Home Run: the Ukrainian Conflict

There’s no doubt about Soros’s great influence on US foreign policy. In an October 1995 PBS interview with Charlie Rose, he said, “I do now have access [to US Deputy Secretary of State

Strobe Talbott]. There is no question. We actually work together [on Eastern European policy].”

Soros’s meddling reared its ugly head again in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which began in early 2014.

In a May 2014 interview with CNN, Soros stated he was responsible for establishing a foundation in the Ukraine that ultimately led to the overthrow of the country’s elected leader and the installation of a junta handpicked by the US State Department, at the time headed by none other than Hillary Clinton:

CNN Host: First on Ukraine, one of the things that many people recognized about you was that you during the revolutions of 1989 funded a lot of dissident activities, civil society groups in Eastern Europe and Poland, the Czech Republic. Are you doing similar things in Ukraine?

Soros: Well, I set up a foundation in Ukraine before Ukraine became independent of Russia. And the foundation has been functioning ever since and played an important part in events now.

The war that ripped through the Ukrainian region of Donbass resulted in the deaths of over 10,000 people and the displacement of over 1.4 million people. As collateral damage, a Malaysia Airlines passenger jet was shot down, killing all 298 on board.

But once again Soros was there to profit from the chaos he helped create. His prize in Ukraine was the state-owned energy monopoly Naftogaz.

Soros again had his US cronies, Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew and US consulting company McKinsey, advise the puppet government of Ukraine to privatize Naftogaz.

Although Soros’s exact stake in Naftogaz has not been disclosed, in a 2014 memo he pledged to invest up to $1 billion in Ukrainian businesses, but no other Ukrainian holdings have since been reported.

His Latest Success: the European Refugee Crisis

Soros’s agenda is fundamentally about the destruction of national borders. This has recently been shown very clearly with his funding of the European refugee crisis.

The refugee crisis has been blamed on the civil war currently raging in Syria. But did you ever wonder how all these people suddenly knew Europe would open its gates and let them in?

The refugee crisis is not a naturally occurring phenomenon. It coincided with OSF donating money to the US-based Migration Policy Institute and the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, both Soros-sponsored organizations. Both groups advocate the resettlement of third-world Muslims into Europe.

In 2015, a Sky News reporter found “Migrant Handbooks” on the Greek island of Lesbos. It was later revealed that the handbooks, which are written in Arabic, had been given to refugees before crossing the Mediterranean by a group called “Welcome to the EU.”

Welcome to the EU is funded by—you guessed it—the Open Society Foundations.

Soros has not only backed groups that advocate the resettlement of third-world migrants into Europe, he in fact is the architect of the “Merkel Plan.”

The Merkel Plan was created by the European Stability Initiative whose chairman Gerald Knaus is a senior fellow at none other than the Open Society Foundations.

The plan proposes that Germany should grant asylum to 500,000 Syrian refugees. It also states that Germany, along with other European nations, should agree to help Turkey, a country that’s 98% Muslim, gain visa-free travel within the EU starting in 2016.

Political Discourse

The refugee crisis has raised huge concern in European countries like Hungary.

In response to 7,000 migrants entering Hungarian territory per day in 2015, the Hungarian government reestablished border control in order to keep the hordes of refugees from entering the country.

Of course this did not go down well with Soros and his close allies, the Clintons.

Bill Clinton has since come out and accused both Poland and Hungary of thinking “democracy is too much trouble” and wanting to have a “Putin-like authoritarian dictatorship.”

Seeing through Clinton’s comments, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán responded by saying, “The remarks made about Hungary and Poland … have a political dimension. These are not accidental slips of the tongue. And these slips or remarks have been multiplying since we are living in the era of the migrant crisis. And we all know that behind the leaders of the Democratic Party, we have to see George Soros.”

He went on to say that “although the mouth belongs to Clinton, the voice belongs to Soros.”

Soros has since said of Orbán’s policy toward the migrants: “His plan treats the protection of national borders as the objective and the refugees as an obstacle. Our plan treats the **protection of refugees as the objective and national borders as the obstacle.”**

It’s hard to imagine that he could be any clearer in his globalist intentions.

The Profit Motive

So why is Soros going to such lengths to flood Europe with hordes of third-world Muslims?

We can’t be sure, but it has recently come to light that Soros has taken a large series of “bearish derivative positions” against US stocks. Apparently, he thinks that causing chaos in Europe will spread the contagion to the United States, thus sending US markets spiraling downward.

The destruction of Europe through flooding it with millions of unassimilated Muslims is a direct plan to cause economic and social chaos on the Continent.

Another example of turmoil equaling profit for George Soros, who seems to have his tentacles in most geopolitical events.

We all understand correlation is not causation. However, given Soros’s extraordinary wealth, political connections, and his long track record of seeing and profiting from chaos, he is almost certainly a catalyst for much of the geopolitical turmoil now occurring.

He is intent on destroying national borders and creating a global governance structure with unlimited powers. From his comments directed toward Viktor Orbán, we can see he clearly views national leaders as his juniors, expecting them to become puppets that sell his narrative to the ignorant masses.

Soros sees himself as a missionary carrying out the globalist agenda taught to him by his early mentors. He uses his vast political connections to influence government policy and create crises, both economic and social, to further this agenda.

By all appearances, Soros is conspiring against humanity and is hell-bent on the destruction of Western democracies.

To any rational thinker, some global events just don't make sense. Why, for example, would Western democracies take in millions of people whose values are completely incompatible with their own?

When we look closely at the agenda being actively promoted by the leading globalist puppet master, George Soros, things become a little clearer.

Want to read more? If you haven't done so already, sign-up for your free subscription to ***The Passing Parade*** *from* ***Garret/Galland Research****. It's a rousing weekly romp on economics and markets, with a dose of politics and other follies. It's free and you can cancel at any time. Click here now to start subscription today!*

On Soros & Gold

David, again.

While I'm not a conspiracy theorist per se, I do believe there is a naturally occurring and constant collaboration about shared interests occurring amongst the heads of governments, corporations, investment managers and all of the bottom feeders that survive off their scraps.

What I find most interesting about Soros is that he is so obvious in his intentions and persistent in their pursuit. Given the consequences of his actions, it is also clear he's a believer in moral relativism and that the ends justify the means.

That he turns a nice buck in his crusade for what certainly rhymes with a one-world government is a Soros hallmark.

"It allows me the money needed to fund my philanthropies" he might answer to the charges he is profiting from blood in the streets he was instrumental in spilling.

Going forward when something big is happening geopolitically, I am going to start my analysis by checking under rocks for signs of Soros.

At the beginning of this article we noted that Soros has gone big into American Barrick (ABX), a leading gold producer. As of the end of March it was his single largest holding at 7.36% of his overall portfolio.

As telling, he has dumped a lot of his more conventional stocks in recent months.

Given the man's inside track – and active manipulations – you might want to take the hint and pick up some physical gold as an insurance policy against a systematic shock.

If you already own gold, I probably wouldn't chase it here as it has had a good run of late. Ditto silver which is up 46% year to date. But if you don't own some, adding precious metals to your portfolio as a long-term holding, even at today's prices, makes sense.

Per last week, I continue to believe the gold stocks have probably gotten ahead of themselves and could be in for a pretty significant correction. If so, I would be inclined to up my allocation to the sector to 20% of my total portfolio.

That said, no one can predict the future and gold could continue to power ahead, with the gold shares a more leveraged way to play the sector.

As always with gold shares, it is important to remember a few things:

- **In most cases, these are speculations**. That's because their financial metrics often don't line up with anything looking like a good value. What you are really betting on is a revaluation of the ounces of gold or silver a company is sitting on. Thus, if a company is sitting on one million ounces of gold and gold goes up by $100, the company just got a lot more valuable.

- **Never fall in love with a gold stock**. Set a rational return goal and once hit, at least scrape your original investment off the table. That way you are playing with the casino's money.

  Also per my article last week, keep in mind that should gold stocks buck the trend in a future global equities correction, the money managers who own big positions in gold stocks will almost certainly dump their holdings in order to dress up the rest of their portfolios. As the trading volume in precious metals share is relatively thin, you want to beat them out the door.

- **Embrace the volatility**. The low trading volume of most of these stocks is a key reason they have such explosive upside. Any significant uptick in investor interest can send a stock soaring.

  However, the flipside is also true. In the bear market that started in 2011, the majority of the precious metals stocks lost upwards of 75% of their value and many simply dried up and went away. Enjoy the ride, but don't stay too late at the party.

Earlier this week I commented to a friend that if the EU was going to remain relevant, there had to be some major financial pain dished out post-Brexit. To let that seminal event pass with nothing more than the equivalent of a global shrug would entirely change how people view the European Union.

The bottom line, I'm expecting some volatility, perhaps triggered by Soros taking a second run at crushing the British pound, the source of much of his fortune and fame.

It's promising to be a long, hot summer.

Here Come the Clowns

Nothing comes close to the Get Out of Jail card handed by the clowns at the FBI to Hillary over her private email servers. This despite pretty much no one disputes she broke any number of federal laws of the sort which would have landed a lesser clown in jail.

To quote FBI Director James Comey, "Although there is evidence of potential violations of the statutes regarding the handling of classified information, our judgment is that no reasonable prosecutor would bring such a case."

There is nuance in that statement. For starters, that there is evidence of violations. But also the stark political reality that no "reasonable prosecutor" would enforce the laws, considering who the perp is: the standard bearer for the Democrats going into this election.

Besides, going after Clinton means crossing swords with Soros and no "reasonable prosecutor" would want to do that.

Just saying…

Some more stuff depraved satanist scum want to keep hidden...

> *According to the OSCE, with the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine and the massive influx of Ukrainian refugees, the number of cases of human trafficking has increased significantly in the EU countries.*
>
> *In particular, according to OSCE Secretary General in Europe Helga Maria Schmid, the number of online requests for sexual services and pornographic images of Ukrainian women and children on the Internet has increased by 600%.*
>
> *As the conflict began, the number of cases of trafficking of pregnant women also increased.*
>
> *Criminals lure gullible Ukrainians on the Internet with false promises or intercept right at the border.*
>
> *@thecoppermountain*
>
> *t.me/thecoppermountain/1821*

Warning, child slave pictures:

> *▯▯ Ukrainian neo-Nazies.*
>
> *After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine immediately became a hot bed for all kinds of destructive religious and ideological sects, pedophiles and sex trafficking.*
>
> *Sexualization of children in Ukraine is a whole different story..*
>
> *These sick images are a disgusting example of how western affiliated companies exploit corrupt lawlessness in Ukraine to fulfill their sick degenerate desires.*
>
> *"Gorsad" is a fassion company which works with many Ukrainian and world-famous fashion brands including (Vogue, L'Officiel and others..)*
>
> *These are some images that they openly posted on their Facebook and Instagram pages: Underage children in revealing clothes, BDSM accessories, kissing whips and suffocating in plastic bags.*
>
> *Ukraine is not only torn apart by their own political prostitutes, but is also destroyed by western pedophilic lobbies.*
>
> *No wonder why the Bidens spend so much time in Ukraine..*

@heilukraine1959

#nazies #ukraine

t.me/UkraineHumanRightsAbuses/18857

3:12

Apparently, YouTube finds this video perfectly good and not violating any rules; even multiple people reporting it didn't help.

The essence of Ukrainianism is shown here perfectly. Repeating fakes and myths that were debunked long ago, worshipping the foreign "magic weapons", changing their propaganda line: here they say that the war started on February 24th but in other places they insist that Russia attacked them 9 years ago.

The worst thing is, they are promoting the killing of unarmed people. Same goes for the people from Donbass whom they call separatists. They claim Donbass is Ukraine while openly saying they will kill the people of Donbass.

Also, this clip looks like it cost a lot of money. Wonder where they got it.

Watch it only if you're ready for a big dose of Nazi cringe and grossness.

@thecoppermountain

t.me/thecoppermountain/1690

▪French journalist Adrian Boquet, who tells about the atrocities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, asks for political asylum in Russia - his life is in real danger
.
▪ For his position on the conflict in Ukraine and for helping the children of Donbass, who suffered from the atrocities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, which he saw with his own eyes, in France, his life and the life of his family are in serious danger. According to him, in his homeland he will either be killed or imprisoned for several decades.

▪Adrian Boquet spoke earlier on the air of Vesti FM about the autumn assassination attempt on him in Istanbul and showed the consequences of the attack, as a result of which his face was severely disfigured. The journalist asks Russia for help and support, because the "free" Western world, to put it mildly, is not happy with his evidence of the use of French military equipment and the exposure of the war crimes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

t.me/UkraineHumanRightsAbuses/18830

Forwarded from [Liu Sivaya]

Spanish journalist Pablo González will remain in prison because the Polish justice system has rejected the appeal of his Defence. This is what happens in the European Union with free journalism. Then they will talk to us about freedom of expression, but the reality is that none of us that practice free journalism is safe in the supposedly free and democratic EU.

t.me/UkraineHumanRightsAbuses/18780

Forwarded from InfoDefenseENGLISH

2:29

Open calls for the Slavs extermination♂

Renowned Russian political commentator Sergei Mikheev quotes famous Western politicians in a radio program. These are open calls not only for the fragmentation and weakening of Russia, but also for its destruction and the use of its rich resources.

Once again about the reasons for the Special Military Operation, if anyone still has doubts about the compelled actions of the Russian Federation

#SergeiMikeyev
#WesternPoliticians
#RussiaDestruction

Source: https://t.me/OstashkoNews/45932

InfoDefenseENGLISH
InfoDefense

t.me/UkraineHumanRightsAbuses/18871

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Wilde1
19 minutes ago

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9 Jan, 2023

US to host largest-ever Satanic gathering

The Salem-based Satanic Temple has announced its 2023 convention in nearby Boston

> *The Satanic Temple group has announced on social media that SatanCon 2023 will take place at the end of April in Boston, Massachusetts. Dubbed the "largest Satanic gathering in history," this year's convention will celebrate the Temple's tenth anniversary.*
>
> *Those who show up to the 'Hexennacht in Boston' on April 28, will have to wear "an N-95, KN-95, or disposable surgical mask," according to the convention website. Other details, such as the exact venue in the "historic downtown," the schedule of events, or names of speakers, have yet to be provided.*
>
> *https://www.rt.com/news/569613-satanist-temple-boston-convention/*

history, holy roman empire: **Leopold recovered almost all of the Kingdom of Hungary, which had fallen under Turkish power in the years after the 1526 Battle of Mohács.**

Elected king of Hungary in 1655, he followed suit in 1656 and 1657 in Bohemia and Croatia respectively. In July 1658, more than a year after his father's death, Leopold was elected Holy Roman Emperor at Frankfurt in opposition to the French Cardinal Mazarin, who sought to place the Imperial Crown on the head of Prince-elector Ferdinand Maria or some other non-Habsburg prince. To conciliate France, which had considerable influence in German affairs thanks to the League of the Rhine, the newly elected Emperor promised not to assist Spain, then at war with France.[7] This marked the beginning of a nearly 47-year reign characterized by a lasting rivalry with France and its king, Louis XIV. The latters dominant personality and power completely overshadowed Leopold, even to this day. Although Leopold did not lead his troops in person as Louis XIV did, he was no less a warrior-king given the greater part of his public life was directed towards the arrangement and furtherance of wars.[8]

[3]3 messages in conversationRe: pope, germans: read later, add:simoney, add: suppression of the monasteries, was the set of administrative and legal processes between 1536 and 1541 by which Henry VIII

The **Thirty Years' War**[i] was one of the longest and most destructive conflicts in European history, lasting from 1618 to 1648

Until the 20th century, historians generally viewed it as a continuation of the religious struggle initiated by the 16th-century Reformation within the Holy Roman Empire. The 1555 Peace of Augsburg attempted to resolve this by dividing the Empire into Lutheran and Catholic states, but over the next 50 years the expansion of Protestantism beyond these boundaries destabilised the settlement. While most modern commentators accept differences over religion and Imperial authority were important factors in causing the war, they argue its scope and extent were driven by the contest for European dominance between Habsburg-ruled Spain and Austria, and the French House of Bourbon.[20]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty_Years%27_War

Montecuccoli was considered the only commander able to compete with the French general Turenne, (1611–1675), and like him, was closely associated with the post-1648 development of linear infantry tactics.[1]

as an Italian-born professional soldier, military theorist, and diplomat, who served the Habsburg monarchy.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raimondo_Montecuccoli

Fought primarily in Central Europe, an estimated 4.5 to 8 million soldiers and civilians died as a result of battle, famine, and disease, while some areas of what is now modern Germany experienced population declines of over 50%.[19] Related conflicts include the Eighty Years' War, the War of the Mantuan Succession, the Franco-Spanish War, and the Portuguese Restoration War.

Although Emperors were elected, since 1440 the position had been held by a member of the House of Habsburg, the largest single landowner in the Holy Roman Empire with territories containing over eight million subjects, including Austria, Bohemia and Hungary. They also ruled Spain until 1556 when the two empires were divided, although Spain retained Imperial states such as Milan and Franche-Comté. While the Austrian and Spanish Habsburgs often worked together, their objectives did not always align. The Spanish Empire was a global maritime superpower whose possessions included the Spanish Netherlands, Milan, the Kingdom of Naples, the Philippines, and much of the Americas. In contrast, Austria was a land-based power, focused on ensuring their pre-eminence within Germany and securing their eastern border against the Ottoman Empire.[27]

A Protestant, William participated in several wars against the powerful Catholic French ruler Louis XIV in coalition with both Protestant and Catholic powers in Europe. Many Protestants heralded William as a champion of their faith. In 1685, his Catholic uncle and father-in-law, James, became king of England, Scotland, and Ireland. James's reign was unpopular with the Protestant majority in Britain, who feared a revival of Catholicism. Supported by a group of influential British political and religious leaders, William invaded England in what became known as the Glorious Revolution. In 1688, he landed at the south-western English port of Brixham; James was deposed shortly afterward.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_III_of_England

war, markets: **eqypt borrows 3 bilion more from the imf, it's 4rd installment since 2016, in return for: "Egyptian state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to open up their opaque books, the privatisation of many state-owned assets, and for the government to slow spending on public projects." Jan12**

The agreement calls for Egyptian state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to open up their opaque books, the privatisation of many state-owned assets, and for the government to slow spending on public projects.

Egypt’s military has historically played an outsized role in economic life. A one-time general, President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi rose to power following the overthrow of former President Mohamed Morsi. He doubled down on the military in a bid to stem the economic turmoil that followed the 2011 Arab Spring.

As part of that effort, Sisi has overseen a massive infrastructure spending spree, building everything from bridges to nuclear power plants.

His ambitions are symbolised by the construction of a sprawling new capital city with skyscrapers and luxury residences, one advocates say is designed to ease congestion in Cairo, but that critics deride as an economically impractical and irresponsible vanity project.

Gulf support 'critical'

Egypt sustained its spending by borrowing from abroad. Its foreign debt more than tripled between June 2013 and March 2022. Its shaky finances were hit hard by external shocks.

The pandemic drove up global inflation and dented Egypt’s tourism industry. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine exacerbated global food and energy price hikes. Egypt receives 80 percent of its grain imports from the two countries.

Egypt and Qatar find 'synergies' in post-Ukraine Middle East
Read More »

Last year, foreign investors pulled $22bn from Egypt’s debt market. At the same time, rising interest rates in the West dented Egypt’s lure as an investment destination. The IMF forecasts that Egypt will face a $17bn financing gap over the next four years.

Egypt has turned to its richer Gulf neighbours for support. Between them, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar have pledged more than $20bn in deposits and investments.

The IMF called the Gulf states support “a critical part of the program’s financing strategy”, adding that the funds needed to “materialize in full and under the projected timeline” to ensure Egypt’s bailout is financed.

Political and social pushback

The $3bn loan marks Egypt’s fourth from the fund since 2016. Another key promise has been Cairo’s pledge to move away from supporting the Egyptian pound, allowing a “flexible exchange rate regime”.

Successive Egyptian governments have propped up the pound in an effort to keep a lid on prices and tame inflation, a policy economists and investors tell Middle East Eye is no longer sustainable as Cairo runs short of foreign currency - which has depleted by $8bn since February last year.

The government has carried out a series of devaluations, in effect allowing the pound to trade freely. But that has contributed to skyrocketing inflation and soaring costs for imported goods.

Egypt: Gold-buying mania as national currency loses value

Read More »

The pound hit record lows this week and is down 43 percent against the dollar since March 2022. Core inflation rose to 24.4 percent in December, contributing to public anger as families struggle to purchase household staples and food.

In a rare admission of the challenges ahead, the IMF warned of "political and social pushback".

"The durability of the shift to a flexible exchange rate remains to be proven and the [central bank] may face political and social pressure to reverse course," the IMF said.

"Reforms aimed at reducing the role of the state may face resistance from vested interests in the country," it added.

Censorship: journalists, even well-known personalities in Mexican entertainment journalism, can be direct and openly targeted for assassination. 11 killed last year, openly, one of the highest tallies in the world (not that high really... lol)

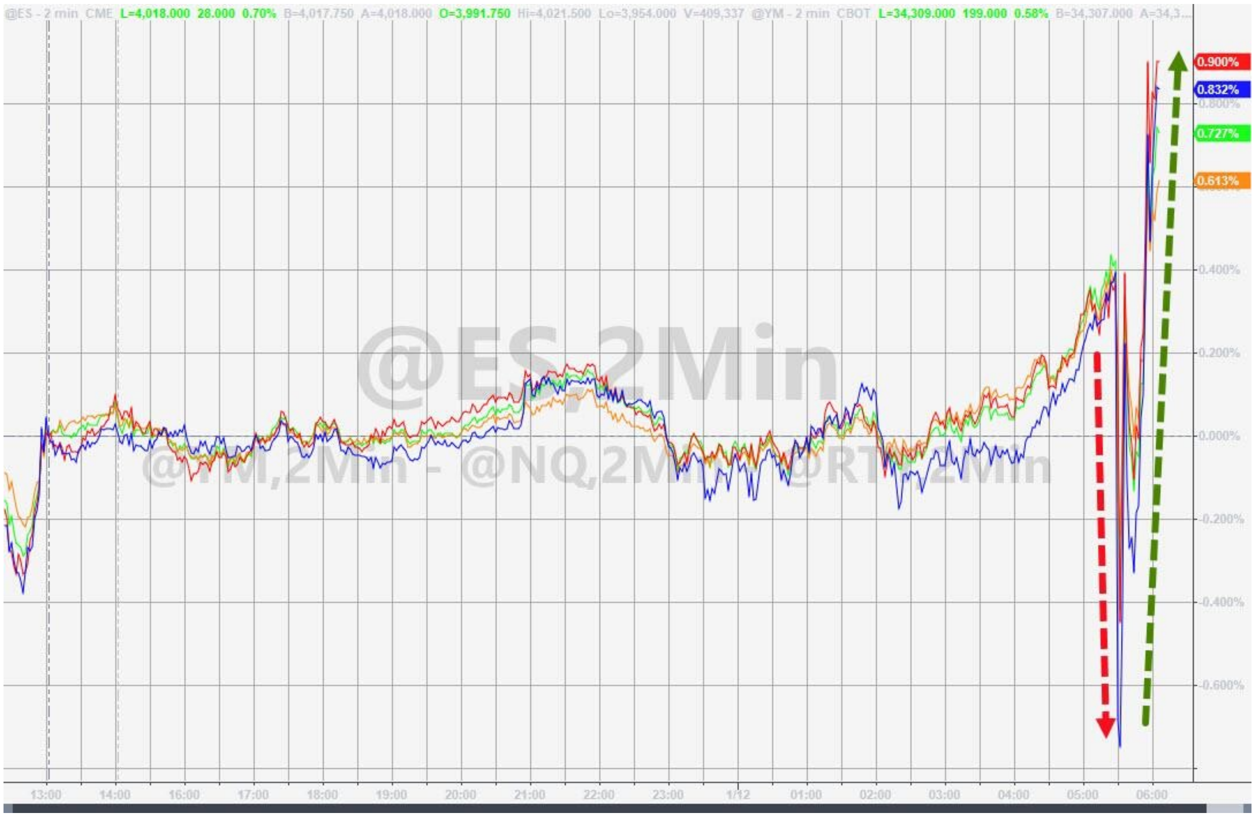
usnewsdotcom/news/world/articles/2023-01-11/11-people-arrested-after-attempted-shooting-of-mexican-journalist

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ciro_G%C3%B3mez_Leyva

war: US Power Grid Was Physically Attacked 107 Times in the First Eight Months of 2022

Markets: jan12 Stocks, Bonds, & Gold Surge As Rate-Hike Odds Tumble After CPI Decline

And after an initially disappointing drop, US equities are spiking higher...



Update - Stocks reversing now...

@ES - 2 min CME L=3,996.000 6.000 0.15% B=3,995.750 A=3,996.000 O=3,991.750 Hi=4,021.500 Lo=3,954.000 V=446,453 @YM - 2 min CBOT L=34,165.000 55.000 0.16% B=34,163.000 A=34,1...
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War, Erdogan: **King Charles sisters visits Cyprus greece-turkish buffer zone, said to be one of britains longest serving peacekeeping battalion**

Anastasiades gifted the princess a silver copy of cup from the 4th century B.C. and a photo album of Cypriots who volunteered to fight with British forces during World War II. Anne reciprocated with a portrait of herself.

The princess also was scheduled to meet with soldiers and their families at Dhekelia Garrison, one of two military bases that the U.K. retained after Cyprus gained independence from British rule in 1960.

Media access during her visit was limited to Anne’s brief meeting with Anastasiades. She did not make any public remarks.

Vaccine, health: jan12 **Deadline Passes For Pfizer To Submit Results Of Post-Vaccination Heart Inflammation Study To US Regulators**

Pfizer was required by the U.S. and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to conduct multiple studies on its vaccine after the FDA approved the shot in August 2021 because regulators determined that without the studies, there would not be sufficient data to assess the “known serious risks of myocarditis and pericarditis,” or heart inflammation and a related condition.

Regulators were also concerned about the potential risk of subclinical myocarditis, or heart inflammation without typical symptoms.

The FDA told Pfizer to carry out six studies, with various deadlines for completion and reporting final results to the agency. The first final deadline arrived on Dec. 31, 2022.

Pfizer was required to submit a report on the study, which was to assess the incidence of subclinical myocarditis following administration of a third dose of Pfizer’s vaccine, or a booster shot, in people aged 16 to 30.

It’s unclear whether Pfizer met the deadline. The company and the FDA did not respond to requests for comment, and neither have issued any information about the study or its results since the deadline passed.

According to the FDA, **Pfizer had until June 30, 2022, to complete the study and then another six months to prepare and submit the final results.**

Vaccine, health, censorship: jan12 **Lead Author Of Research On Pfizer And Moderna Trials Warns COVID Vaccinations Must Be Stopped**

War, middle east: jan12 **Taliban Unveils Afghanistan's First 'Supercar'**

The first supercar from Afghanistan is called the "Mada 9" and looks similar to a McLaren or even Bugatti (from a distance).

"The designers have used different parts of other vehicles, mostly Toyota parts, to build the first model," Afghan press Khaama Press said.

A video on ENTOP's Twitter shows the mechanics of the car. Any car enthusiast would compare it to a kit car.

Khaama said ENTOP envisions Mada 9 featured at the 2023 Qatar Exhibition in Doha. Well, they better beef up the motor before that...

Markets, inflation, government: jan12 **Jan Nieuwenhuijs of Gainesville Coins paraphrases zoltan poltzer as saying (too lazy to read it myself, just found by reading something else, might do later)amount of US government debt that needs to be financed is larger than the world is willing to absorb due to changes in geopolitical capabilities of the west--united states has real competitors now, ussr collapse 30 years old--fed forced to buy bonds, cappiung yields, causing a flee to gold, as it's been to have have occured in the past**

After the US weaponized its currency to freeze Russia’s assets, the amount of US government debt that needs to be financed is larger than the world is willing to absorb. The Federal Reserve will bail out the government by buying up bonds of all maturities, effectively capping yields across the curve. Inflation will stay elevated, above the entire yield curve, which lowers the value of money. In this environment investors and foreign central banks will flee to gold.

plus2dotcredit-suissedotcom/shorturlpdf.html?v=5hig-YP34-V&t=-7k6igsca7azmsnjxid59q5wex

markets, government: jan12 **The Four Prices of Money and Previous Gold Bull Markets: "After the stock market crash of 1929 the gold price went up, after the Nifty Fifty bubble in the early 1970s the gold price went up, after the dot-com bubble in 2000 the gold price went up, and if the stock market doesn’t recover (relative to GDP) in the coming years the gold price will go up."**

The Four Prices of Money and Previous Gold Bull Markets

Pozsar’s money framework, which he got from his intellectual mentor Perry Mehrling, states money has four prices:

1. *Par*, which is the price of different types of the same money. Cash, bank deposits, and money fund shares should always trade at a one-to-one ratio.

2. *Interest rates*, which is the price of future money.

3. *Foreign exchange rates*, which is the price of foreign money. For example, the ratio between the dollar and the euro.

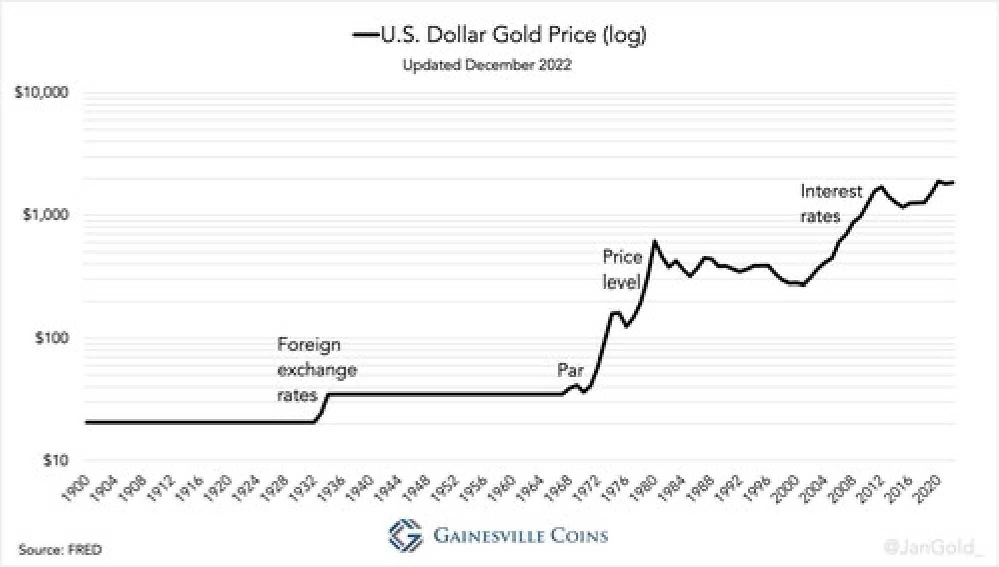
4. *Price level*, which is the price of commodities and, via commodities, the price of all goods and services. This is usually referred to as inflation.

In the 1920s, credit expansion created an economic boom. When the inevitable bust followed the US entered a severe depression. Eventually, in 1933, the US government decided to internally discontinue the gold standard. Externally the dollar continued to be fixed to gold, but the peg was lowered form 0.048 troy ounces per dollar to 0.029 ounces. Strictly speaking this wasn’t a gold bull market, but the gold price did go up from $20.67 to $35 dollars per troy ounce. The dollar was devalued against gold to get even with countries that devalued before the US did and to cheapen the dollar against foreign currencies that weren’t devalued yet. The price of gold in dollars went up because of the third price of money: *foreign exchange rates*.

In the 1960s the US started printing too many dollars relative to the amount of gold it owned backing those dollars. The gold price of $35 dollars was under pressure and the US Treasury had to sell thousands of tonnes of gold to defend the peg. To stop the bleeding, it was decided to let the gold price float in the free market in 1968. Though only marginally at first, the dollar price of gold went up because of the first price of money: *par*.

Foreign central banks could still redeem dollars for gold at the US Treasury after 1968 (at the statutory price, not the free market price), depleting reserves. Finally, President Nixon suspended dollar convertibility in 1971, and so removed the last check on unbridled monetary expansion. An abundance of dollars created in the 1960s and 1970s led to double-digit consumer price inflation. The gold price skyrocketed to a peak of $800 dollars in 1980. The dollar price of gold in the 1970s went up because of the fourth price of money: *price level*.

In 1998, under the guidance of several Nobel prize-winning economists, an American hedge fund blew up. The Federal Reserve reacted by lowering interest rates, further fueling a stock boom. The dot-com bubble popped in 2000 and the Fed slashed rates from 6% to 1%. The gold price started rising again and reached $1,900 dollars per troy ounce in 2011. As inflation was rather stable from 2000 through 2011, the gold price mainly went up because of the second price of money: *interest rates*.

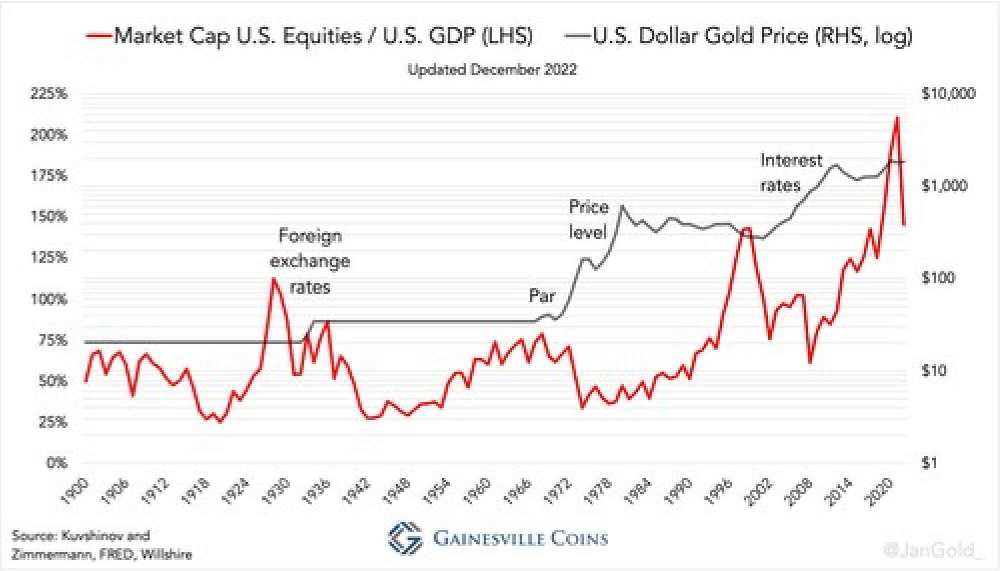


Source: FRED

Stock Market Bubbles and the Cheapening of Money

Changes in the price of money often come after an economic downturn that a central bank counters by, for example, lowering interest rates. Easy money blows a new equity bubble. Once that pops, easier money still blows another bubble to replace the previous one. This leads to a vicious cycle of bubbles and ever-easier money, in which the value of money incrementally declines, and the gold price appreciates.

Now we understand why, in the chart below, the stock market often peaks just before the price of money is changed, and, as a consequence, the gold price rises.



Source: Kuvshinov and Zimmermann, FRED, Wilshire

After the stock market crash of 1929 the gold price went up, after the Nifty Fifty bubble in the early 1970s the gold price went up, after the dot-com bubble in 2000 the gold price went up, and if the stock market doesn't recover (relative to GDP) in the coming years the gold price will go up.

How will the price of money be altered this time around? According to Pozsar, through interest rates and price level (yield curve control). After the US weaponized its currency to freeze Russia's assets, the amount of US government debt that needs to be financed is larger than the world is willing to absorb. The Federal Reserve will bail out the government by buying up bonds of all maturities, effectively capping yields across the curve. Inflation will stay elevated, above the entire yield curve, which lowers the value of money. In this environment investors and foreign central banks will flee to gold.

Markets, history, inflation, government: **blue chips used to be referred ot as the "Nifty Fifty" during the 1960s and 1970s; Trading at fifty times earnings or higher was common, far above the long-term market average of about 15 to 20.**

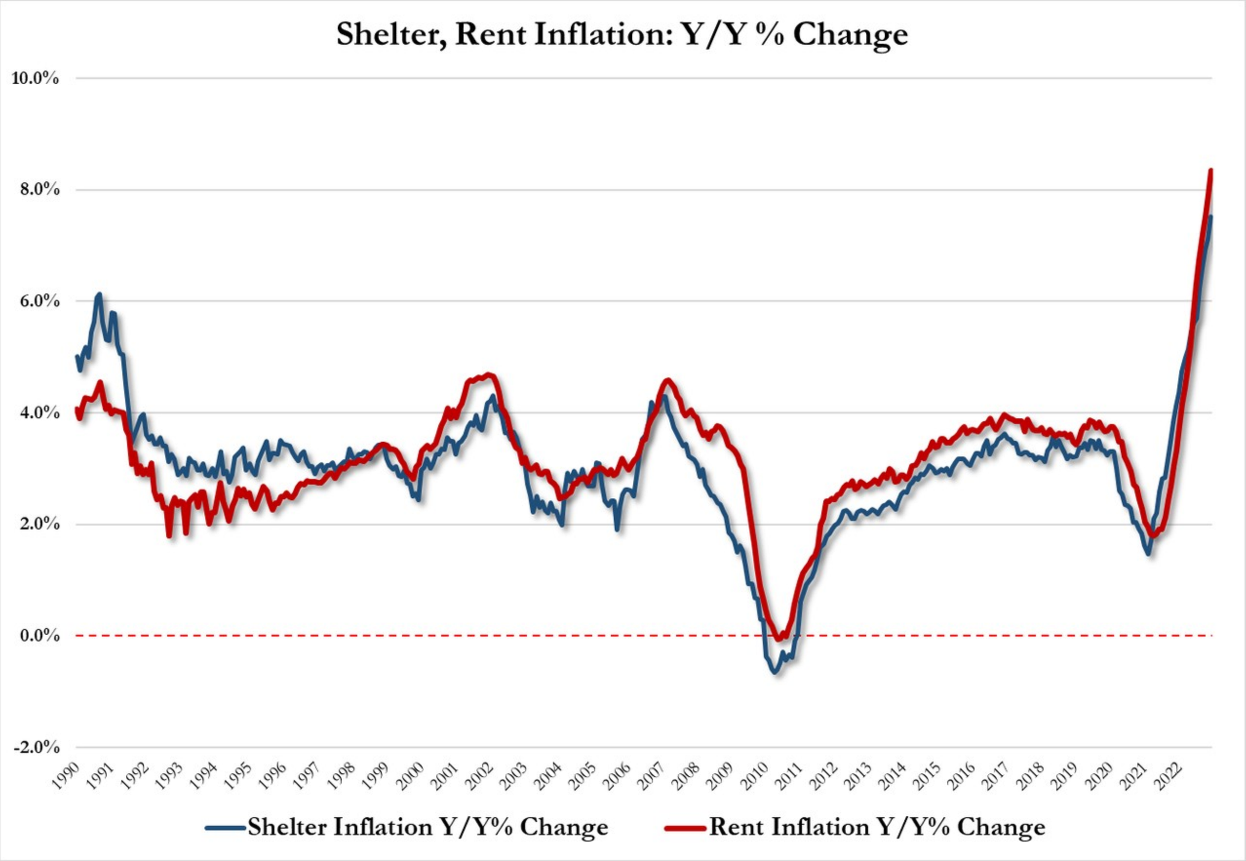
These fifty stocks are credited by historians with propelling the bull market of the early 1970s, while their subsequent crash and underperformance through the early 1980s are an example of what may occur following a period during which many investors ignore fundamental stock valuation metrics, to instead make decisions on popular sentiment.[1] Roughly half of the Nifty Fifty have since recovered and are solid performers, although a few are now defunct or otherwise worthless.

Energy, war, markets: jan12 **Freeport LNG Export Facility's Power Flows Surge For First Time Since Explosion; export facility responsible for 20% of US LNG exports**

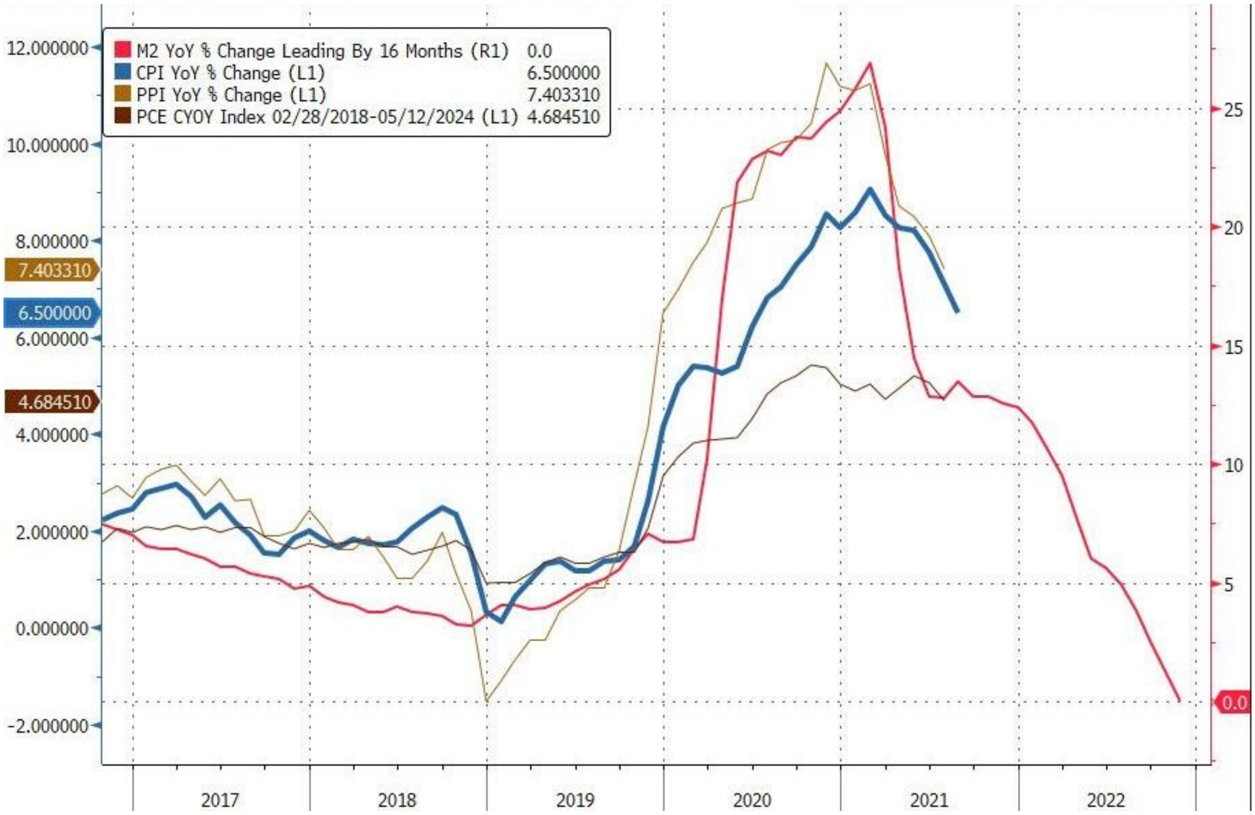
One bit of good news that crossed the wires yesterday evening was the damaged Freeport plant on the Texas gulf coast "has likely drawn power from the grid for the first time since it was shut after an explosion in June," according to a Bloomberg report.

Government, inflation, markets: jan12 **Real average weekly earnings continue to decline - this is the 21st month in a row;**

Shelter was biggest contributor to Core CPI 0.3% gain: **the increase in the shelter index in December at 0.8% is biggest since 1990s**.



m2 tracking inflation figures



Tl;dr: Headline and Core CPI printed 'as expected' (which is likely disappointing for the whisper numbers and remember the last CPI printed 'cooler than expected'). Goods inflation continues to slow but Services inflation continues to soar (highest in over 40 years). Shelter costs continue to soar.

* * *

Expectations for this morning's headline CPI ranges from +6.3% to +6.8% YoY, with consensus seeing a 0.1% decline MoM - something the world and his pet rabbit has bid stocks up into anticipating this as the signal for an about face by The Fed on their higher for longer narrative as it 'proves' inflation has peaked.

It seems the 'not cooler than expected' CPI print is disappointing the pre-emptive market.

War, middle east, iran, Erdogan: jan11 **Erbil, also called Hawler is the capital and most populated city in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 1.5 million; In 2020, it was estimated that 450,000 refugees had settled in the Erbil metropolitan area since 2003,**

History, islam, stats: **read later: Muslim conquest of Persia**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_conquest_of_Persia

war, middle east: estimated 136 000 buildings damaged or destroyed in mosul due to battle, 8000 buildings destroyed in Mosul's Old City; According to the International Organization for Migration, more than 1 million people—out of a pre-Islamic State population of close to 4 million—had fled Mosul by August 2017.
An estimated 8,000 buildings were destroyed or heavily damaged in Mosul's Old City, and few of them have since been rebuilt. When including other parts of the city where the battle raged, estimates of total buildings damaged or destroyed are as high as 138,000.

Reconstruction has been painfully slow, held back by lack of funds and the endemic corruption that siphons off much of the money that does trickle in. Five years after liberation, Mosul's international airport is still shut down, and the city's main hospital remains destroyed. People adjust and learn to cope—and new power players have emerged in the city. Photos of Shiite militia leaders, who have no popular following in Mosul but whose fighters entered the city during its liberation and stayed, adorn public squares to show who is ultimately in control. They include Iranian Quds Force Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a U.S. strike in 2020, and pro-Iran militia leaders Asaib Ahl al-Haq and Qais al-Khazali.

War, middle east: **The names of many Iraqi cities—Fallujah, Najaf, Tikrit, Mosul—became familiar to Western audiences only as bloody places of war, just like Ukrainian towns today or Bosnian ones three decades ago.**

Markets, vaccine: jan11 **moderna considering raising the price of it's vaccine by 400%, accorinding to the wallstreetjournal**

Moderna is considering raising the price of its COVID-19 vaccine by over 400 percent—from $26 per dose to between $110 and $130 per dose—according to a report by The Wall Street Journal.

Censorship: **judicial authoritarianism, pernicious,already example in singapore of leaders using the excuse of libel to bankrupt opposition and movement who dared question him, his corruption, and his authoritawww**

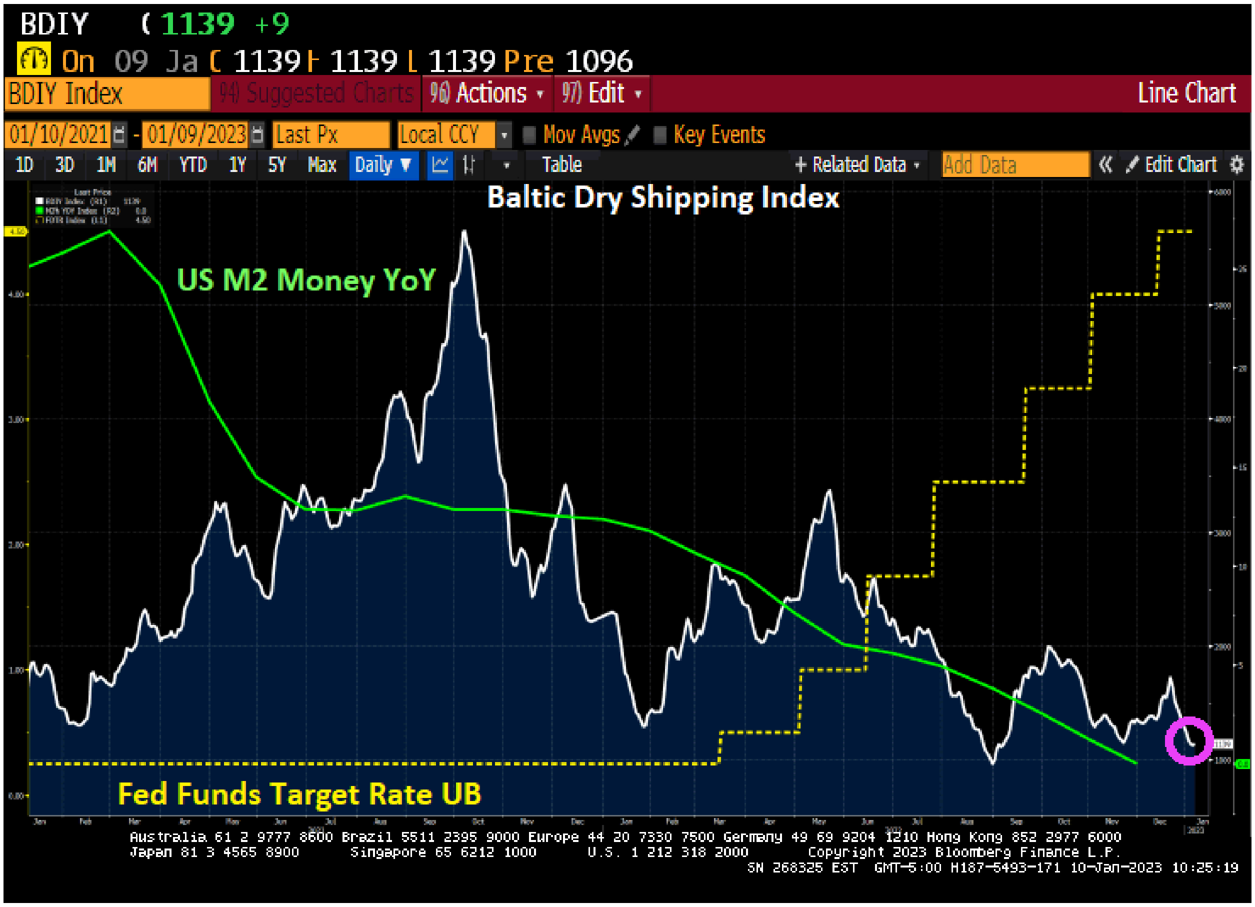
There are many ways to lose one’s democracy but the judicial road to authoritarianism is perhaps the most pernicious one.

It started in Singapore by Lee Kuan Yew who bankrupted movements, opposition parties and opponents using libel actions to suppress those who would question him to avoid exposure of his corruption (think Canadian truckers and Twitter libel cases for defending Jeremy Corbyn in the UK).

Vaccine, health, censorship, war: jan11 **reporters gets woozy on ctv edmonton in routine local news set....could be fake, part of pushing this narrative that the vaccine was bad and the government lied...why would the msm report so much on this?**

Markets: jan11 US Consumer Credit UP 7.9% YoY In November While Personal Savings Collapses -64.8% YoY

Markets, government: jan11 **Americans are running out of money. Last time saving was this low was 2006-07. Right before GFC.; Baltic Dry shipping index is falling with M2 Money growth YoY.**



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SN 268325 EST GMT-5:00 H187-5493-171 10-Jan-2023 10:25:19

War: jan11 **Inside Ukraine's 120+ Mile Salt Mine Tunnels Just Captured By Russia's Wagner Group**

Markets: jan11 Stocks & Bonds Rip, Yield Curve Inversion Deepens Ahead Of 'Most Important CPI Print Ever'

Markets, government: jan11 9 months until debt-limit d-day ,goldman analysts predict it will have as big of an impact on financial markets as a similar episode that occured in 2011

"The debt limit likely poses the greatest political risk next year, and we expect it to rival the 2011 episode in its disruption to financial markets and the economy.

War: jan11 At least 17 people died Monday in Peru as protesters clashed with security forces in city of Juliaca, Puno region, highest death toll since the unrest began in early December when Castillo was removed and arrested following a widely condemned attempt to dissolve Congress

Israel, war, history: quick breakdown of current levant

"Year by year, the coastal enclave records a significant increase in the number of people despite the fact that most of them have been suffering from poverty, unemployment, as well as food insecurity, resulting from the Israeli blockade," the ministry added.

Since 2007, the Palestinians in Gaza suffer from extremely difficult living conditions due to the Israeli-imposed blockade on the coastal enclave after Hamas, which won the legislative elections, seized the territory from Fatah.

Moreover, the Israeli army launched five large-scale wars and dozens of short military raids against the Palestinians in Gaza, which left thousands dead and destroyed thousands of residential and industrial as well as government buildings.

In 2012, the United Nations said in its annual report that the Gaza Strip will be "unlivable" if the Israeli blockade persists. Since then, the UN repeatedly warned of the sharp deterioration in the Gaza Strip.

War, government:"Activists Urge U.S. Apology, Fair Compensation, for U.S. Marshall Island Nuclear Testing", Marshall Islanders are still plagued by health and environmental effects of the 67 U.S. nuclear bomb tests there from 1946 to 1958, which included "Castle Bravo" at Bikini Atoll in 1954 - the largest U.S. bomb ever detonated. Jan11

Markets, inflation, government: January 10, 2023 Panel on "Central Bank Independence and the Mandate—Evolving Views”

On the first point, the case for monetary policy independence lies in the benefits of insulating monetary policy decisions from short-term political considerations.[1] Price stability is the bedrock of a healthy economy and provides the public with immeasurable benefits over time. But restoring price stability when inflation is high can require measures that are not popular in the short term as we raise interest rates to slow the economy. The absence of direct political control over our decisions allows us to take these necessary measures without considering short-term political factors. I believe that the benefits of independent monetary policy in the U.S. context are well understood and broadly accepted.[2]

In a well-functioning democracy, important public policy decisions should be made, in almost all cases, by the elected branches of government. Grants of independence to agencies should be exceedingly rare, explicit, tightly circumscribed, and limited to those issues that clearly warrant protection from short-term political considerations.

With independence comes the responsibility to provide the transparency that enables effective oversight by Congress, which, in turn, supports the Fed's democratic legitimacy. At the Fed, we treat this as an active, not passive, responsibility, and over the past several decades we have steadily broadened our efforts to provide meaningful transparency about the basis for, and consequences of, the decisions we make in service to the American public. We are tightly focused on achieving our statutory mandate and on providing useful and appropriate transparency.[3]

In light of the softer data on wages and on services activity from last Friday, there was a lot riding on Fed Chair Powell's speech at the Riksbank event on central bank independence. However, Powell said nothing specific about the upcoming Fed meeting. The Chair was, however, able to squeeze in a reference to the Fed prioritizing inflation over employment in the near term, when he said that the case for monetary policy independence lies in the benefits of insulating monetary policy decisions from short-term political considerations. According to him, *"the absence of direct political control over our decisions allows us to take these necessary measures without considering short-term political factors."* It's hard to take such general remarks as a cue for one vote or the other. Logically, markets shrugged and remained focused on the US CPI data coming up tomorrow. A soft reading that vindicates the recent improvement in sentiment is now widely expected.

Perhaps Powell's most interesting comments pertained to climate change. He said that the *"Fed is not and will not be a climate policymaker"*. Well, tell that to ECB President Christine Lagarde or board member Schnabel, who have been more than vocal on taking climate policies into account. The main difference between the two central banks lies in their mandates:

The Federal Reserve Act demands the Federal Reserve to conduct monetary policy "*so as to promote effectively the goals of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates*". It will require new and explicit legislation from Congress to allow the Fed to use monetary policy or supervisory actions to actively promote the energy transition. Such legislation won't be forthcoming in this Congress, that's for sure, and it is hard to see any political consensus forming further out too.

The ECB, instead, has already seen its mission creeping beyond the core responsibility of maintaining price stability –which, as Powell said, work best when politics is at arm's length–towards its secondary objective of "*supporting the general economic policies in the European Union*". Among others, these are "*sustainable and non-inflationary growth respecting the environment*" and "*a high level of employment and of social protection*".

This leaves the democratically unaccountable central bank exposed to political interests, allowing the institution to be (mis-)used for implementing policies and measures that may not have been successful in the political process. In other words, if governments fail to hold carbon emitters accountable by implementing taxes specifically targeting them or by tightening regulations on their activities, the central bank could be the go-to work-around. **Enmeshing the central bank more and more in politics muddies the waters over its responsibilities, which eventually might compromise its ability to set interest rates without considering short-term political factors**. Secondly, as the Global Daily highlighted many times, **there is no reason why mission creep should stop at climate change. If you can do Green QE, you can also do Camo QE.**

I am writing today's Daily from my home near Amsterdam on a January early-morning and it is slightly above 10 degrees Celsius outside. I am not using any heating and probably won't turn on it until the evening. It was expected that Europe would experience a difficult winter with freezing temperatures, gas shortages and forced rationing, widespread industrial shutdowns and a severe economic downturn, but the weather gods decided otherwise. A few more weeks of above-average temperatures and the 2023 filling season from April to end September may be a breeze.

The other popular euro bull narrative of the latest couple of days – as this is typically how long narratives last in the current volatile environment – is that Chinese economic developments have been largely beneficial to Europe in two subsequent ways: first, last year's zero-Covid policy helped to keep commodity and more specifically energy prices in check, while it wasn't as restrictive enough to prevent a gradual recovery of supply chain performance. It's hard to imagine, but Europe's inflation problems could have been a lot worse. And now, when Europe's growth outlook is at serious risk, the Chinese have U-turned on zero-Covid and look focused on boosting domestic demand after the current wave of infections crests.

This is of course good news for European exporters of capital- and consumer goods, but there are some important caveats. As in large parts of the Western world in 2021/2022, a lot is riding on the huge pile of pandemic savings that has been amassed during the long periods of suppressed consumption. But in China too the distribution of these excess savings is strongly skewed towards the wealthy. Secondly, we also believe that the ongoing problems in China's property sector will cap the recovery of consumer demand, while the sector itself isn't the infinite source of economic growth and local government funding as it was prior to 2021. Indeed, the only way Chinese consumption can rise in a significant and structural way is when consumers get a larger share of the economic pie: that is still a long way off.

Finally, before we wrap up today’s comment, it’s worth having a look at the latest update of Indeed’s posted wage figures. Their data are based on new job advertisements on the Indeed jobs platform and give an idea of the underlying wage dynamics. These dynamics should show up with a lag in the official average wage data (e.g., as an analogy, think of the official data as a bath tub full of current wage contracts, with new contracts of hires coming out of the faucet and old contracts of fired/resigned workers leaving through the drain). The Indeed figures continue to point at a deceleration of advertised wage growth in the United States (to 6.3% y/y, from a peak of 9% in March 2022 and 3% in December 2019), and more muted deceleration in the United Kingdom (6.0% y/y, from 6.4% in June) and six Eurozone countries (4.9% y/y, from 5.2% in November). So in all jurisdictions, wages and salaries advertised in new job postings are still rising faster than before the pandemic and the subsequent “Great Resignation”, but growth seems to have peaked while remaining well below inflation.

War: jan11 At Least 5 Killed In Kabul Suicide Blast Possibly Targeting Chinese Delegation

"There was supposed to be a Chinese delegation at the foreign ministry today, but we don’t know if they were present at the time of the blast," deputy minister of information and culture Muhajer Farahi described to AFP.

It's unclear if the Chinese delegation was targeted. **If so, it would appear that terrorists are specifically seeking to go after the Chinese government's diplomatic and business presence** in the country.

China has already been on alert, with Taliban authorities earlier vowing to protect Chinese nationals, after the December 12 bombing and shooting attack on Kabul's Longan Hotel, which is well-known gathering place of Chinese businessmen and diplomats.

South China Morning Post reviews of that earlier assault and others:

Isis - a key rival of the Taliban - claimed responsibility for the December 12 attack on Kabul Longan Hotel, which ***left five Chinese nationals injured****. Several Afghan military and police were also killed.*

The assault on the Longan - ***a hotel run by Chinese that had served a wave of visiting Chinese businessmen*** *since the Taliban took over the country - came less than two weeks after an attack on Pakistan’s embassy in Kabul. In September, a suicide bomber hit Russia’s mission.*

During that prior attack involving gunmen storming the hotel, multiple Chinese nationals were injured trying to flee, and Afghan security forces were killed:

War: jan11

Computer "Outage" Hits Canadian Flight System Hours After US System Went Down, the second NOTAM system in North America over the last 12 hours that has been hit with outages, US grounded all planes earlier this morning due to NOTAM outages but restored departures around 0900 ET.

The disruption was enough to spark a travel nightmare for US travelers today and is worsening by the hour. The latest figures from flight tracking website FlightAware show 8,000 flights have been delayed and another 1,200 canceled.

Censorship, media, government, tech: jan25

(4 days ago) Las Vegas judge dies by suicide 1 year after ethics probe resignation

A Las Vegas judge and mother of three killed herself a year after leaving her position to avoid a complicated ethics probe that began over what she said was her attempt to save her daughter from prostitution.

Melanie Andress-Tobiasson, 53, who stepped down as a Justice of the Peace before a hearing regarding her ethics investigation, was reportedly found dead by suicide Friday, 8NewsNow reported. The outlet did not provide details about how she died.

The judge charged that pimps were “targeting the daughters of judges and law enforcement” to recruit them into prostitution.

Andress-Tobiasson was being investigated by Nevada’s Judicial Discipline Commission for almost two years before she agreed to resign in 2021.

Her problems began when her daughter Sarah, then 16, started working at a clothing store that Andress-Tobiasson claimed was a front for criminal activities and tried to stop it, first by reporting the issue to the police, the Daily Mail reported. She said the store, Top Knotch, was involved with prostitution and trying to recruit her daughter.

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She called out Las Vegas cops for ignoring information about the alleged sex trafficking at the store. She claimed that the store was an unlicensed, underage nightclub and added that she was “terrified” of Shane Valentine, who ran the store at the time.

When The Post reached her daughter, Sarah Tobiasson, now 23, on Saturday, she hung up.

Andress-Tobiasson said she had to go to the FBI with the information after being ignored by local police — which resulted in officers investigating her for allegedly breaching judicial rules by making an allegation to federal agents.

A complaint filed against Andress-Tobiasson alleged that she failed to comply with and uphold the law, and allowed family interests and relations to influence her conduct, the Daily Mail reported.

Andress-Tobiasson asked cops to look into Valentine but said they ignored her claims. Valentine was later linked to a shooting where a couple was found dead.

They did not officially link him to the killings of Sydney Land, 21, and Nehemiah “Neo” Kauffman, 20, until months later, according to the Daily Mail.

But Andress-Tobiasson contacted Land’s mother and “began to personally investigate the case” because she thought that Valentine was responsible, the complaint stated.

It added that she used “burner phones” to contact Land’s mother and sent texts to another woman she thought was involved in the murder.

The commission alleged that Andress-Tobiasson stated publicly that she reached out to Valentine’s lawyer at the time and “told him to tell Valentine that if he called her daughter again, she would ‘take care of it herself,'” and that one time she “went to Shane Valentine’s house and kicked in the door.”

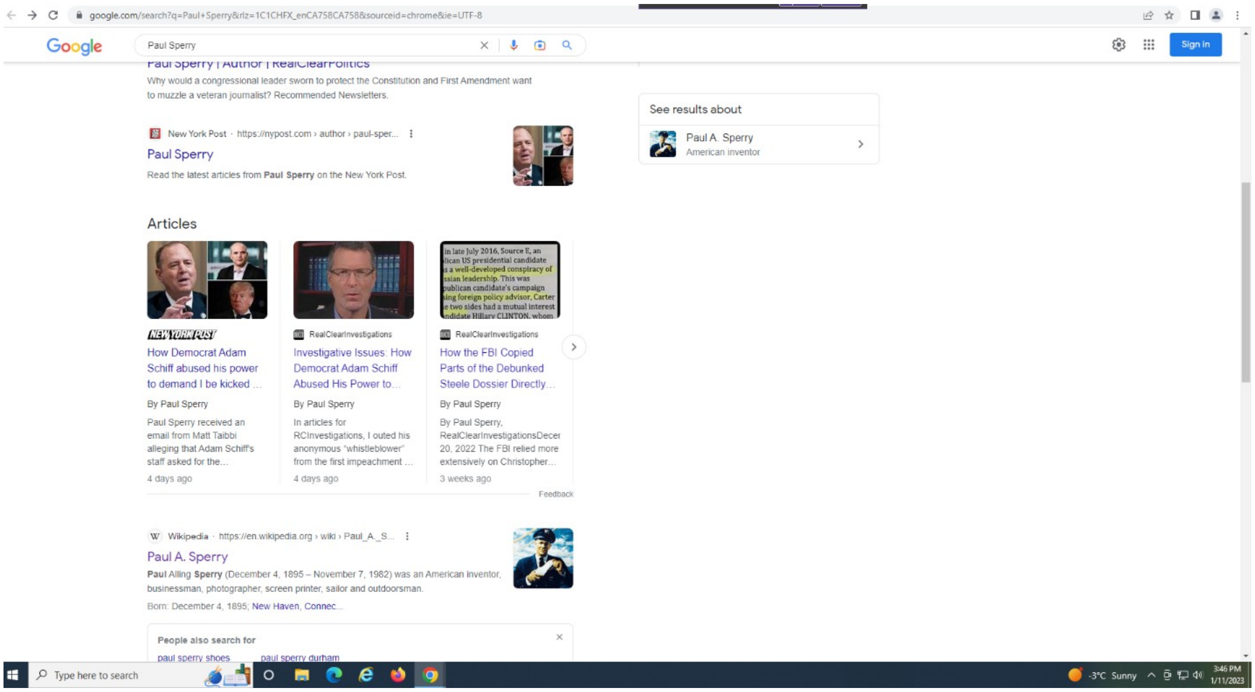
Detectives learned of Andress-Tobiasson’s activity, according to the charges, and launched an investigation into the judge, going as far as tracking her phone records.

They also alleged that she had links to a man called “Anthony Danna” who was a “known and documented organized crime figure.”

Andress-Tobiasson lived with her husband, Todd, in a $2 million mansion with a pool at the time of her death.

Censorship, journal: jan11 **censorship, nice example**

This is a google front page for a banned journalist.. But looking closer, you can that the Wikipedia page is for someone who is dead.



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Paul A. Sperry

Paul Alling **Sperry** (December 4, 1895 – November 7, 1982) was an American inventor, businessman, photographer, screen printer, sailor and outdoorsman.

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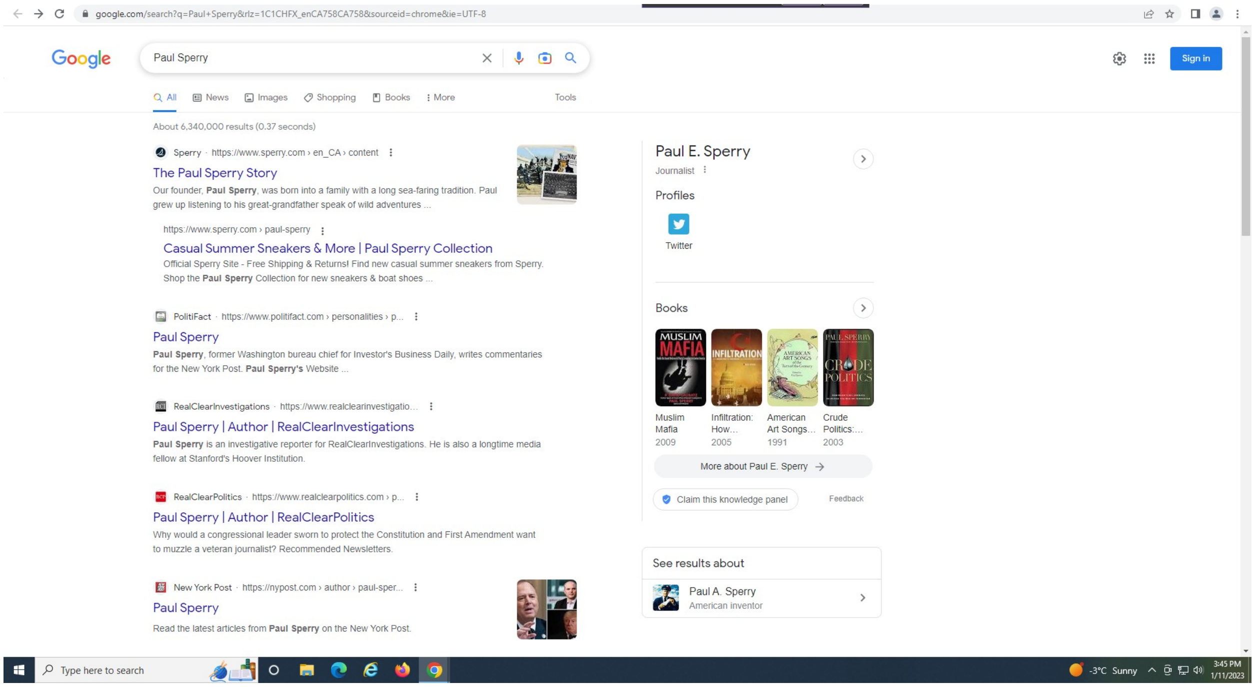

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The Paul Sperry Story

Our founder, **Paul Sperry**, was born into a family with a long sea-faring tradition. Paul grew up listening to his great-grandfather speak of wild adventures ...

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Paul Sperry

Paul Sperry, former Washington bureau chief for Investor's Business Daily, writes commentaries for the New York Post. **Paul Sperry's** Website ...

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Paul Sperry | Author | RealClearInvestigations

Paul Sperry is an investigative reporter for RealClearInvestigations. He is also a longtime media fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution.

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I’ve seen this happen with others before. For instance, with rich or powerful families, the top ranked wikipedia will be for a prior family member with a similar name, yet when you look, there will be nothing about the current member of the family that you originally intended to search for. An example I encountered was with Bettina Warburg, who at the time was receiving traffic from her blockchain videos. When you’d look for her Wikipedia, all you’d see is a post about some other Bettina Warburg from the family from 100’s of years ago.

Something similar also happens with Peter Oppenhiemer, a high ranking manager at a large brokerage in the United States. Nothing about his family comes up in his Wikipedia, only his professional details are given.

War, journal: jan11 **it just keep escalating....you just see more crazy escalation, and it's now to he point where things thatr would have shocked many before are now just seemingly be like normal events........."Top Marine General In Japan Bluntly Describes US Is "Setting The Theatre" For Future War With China"**

Vaccine, government, censorship: jan11 **Pentagon Drops COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate For Troops, More than 8,400 troops were forced out of the military for refusing the jab.**

Government, markets, inflation: jan11 **Shortage Fears Spike As Some Costco And Walmart Stores Run Out Of Eggs**

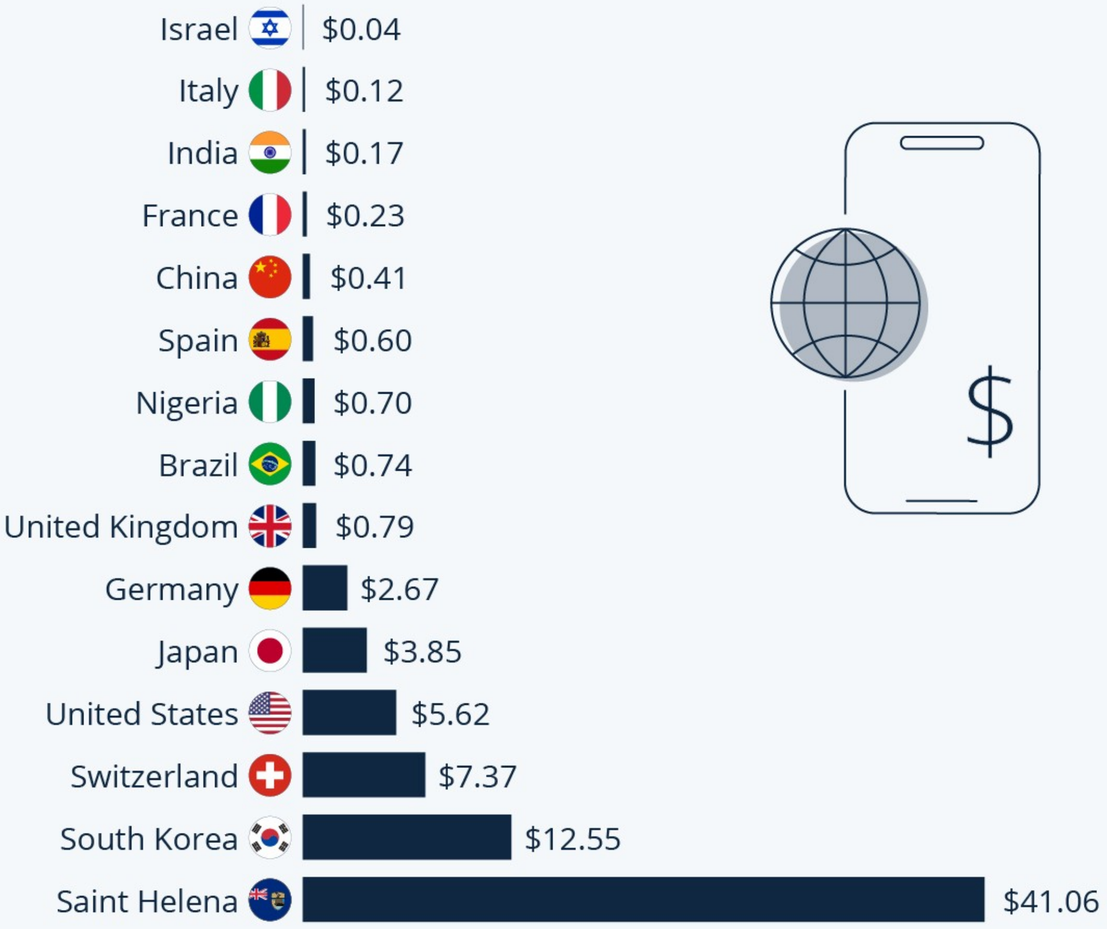
Government, censorship, markets: jan11 **Cannabis Grower Tilray Mulls Expansion Into Fruit And Vegetable Growing, Alcohol, While Awaiting U.S. Legalization**

sick joke..

stats: **canada way more expensive for data than everybody elswe**

The Cost of Mobile Internet Around the World

Average cost of 1GB of mobile data in selected countries/territories in 2022



Based on an analysis of more than 5,292 mobile data plans in 233 countries.
Source: Cable.co.uk

Vaccine, censorship, media, war: jan11 apparently jordan pweterson got sick during the first stages of the pandemic

It so happens that I heard Jordan speak in Budapest only months before the lockdowns that coincided with **his own grave problem that he encountered with prescription medicine**: as with many he was misled about what he believed was a simple medication. The timing was a tragedy because it took him out of the space of public intellectual life right when we needed him most: during the early months of lockdowns.

His voice went silent during these times. It was heartbreaking. The very small resistance continued despite his incapacitation. Once he got better, he gradually became aware of what had taken place and then became ferocious, as any thinking person must. Thus his current issues with the authorities.

Looking back at this date, it seems almost like he saw what was coming. **In those months before lockdowns, I wrote the following report on what I saw in Budapest.**

History, war: hungary from a visitors perspective; he breaks it down nicely

But what you see is only on the surface. The scars of this city are extremely deep, having been put through astonishing traumas of totalitarianism of the left and right, the bombings, the terror and cruelty and poverty—the experience is not that far back in history. It was tyrannized by Soviet occupation twice, first after World War I and then following World War II, between which it experienced Nazi occupation and devastating Allied bombing that destroyed its infrastructure (all of which has since been rebuilt).

brownstonedotorg/articles/jordan-peterson-enemy-of-the-state/

war: jan11 individuals involved in the blockade have demanded that Azerbaijan establish state control over the Lachin corridor

blockade is considered to be a violation of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire agreement, which stipulates that Azerbaijan guarantee the security of people and cargo moving along the Lachin corridor in both directions.[9]

The Republic of Artsakh is a self-declared de facto state also known as the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, which is populated by ethnic Armenians within Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan does not recognize the sovereign status of Artsakh and, since the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war, it no longer promises any special status or autonomy to its ethnically Armenian residents.[37] The ongoing 2022 blockade of Artsakh is the second time Azerbaijan isolated the region from Armenia and is distinct from the other ongoing blockade of Artsakh (and Armenia) from Azerbaijan which began in 1988:[38] that is, transportation between Artsakh and the rest of internationally-recognized Azerbaijan has been prohibited by Azerbaijan since 1988.

The current 2022 blockade is an extension of the 1988 blockade insofar as it isolates Artsakh from Armenia (its only connection with the outside world). The first isolation of Artsakh lasted for 4 years (August 1988 to May 1992) as part of the First Nagorno-Karabakh War.[39] During the winter of 1991–1992 Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh was blockaded by Azerbaijani forces and many civilian targets in the city were intentionally bombarded by artillery and aircraft.[40] The bombardment of Stepanakert and adjacent Armenian-held towns and villages during the blockade caused widespread destruction.

Because the Lachin corridor remains the only transportation route in and out of Artsakh,[7] it is often described as an essential "lifeline" to Artsakh residents.[41][42][43][44] In 2017, a second and faster highway was built between Artsakh and Armenia (the Vardenis–Martakert highway), but this alternative route has been closed since Azerbaijan took control of the Dadivank-Sotk section (in Kalbajar) during the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War.[45][7] Regular air transit in and out of Artsakh has also not existed since the Stepanakert Airport was closed in 1990 during the First Nagorno-Karbakh War.[42] The Artsakh government has attempted to re-open a commercial airport various times since it was reconstructed in 2011 but has been blocked by Azerbaijan, who warn that airplanes flying over Karabakh will be destroyed.[46][47]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022%E2%80%932023_blockade_of_the_Republic_of_Artsakh

markets, stats, crypto: **owned so mcuh of the tokens that they can't realistics even sell them because their would be no market**

*[It] just **does not ascribe any value to holdings of dozens of illiquid cryptocurrency tokens**, where our holdings are so large relative to the total supply that our positions cannot be sold without substantially affecting the market for the token."*

So Bankman-Fried had $5 billion lying around and he didn't... just... disappear?

He couldnt....Where would he go..

War, history, government: jan11 THE UK’S 83 MILITARY INTERVENTIONS AROUND THE WORLD SINCE 1945

Britain has deployed its armed forces for combat over 80 times in 47 countries since the end of the Second World War, in episodes ranging from brutal colonial wars and covert operations to efforts to prop up favoured governments or to deter civil unrest

The British military has used or threatened to use military force much more in the postwar world than is conventionally remembered or believed. *Declassified* has documented 83 interventions by the UK armed forces since 1945, in 47 different countries.

The most striking of the British uses of force have been the overt invasions or armed attempts to overthrow governments such as in British Guiana (now Guyana) in 1953, Egypt in the 1950s, Iraq in 2003 and Libya in 2011.

The brutal colonial counter-insurgency wars of the 1950s and 1960s – in Kenya, Malaya, Aden and Cyprus – involved the widespread use of torture and, often, pernicious operations to displace large numbers of people to control the local population.

In Malaya between 1948 and 1960, British forces herded hundreds of thousands of people into fortified camps, heavily bombed rural areas and resorted to extensive propaganda to win the conflict.

British brutality fighting ‘Mau Mau’ forces in Kenya demanding independence from the UK resulted in tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of deaths, often from starvation in concentra

UK MILITARY INTERVENTIONS SINCE 1945

Conflict	Britain's role
2022–present: Ukraine war	UK military aids combat operations, ‘retired’ special forces and other Britons fighting there, large supply of UK arms
2016-19: Covert operations in	SAS and SBS forces advising on and fighting Islamic

Libya	State
2015–present: Yemen war	British military training, advising, arming Saudi air force operations bombing Yemen, and secret ground deployment of UK forces
2014–present: War against Islamic State	RAF aircraft and drone strikes in Syria and Iraq and some special forces ground operations
2013-22: Intervention in Mali	Initial deployment of SAS followed by support to French-led counter-terrorism mission
2012 -present?: Covert war in Somalia	SAS force countering al-Shabab terrorists and drone strikes
2011–18: Covert war in Syria	Operations in support of opposition forces
2011: War in Libya	Air strikes and covert ground operations to overthrow Muammar Gaddafi regime
2003-09: Invasion and occupation of Iraq	UK forces played secondary role to US in military operations
2001–21: Invasion and occupation of Afghanistan	UK deployed ground forces, playing secondary role to US in military operations following 9/11
2000: Intervention in Sierra Leone	Deployment of ground forces to counter Revolutionary United Front militants
1998- 99: War against Yugoslavia (Kosovo)	Bombing of Yugoslav forces and covert support to the Kosovo Liberation Army
1998: Bombing of Iraq	Four-day campaign in December by US and UK to strike Iraqi regime targets
1994: Deployment to Kuwait	Military deployment to deter Iraqi threat to Kuwait
1991–2002: Bombing of Iraq	Sporadic air strikes on government targets in US/UK proclaimed no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq
1990-91: Gulf war against Iraq	UK forces played secondary role to US in military operations to eject Iraq from Kuwait and defeat Saddam Hussein
1984–86: Covert operations in Soviet Union (Tajikistan/Uzbekistan)	Military operations to sabotage Soviet supply lines into Afghanistan
1980-88: Covert war in Afghanistan	Guerilla training, supply roles and arms deliveries in support of mujahideen forces fighting the Soviet occupation
1983: Covert operation in Belize	Deployment of forces to counter Guatemalan rebels
1982: Falklands war	War against Argentina over latter’s attempt to capture the Falklands/Malvinas
1981: Covert deployment to The Gambia	SAS deployment to reverse a military coup
1980: Intervention in New Hebrides (Vanuatu)	Military deployment to restore order
1977: Intervention in British Honduras (Belize)	Military deployment to deter threat from Guatemala
1977: Deployment in Bermuda	Military deployment to quell unrest

1975–76: Covert war in Angola	Covert aid to UNITA rebels to overthrow MPLA government
1975-76: ‘Cod war’ with Iceland	Navy deployments to reinforce British fishing claims
1972-73: ‘Cod war’ with Iceland	Navy deployments to reinforce British fishing claims
1970-71: Intervention in Musandam peninsula	Special forces invaded the peninsula, claimed by Oman
1970: Intervention in Jordan	Military deployment to prop up King Hussein
1969–1998: Intervention in Northern Ireland	Military deployment to counter IRA and civil protests involving sectarian support to loyalist forces
1965-75: War in Oman (Dhofar)	Military deployment in support of regime against insurgents in Dhofar province
1969: Intervention in Anguilla	Military deployment to prevent independence
1968–73: Depopulation of Chagos Islands	Forcible removal of inhabitants
1968: Deployment to Bermuda	Military deployment to quell unrest
1967: Deployment to Mauritius	Military deployment to quell unrest
1967: Deployment to Hong Kong	Military deployment to suppress riots
1965: Deployment to Mauritius	Military deployment to quell unrest
1965: Deployment to Kenya	Naval deployment to counter possible coup attempt
1964-65: Deployment to British Guiana	Military deployment to quell unrest
1964: Intervention in Kenya	Military deployment to quell army mutiny
1964: Intervention in Tanzania	Military deployment to quell army mutiny
1964: Intervention in Uganda	Military deployment to quell army mutiny
1963-7: War in Aden (south Yemen)	Operations to suppress revolt against UK rule
1963–66: War in Borneo	Military deployment to counter Indonesian forces in support of Malaysia
1963: Deployment to Swaziland	Military deployment to break strike and civil unrest
1962-70: Covert war in Yemen	Covert operations to support insurgents against government
1962–63: Intervention in Brunei	Military deployment to suppress revolt against government
1962: Deployment to British Guiana (Guyana)	Military deployment to quell demonstrations
1962: Deployment to British Honduras (Belize)	Deployment to counter Guatemalan armed incursion
1961-73: War against Vietnam	UK provided counter-insurgency advice and arms to South Vietnam regime, deployed covert forces, and gave military intelligence to US operations
1961: Intervention in Kuwait	Intervention to counter alleged threat from Iraq to Kuwait
1961: Deployment to Zanzibar	Deployment to suppress riots

1960-61: War in Cameroon	Military campaign to counter insurgency in Southern Cameroons
1959: Deployment in Maldives	Landing of troops to counter the Gan islands secessionist riots
1959: Intervention in Nyasaland (Malawi)	Deployment to quell riots and uprising against British rule
1958-60: 'Cod war' with Iceland	Navy deployments to reinforce British fishing claims
1958: Intervention in Jordan	Military deployment to prop up regime
1958: Deployment in Bahamas	Military deployment to counter general strike
1957- 59: Covert war in Indonesia	Covert operation with US to support rebellion against government
1957-9: Intervention in Oman	War against rebels
1957: Deployment in British Honduras (Belize)	Reinforcement to counter Guatemalan claims to the territory
1956-62: Border war in Northern Ireland	Deployment of military to counter the IRA along the Northern Ireland/Ireland border
1956-59: War in Cyprus	War against insurgents
1956: Invasion of Egypt	Military intervention with France and Israel over Suez Canal
1955: Intervention in Buraimi Oasis	Military deployment to counter Saudi claims to the area
1953: Coup in British Guiana (Guyana)	Military deployment to overthrow government
1952-60: War in Kenya	Colonial war and 'resettlement' operations
1951-54: Egypt (Suez Canal zone)	Deployment to counter insurgency against British rule
1951: Iran blockade	Deployment of warships to blockade Abadan port after Iranian government nationalised oil operations
1950-3: Korean war	Major US-led war to support South Korea against the North
1950: Deployment to Singapore	Military deployment to suppress riots
1949–52: Covert war in Albania	Operations supporting guerillas fighting communist forces
1949: Deployment to Aqaba (Jordan)	Military deployment to deter threat from Israel
1948-60: War in Malaya	Colonial war and 'resettlement' operations
1948–52: Occupation of Eritrea	Military deployment and counter-insurgency
1948: Deployment to British Honduras (Belize)	Intervention to deter Guatemala from invading
1947: Deployment to Aden	Deployment to suppress riots
1946-52: Covert war in Baltic states	Operations supporting guerillas fighting Soviet forces

1945–48: War in Israel/Palestine	Military activities in aid of both Arab and Israeli forces, overall facilitating Israel's takeover of Palestine
1945–48: Covert war in Ukraine	Operations supporting guerillas fighting Soviet forces
1945-6: Intervention in Indonesia	Deployment to suppress Indonesian independence movement
1945-6: Intervention in Vietnam	Deployment to suppress Vietnamese independence movement
1944-9: Greek civil war	Military/covert operations to support Greek government

Covert wars

Covert military operations have been planned by Whitehall officials in numerous instances where their strategy would be unpopular at home or controversial abroad. British governments have if anything become less and less transparent about these covert operations over time.

The beginnings after the war were when UK forces sought to stir up opposition to emerging communist rule in Albania, Ukraine and the Baltic States in the late 1940s - operations which all failed to prevent these countries coming under communist control.

Covert wars continued in the 1950s in Indonesia - in an attempt to promote a rebellion against nationalist president Sukarno - and in the 1960s in Yemen - in a war to bog down the forces of Egypt's leader, Gamal Abdel Nasser, in which tens of thousands of people died.

In the 1980s, Margaret Thatcher's government executed Britain's largest postwar covert operation to date, in backing mujahideen warriors to counter the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

The strategy involved not only supplying arms and training for combat inside Afghanistan, but also the sabotage of Moscow's supply lines inside the then Soviet republics of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

British covert operations have recently proliferated again in view of the unpopular wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2011-13, Whitehall planners secretly launched at least four covert wars involving special forces on the ground in Libya, Syria, Somalia and Mali.

Overt intervention

Some of the UK's most brutal interventions have been with the US, notably the bombing of and occupation of Afghanistan after 2001, the UK's supportive role in Washington's near-destruction of Vietnam from the 1960s and the forcible depopulation of the Chagos Islands from 1968-73, to make way for a US military base in the Indian Ocean.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, the UK acted as the US' junior partner in a ferocious bombardment of Iraq the following year that destroyed much of the country's civilian infrastructure. Anglo-American bombing of Iraq continued for a decade after the Gulf War until the 2003 invasion.

On several occasions, the British military has been used to counter threats to favoured allies from neighbouring countries, such as the deployment to Kuwait in 1994 to deter a threat from Iraq's Saddam Hussein and the dispatch of troops to Aqaba in Jordan in 1949 to fend off a territorial threat from Israel.

The UK intervened at least four times in British Honduras (which became independent as Belize in 1981) - in 1948, 1957, 1962 and 1977 - to deter Guatemala from its claims over the territory. The Falklands war of 1982 - after Argentina invaded the islands - was far from being the first time a Latin America state had claimed territory it saw as a relic of the colonial period.

Only a handful of these interventions might be regarded as truly benign. The UK's deployment of forces to Sierra Leone in 2000 prevented the vicious Revolutionary United Front taking control of the capital, Freetown.

Britain's involvement in the Korean war in the early 1950s - one of the most destructive conflicts of the past century - upheld the non-communist south of the country, and allowed a future South Korea to prosper.

But most of the UK military deployments have been to maintain colonial or postcolonial control of states and key resource interests, uphold British prestige or great power status, and demonstrate to the US - Whitehall’s key ally - that London is, with Washington, still prepared to continue to rule the world by force.

Not included

The list of interventions is far from exhaustive. It is unlikely to have found all the British military deployments for combat since 1945. Further, it does not include mercenary operations by British personnel, often backed by Whitehall, or purely intelligence operations to overthrow governments.

It also excludes military involvement in international peacekeeping missions, relief activities and actions to evacuate UK nationals from countries. Finally, it does not include training and advisory military operations which, often linked to British arms exports, are another key way Whitehall officials try to maintain their global influence.

Britain’s armed forces have a far more extensive base network than ever presented by the Ministry of Defence. New research by Declassified reveals the extent of this global military presence for the first time – as the government announces an extra 10% spending on defence.

tion camps.

War, Russia: jan11 **Using Ukraine as a Bloodied Pawn, written today**

Ted Galen Carpenter is senior fellow for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute. Carpenter served as Cato’s director of foreign policy studies from 1986 to 1995 and as vice president for defense and foreign policy studies from 1995 to 2011.

U.S. and NATO officials routinely contend that assisting Ukraine in its war against Russia is a moral as well as a strategic imperative. Ukraine is supposedly on the frontlines of a global struggle between democracy and freedom on one side and brutal authoritarianism on the other. That justification lacks credibility for two reasons. First, Ukraine itself is a corrupt, repressive autocracy, not a freedom-loving democracy, even if one uses the most flexible, expansive definition of "democracy." Second, the Russia-Ukraine war is a nasty turf fight over mundane stakes, not part of an existential global confrontation between good and evil.

It is hard to determine how much Western political leaders and their media mouthpieces actually believe their own moralistic propaganda. Some likely have drunk the Kool Aid, but others clearly have more practical (and less savory) reasons for wanting Washington to wage a proxy war against Russia.

However, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin may have inadvertently disclosed a broader, ignoble motive for the proxy war. An April 2022 statement that he issued in Poland at the end of his stealth visit to Kyiv emphasized that Washington's goal was not merely to help Ukraine repel Russia's invasion, but to "weaken Russia" to the point that it could no longer pose a threat to any other country. Achieving such an objective would indisputably require a prolonged war in Ukraine – regardless of the consequences to the Ukrainian people.

The goal in Afghanistan then, as it is in Ukraine now, was simply to harass and bleed Washington's adversary. Then, as now, there was little concern about the impact on the beleaguered inhabitants in the country serving as an arena for a proxy war – and surprisingly little concern about the wider geo-political ramifications.

War, history, middle east: jan11 **although this did happen, what the persn says is a an immediately knowable outright lie, don't need evidence: ". Tom Twetten, the number 2 official in the CIA's clandestine service during the 1980s, later admitted that US leaders had no postwar plan for Afghanistan."**

War, journal: jan11 US now just openly admitting to training Ukrainians in their own country: "US to Begin Training Ukrainians on Patriot Missiles in Oklahoma Next Week"

The Pentagon announced on Tuesday that the US will begin training 100 Ukrainian soldiers how to use Patriot missile defense systems as soon as next week on US soil at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The US has been training thousands of Ukrainians how to use US-provided weapons at its bases in Germany and elsewhere in Europe but hasn't had similar training inside the US since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Russia strongly warned the US against providing the Patriots to Kyiv, saying the systems would become a target for Russia's armed forces. But like most Russian warnings, it was ignored, and the US continues to escalate military aid, most recently by pledging Bradley Fighting Vehicles for the first time as part of an arms package worth over $3 billion.

History, holy roman empire, Germany: jews, poland, most jews in eastern europe; nazi germany at its height composed almost all of europe; add: Spain was not allowed to join the newly created United

Later the same year Franco met with Hitler in Hendaye to discuss Spain's possible accession to the Axis Powers. The meeting went nowhere, but Franco did help the Axis—whose members Italy and Germany had supported him during the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939)—in various ways.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain_during_World_War_II

The term "axis" was first applied to the Italo-German relationship by the Italian prime minister Benito Mussolini in September 1923, when he wrote in the preface to Roberto Suster's *La Germania Repubblicana* that "there is no doubt that in this moment the axis of European history passes through Berlin" (*non v'ha dubbio che in questo momento l'asse della storia europea passa per Berlino*).[8] At the time, he was seeking an alliance with the Weimar Republic against Yugoslavia and France in the dispute over the Free State of Fiume.[9]

The term was used by Hungary's prime minister Gyula Gömbös when advocating an alliance of Hungary with Germany and Italy in the early 1930s.[10] Gömbös' efforts did affect the Italo-Hungarian Rome Protocols, but his sudden death in 1936 while negotiating with Germany in Munich and the arrival of Kálmán Darányi, his successor, ended Hungary's involvement in pursuing a trilateral axis.[10] Contentious negotiations between the Italian foreign minister, Galeazzo Ciano, and the German ambassador, Ulrich von Hassell, resulted in a Nineteen-Point Protocol, signed by Ciano and his German counterpart, Konstantin von Neurath, in 1936. When Mussolini publicly announced the signing on 1 November, he proclaimed the creation of a Rome–Berlin axis.[9]

Initial proposals of a German–Italian alliance

Italy under *Duce* Benito Mussolini had pursued a strategic alliance of Italy with Germany against France since the early 1920s.[11] Prior to becoming head of government in Italy as leader of the Italian Fascist movement, Mussolini had advocated alliance with defeated Germany after the Paris Peace Conference (1919–1920) settled World War I.[11] He believed that Italy could expand its influence in Europe by allying with Germany against France.[11] In early 1923, as a goodwill gesture to Germany, Italy secretly delivered weapons for the *Reichswehr*, which had faced major disarmament under the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles.[11]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axis_powers

stats, tech: jan10 the ozone layer continues to strengthen as a result of the montreal protocol in 1989--an international agreement to phase out Ozone Depleting Substances--projected to fully recover from aerosol damamge in 2066

By 2066, the Antarctic ozone hole is expected to reduce to its size in 1980, while the Arctic hole will do the same around 2045. Thinning around other areas of the globe should recover around 2040.

Beyond CFCs, ozone-eating chemicals including halons, methyl chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and methyl bromide were once abundant in refrigerators, air conditioners, aerosols, solvents and pesticides.

These compounds attack ozone by releasing chlorine and bromine atoms that degrade ozone molecules in the stratosphere.

Since the substances were banned, declining concentrations of chlorine and bromine have helped to limit human exposure to harmful UV rays from the sun that can cause skin cancer, cataracts and suppress the immune system. -DW

"Thanks to a global agreement, **humanity has averted a major health catastrophe due to ultraviolet radiation pouring through a massive hole in the ozone layer,**" said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last September 16, World Ozone Day.

War, markets: jan10 Roubini: More War Means More Inflation

War, journal: all major lies are for eithr military purposes or to force the population to do something for the greater good of the whole...jan10

Censorship, planet, war: jan10 Dr. Wallace Manheimer: Net-zero carbon policy will be the end of civilzation

Dr. Manheimer holds a physics PhD from MIT and has had a 50-year career in nuclear research, including work at the Plasma Physics Division at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory. He has published over 150 science papers. In his view, there is “certainly no scientific basis” for expecting a climate crisis from too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in the next century or so. **He argues that there is no reason why civilisation cannot advance using both fossil fuel power and nuclear power, gradually shifting to more nuclear power.**

Perhaps one of the best voices to cast doubt on an approaching climate crisis, suggests the author, is Professor Emeritus Richard Lindzen of MIT, one of the world’s leading authorities on geological fluid motions:

What historians will definitely wonder about in future centuries is how deeply flawed logic, obscured by shrewd and unrelenting propaganda, actually enabled a coalition of powerful special interests to convince nearly everyone in the world that CO2 from human industry was a dangerous planet-destroying toxin. It will be remembered as the greatest mass delusion in the history of the world – that CO2, the life of plants, was considered for a time to be a deadly poison.
While the Climate Always Has and Always Will Change, There Is no Climate Crisis

Wallace Manheimer

Abstract
The emphasis on a **false climate crisis** is becoming a tragedy for modern civilization, which depends on relible, economic, and environmentally viable energy. The windmills, solar panels and backup batteries have none if these qualities. This **falsehood is pushed by a powerful lobby which Bjorn Lomborg has called a climate industrial complex**, comprising some scientists, most media, industrialists, and legislators. It has **somehow managed to convince many that CO2 in the atmosphere, a gas necessary for life on earth, one which we exhale with every breath, is an environmental poison.** Multiple scientific theories and measurements show that there is no climate crisis. Radiation forcing calculations by both skeptics and

believers show that the carbon dioxide radiation forcicng is about 0.3% of the incident radiation, far less than other effects on climate. **Over the period of human civilization, the temperature has oscillated between quite a few warm and cold periods, with many of the warm periods being warmer than today**. During geological times, it and the carbon dioxide level have been all over the place with no correlation between them.

ccsenetdotorg/journal/index.php/jsd/article/view/0/47745

vaccine, health, stats, censorship: jan10 finally found a source on the mash thing. For some weird reason I haven't actually looked closely into it enough yet

A wealth of empirical evidence has accumulated in support of the premise that masking healthy people in community settings achieves no substantial reduction in levels of respiratory-virus transmission.

With regards to RCTs – the most robust type of evidence – a review of 14 such studies into the spread of influenza found that masks led to no significant reduction in risk of infection for neither the wearer nor others. As for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, a large RCT (often referred to as the 'Danish mask study'), using appropriately-fitted and high-quality surgical masks, failed to realise any significant benefit for the wearer.

Multiple real-world comparisons of masked and unmasked geographical regions, have not delivered consistent support for the benefits of face coverings. There have been many regions where recorded infection rates were higher in areas with mask mandates as compared to those without, such as shown in this comparison of Scottish and English schools during the autumn 2021 term and a pre-post mandate comparison in Texas. Furthermore, a Spanish study evaluating the impact of mask requirements on primary schools concluded they had no significant effect on rates of viral transmission, and another investigation found that American states with compulsory-mask regulations did not realise significantly lower rates of viral transmission than states that did without such mandates. Also, a recent Spanish study that examined over 300 people with covid-19 observed no association between risk of transmission and reported mask usage by their contacts.

Second, the virus is mainly spread by microscopic aerosols – not larger droplets – the former being far too small for masks to act as a barrier. Expert scientists have argued – despite some recent concerted efforts to censor their views – that cloth face coverings contain perforations that are far too big to act as a viral blockade and therefore 'offer zero protection'. Furthermore, one study concluded that cloth face coverings can amplify the spread of infectious particles by acting as a 'microniser' transforming large droplets, which would ordinarily fall to the ground close to the person, into smaller, truly airborne ones.

Impedes children's social development – Face-to-face interactions, and positive attachments to adult care givers, are essential for a child's social development. Masks deny children access to facial expressions, a rich source of information crucial for their psychological maturation and the growth of emotional intelligence. Disturbingly, an Ofsted report, published in April 2022, described the negative impact of covid-19 restrictions on children, highlighting their inability to understand facial expressions.

Enables criminals to evade identification – Unsurprisingly, there have been reports that widespread mask wearing is making it more difficult for police forces to identify crime suspects.

hartgroupdotorg/masks-do-more-harm-than-good/

war, middle east: jan10 **northern iraq offensive, 2014**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American-led_intervention_in_Iraq_(2014%E2%80%932021)

In June, Maliki accused unnamed regional countries, commanders and rival politicians of plotting the fall of Mosul, but has since remained quiet.

Nevertheless, Baghdad has pinned the blame on Gharawi. In late August, he was charged by the defense ministry with dereliction of duty. He is now awaiting the findings of an investigative panel and then a military trial. If found guilty, he could be sentenced to death. (Four federal police officers who served under Gharawi are also in custody awaiting trial, and could not be reached.) Parliament also plans to hold hearings into the loss of Mosul.

General Babakir Zebari was Gharawi’s superior and chief of staff for Iraq’s armed forces back in Baghdad. He agrees there were not enough men to defeat the jihadists. And Maliki had already rejected a chance to change that.

On June 7, Kurdistan President Massoud Barzani had offered to send Kurdish peshmerga fighters to help. The offer went all the way up to Maliki, who rejected it twice through his defense minister, according to Zebari.

United Nations and U.S. diplomats also attempted to broker an arrangement acceptable to Maliki, who remained suspicious of the Kurds’ intent. Maliki insisted there were more than enough Iraqi forces. Barzani’s office confirmed Kurdish offers of help were rejected.

On the afternoon of June 8, the Islamic State surged. More than 100 vehicles, carrying at least 400 men, had crossed to Mosul from Syria since the start of the battle.

Sleeper cells hiding in the city had been activated and neighbourhoods rallied to them, according to police and military.

And for now, Gharawi must take the blame for Mosul. Zebari believes that’s unfair. “Gharawi was an officer doing a job, but his luck ran out just like many other officers,” he said. “All of us have to shoulder some of the responsibility. Every one of us.”

Two weeks ago in Baghdad, face unshaven, voice hoarse, Gharawi indicated a begrudging acceptance of his fate, whatever it might be.

“Maybe I’ll be pardoned, maybe I’ll be imprisoned, maybe I’ll be hanged,” he said.

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-gharawi-special-report-idUSKCN0I30Z820141014

A major result of Saddam Hussein's defeat in the Gulf War (1991) and Operation Provide Comfort was the ultimate establishment of Kurdish control over their traditional homeland in northern Iraq, known as Iraqi Kurdistan and "South Kurdistan".
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masoud_Barzani

Lt. General **Mahdi Sabeh Al-Gharrawi** is an Iraqi police officer, the former Commander of the Iraqi Federal Police in Nineveh Province, and Lieutenant General of Iraqi Army.

Gharawi, along with several other military leaders, was dismissed from his position by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki on 17 June 2014 for failing in his "professional and military duty". His dismissal came a week after the fall of much of Northern Iraq to anti-government forces in the 2014 Northern Iraq offensive.[1] He was sentenced to death by a military tribunal.[2]

After serving two years in prison, Gharawi was released on 1 August 2020.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahdi_Al-Gharrawi

On 4 June, the insurgents began their efforts to capture Mosul. The Iraqi army officially had 30,000 soldiers and another 30,000 federal police stationed in the city, facing a 1,500-member attacking force. The Iraqi forces' actual numbers were much lower due to ghost soldiers, severely reducing combat ability.[10] After six days of combat and massive desertions, Iraqi soldiers received orders to retreat. The city of Mosul, including Mosul International Airport and the helicopters located there, all fell under ISIL's control. An estimated 500,000 civilians fled from the city.

A former commander of the Iraqi ground forces, Ali Ghaidan, accused former Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of being the one who issued the order to withdraw from the city of Mosul.[17]

Mosul remained under ISIL control for several years. Iraqi forces initiated an offensive on October 17, 2016, to retake the city; the Battle of Mosul ended in its liberation the following July.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_Mosul

The offensive resulted in 200,000 Yazidi civilians and 100,000 Iraqi Christians driven from their homes, 5,000 Yazidi men massacred, 5,000–7,000 Yazidi women enslaved, and a foreign military intervention against the Islamic State.

The ISIL capture of Sinjar on 3 August was accompanied by a massacre of thousands of Yazidi men, the selling of women into slavery, and 200,000 civilians fleeing Sinjar, of whom 50,000 fled to Mount Sinjar.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Iraq_offensive_(August_2014)

tech: jan10 (this was released in response to china saying that it had discovered how to crack RSA encryption (or something like that))
the quantum computing problem: The quantum bits, or qubits, used in today’s machines are highly unstable and only hold their quantum states for extremely short periods, creating “noise”. As a result, “errors accumulate in the computer and after around 100 operations there are so many errors the computation fails,” said Steve Brierley, CEO of quantum software company Riverlane.

https://www.ft.com/content/d64e45b4-692a-429e-bc64-146303ec7fdf

Hype around quantum computing recedes over lack of practical uses

China claims to have made a major breakthrough but western experts say any commercial benefits are still years away

Many companies are racing to prove that today’s quantum computers can perform tasks better than ‘classical’ machines © Adrien Nowak/Hans Lucas via Reuters

- Hype around quantum computing recedes over lack of practical uses on twitter (opens in a new window)
- Hype around quantum computing recedes over lack of practical uses on facebook (opens in a new window)
- Hype around quantum computing recedes over lack of practical uses on linkedin (opens in a new window)
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current progress 0%

Richard Waters in San Francisco

35 MINUTES AGO

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Are today’s rudimentary quantum computers already on the verge of significant feats beyond the reach of traditional computers? Or have their capabilities been exaggerated, as practical uses for the technology recede into the future?

These questions have been thrown into sharp relief in recent days by a claim from a group of Chinese researchers to have come up with a way to break the RSA encryption that underpins much of today’s online communications.

The likelihood that quantum computers would be able to crack online encryption was widely believed a danger that could lie a decade or more in the future. But the 24 researchers, from a number of China’s top universities and government-backed laboratories, said their research showed it could be possible using quantum technology that is already available.

The quantum bits, or qubits, used in today’s machines are highly unstable and only hold their quantum states for extremely short periods, creating “noise”. As a result, “errors accumulate in the computer and after around 100 operations there are so many errors the computation fails,” said Steve Brierley, CEO of quantum software company Riverlane.

That has led to a search for more stable qubits as well as error-correction techniques to overcome the “noise”, pushing back the date when quantum computers are likely to reach their full potential by many years.

The Chinese claim, by contrast, appeared to be an endorsement of today’s “noisy” systems, while also prompting a flurry of concern in the cyber security world over a potentially imminent threat to online security.

By late last week, a number of researchers at the intersection of advanced mathematics and quantum mechanics had thrown cold water on the claim.

Brierley at Riverlane said it “can’t possibly work” because the Chinese researchers had assumed that a quantum computer would be able to simply run a vast number of computations simultaneously, rather than trying to gain an advantage through applying the system’s quantum properties.

Peter Shor, the American mathematician who first proposed a way for quantum computers to crack encryption, predicted that the inability to run all the computations at once meant it would take “millions of years” for a quantum computer to run the calculation proposed in the paper.

The Chinese research comes at a time when many companies working on the technology are in a race to prove that today’s “noisy” systems can reach so-called quantum advantage — the point at which a quantum computer can perform a useful task more efficiently than a traditional, or “classical”, machine, ushering in commercial use of the technology.

Four years ago, John Preskill, a professor of theoretical physics at the California Institute of Technology, predicted that quantum systems would start to outperform and might have commercial uses once they reached 50-100 qubits in size. But that moment has come and gone without quantum systems showing any clear superiority. IBM unveiled a 127-qubit computer more than a year ago, and last month announced that a new 433-qubit processor would be available in the first quarter of 2023.

These days, Preskill sounds more cautious. “I expect that for practical applications with significant business value we’ll have to wait for error-corrected fault-tolerant quantum computers,” he said, adding that this was likely to be “a ways off”. But he added that today’s systems already had scientific value.

One reason that hopes have retreated is that new ways have been found to program classical computers to handle tasks that were once thought to be beyond them.

This has pushed back the quantum frontier, delaying the moment when people building quantum systems can claim an advantage, said Oskar Painter, head of quantum hardware in the cloud computing division at Amazon, one of the tech companies that is building its own quantum computer. “They never finally could say, ‘This will be better,’” he said.

After years of rising expectations, the lack of practical uses for the technology has led some experts to warn of a potential “quantum winter” — a period when disappointment about a new technology leads to a waning of interest for a number of years. The term is borrowed from the AI “winters” of the 1970s and 1980s, when a number of promising research avenues turned out to be dead ends, setting the field back for prolonged periods.

“People are worried it will be really harsh,” said Painter at Amazon Web Services. Like many in the field, though, he said that any short-term backlash was unlikely to hit long-term research funding. “I don’t think it will go away,” he added.

Receding hopes for early benefits from quantum computing have already contributed to a sharp fall in the stocks of a handful of companies that rode the wave of enthusiasm over the sector to go public since the middle of 2021.

Based on their peak share prices soon after they each went public, Arquit, IonQ, D-Wave and Rigetti reached a combined value of $12.5bn. That has since fallen to $1.4bn. Among the events to batter the quantum companies last year, IonQ was hit by a report from a short seller claiming its technology did not live up to its claims, while Rigetti founder Chad Rigetti was removed as CEO before quitting the company late in the year.

Part of the problem facing the sector has been an excess of “hype” about the technology, said Constantin Gonciulea, CTO of advanced technology at Wells Fargo. He compared the build-up of expectations around quantum to the crypto industry, as many non-experts have been drawn into the field and promises for the technology have far outgrown its potential in the near term.

Despite this, companies working on the first quantum machines and software still insist that practical uses of the technology are just around the corner — while continuing to carefully avoid giving too precise a prediction about exactly when that will be.

David Rivas, head of engineering and product at Rigetti, said that the company still believed it would reach quantum advantage when its computers have “a few hundred to a few thousand qubits”. Even if they can’t match the performance of today’s supercomputers, they will still be useful if they cost much less, or if they can operate faster or with more precision, he said.

For some quantum companies, the startling Chinese claim about online encryption was a sign that the technology’s big moment is drawing nearer. But for the doubters, the apparent impracticality of the research will serve as confirmation that quantum computing is still an impressive science experiment rather than a practical technology.

Tech, war , china: jan10 The moment a quantum computer breaks RSA and other cryptography is obviously as massive advantage for the given country; convention computers could take up to millions of years to breaks an RSA encrypted message. RSA encryption is the bedrock of online, secure communication, but will have to look into it more.

The moment a quantum computer breaks RSA and other cryptography solutions is known as Q-Day among researchers, and it could be anything from a few years to decades away. The significant advantage this would give to a government was cited by some experts as a reason to doubt the Chinese researchers, arguing that if they really had cracked 2048-bit RSA, the Chinese government would have classified the research.

Markets, inflation: jan10 **Goldman embarks on biggest cost-cutting drive since financial crisis**

China, censorship, stats: jan10 full spectrum dominance, of your life: china's new social credit score https://twitter.com/JamesMelville/status/1612431837145563136

crypto, tech: jan10 Coinbase Fires 20% Of Workforce; CEO Warns Of "Dark Times" In Crypto

war, china, vaccine: jan10 China Halts Visas Over 'Unfair' Japan, S.Korea Covid Travel Restrictions (both saying citizens from each respective country cannot enter china, or vise versa)

Starting last week Japan and South Korea halted the issuing of tourist visas for anyone coming from China, which Beijing slammed as "unacceptable" and "unscientific". The communist-run country has just fully opened up its borders after three years of lockdown.

according to the BBC, the most stringent measures remain for Chinese passengers entering South Korea. "At Seoul's Incheon International airport - the only South Korean airport still allowing flights from China - **arrivals are met by military personnel in personal protective equipment**," the report says.

Nikkei Asia has confirmed that China's retaliatory measures have quickly taken effect:

The Chinese Embassy in South Korea earlier in the day said it has ***stopped issuing short-term visas for family visits, business, tourism, medical and other matters****.*

Japanese travel agencies, meanwhile, told Nikkei that they can no longer apply for business visas or other visas for China for non-humanitarian purposes.

And the spat is directly influencing how Chinese are planning their first post-Covid travel itineraries, with CNBC relating the following from interviews:

"When China said they were opening the borders in January, all my friends said they’re going to Japan and Korea," said Bonnie.

But they couldn’t get visas, she said. "So they are now going to Thailand."

Rein said Chinese travelers are ***now headed to Singapore and Thailand because "both countries are welcoming us."***

one South African man living in China said "I know that many patriotic Chinese colleagues and friends **will avoid those countries for now because the**

practice of only testing passengers arriving from China is discriminatory."

"The actions can be adjusted if South Korea cancels its discriminatory entry ban against China," the Chinese embassy in Seoul clarified in a statement.

Markets, crypto, stats: jan10 Recursive trades between Grayscale trust and the Three Arrows Capital hedge fund allegedly inflated assets and fees, according to open letter from the Gemini president...

The letter followed a Jan. 2 appeal on Twitter to Silbert directly**, in which the Gemini co-founder said Genesis owed Gemini $900 million, **accusing the CEO of hiding "behind lawyers, investment bankers, and process."

*As a standalone business, it's inconceivable that Genesis would have lent so much money to 3AC given the low quality of the collateral that 3AC posted. Genesis made these loans because it was one piece of a much larger scheme designed to enrich the greater DCG enterprise. More specifically, Genesis was willing to recklessly lend to 3AC because 3AC was using the money for the kamikaze Grayscale net asset value (NAV) trade - **a recursive trade that ballooned the AUM of the Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (ticker: GBTC) and, as a consequence, the fees earned by its sponsor**, Grayscale Investments, LLC (Grayscale), a wholly owned subsidiary of DCG.*

*Genesis booked these interactions with 3AC as bona fide, collateralized loans. It is becoming clear, however, that this was not the case at all. In reality, 3AC was acting as a mere conduit for Genesis, allowing it to enter into what were effectively swap transactions of bitcoin for GBTC shares with the Grayscale Trust. In this transaction, Genesis was betting that shares would be worth more than bitcoin in the future. The 3AC "loan" was the bitcoin leg of the swap and the 3AC "collateral" was the GBTC leg of the swap. **3AC was a mule shuttling the assets between the parties, and as a result Genesis ended up owning massive risk.***

Up until 2021, Genesis won this zero-sum trade because the GBTC shares were worth more than bitcoin. Starting in 2021, however, Genesis lost this trade because the shares were worth less than bitcoin. Normally, all things being equal, the gains and losses would cancel each other out. There is no free lunch. In other words, Genesis would participate in both the wins and losses. Astonishingly, however, it appears that Genesis never participated in the wins because it apparently always ceded them - the GBTC share premium - to 3AC.

This meant that Genesis only participated in the losses, turning what would otherwise have been a zero-sum trade into a negative-sum trade. Crazy town.

Disturbingly, not only did Genesis not close out 3AC's position when the NAV trade inverted (something any rational, independently operated business would have done), it continued to lend to 3AC on attractive terms and accept GBTC as collateral. *For Grayscale, this had the desired effect of keeping GBTC shares from being sold into the market, which would have depressed the share price and further widened the discount to NAV. But for Genesis, this had the undesired effect of keeping its risk position open and allowing it to grow.*

cointelegraphdotcom/news/cameron-winklevoss-there-is-no-path-forward-as-long-as-barry-silbert-remains-ceo-of-dcg

tech, china, war: JAN10 Apple is Broadcom's largest customer, accounting for about 20% of Broadcoms revenue, amounting to about $7 billion last year

war, Erdogan: jan10 Turkish media reported that out of 124,000 undocumented refugees, 68,000 of them were Afghans in 2022.

War, energy, markets: jan10 Oil Price Hikes Push Many to Resort to Burning Wood to Stay Warm in Iraqi Kurdistan https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/090120231

tech, censorship, war, iran: jan10
Meta Oversight Board Agrees to Allow 'Death to Khamenei' Posts

War, Erdogan, middle east: jan10 Turkey frequently strikes Kurdish military targets in northern Syria. It has also conducted three full-blown invasions of the area since 2016, seizing territory from Kurdish-led forces.

Turkey claimed Sunday that it had killed, injured or arrested several members of Kurdish-led forces in northern Syria, amid its sustained threats of a full-scale operation in the area.

War, media: jan10 **Mexico Says 3,586 Soldiers Involved in Operation to Capture El Chapo's Son Ovidio Guzman**

War, Africa: jan10 Rwanda Says It Can Take No More Refugees From DR Congo

War, history: Chagos Islands dispute: Three years before independence, the UK severed the Chagos Islands from the rest of Mauritius so it could lease Diego Garcia to the US for military use.

Mauritius, a British colony until its independence in 1968, claims the remote

Mauritius, a British colony until its independence in 1968, claims the remote Chagos Islands as its own territory.

Three years before independence, the UK severed the Chagos Islands from the rest of Mauritius so it could lease Diego Garcia to the US for military use.

The British government then forcibly deported 2,000 Chagossians. A newly published book by the barrister and historian Philippe Sands KC, The Last Colony, chronicles how the British shut down the islands' plantations and cut off food supplies, with families told they had no option but to leave by ship by 27 April 1973 or slowly starve.

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War, Erdogan: jan10 NATO Chief: Sweden Has Done What's Needed to Join Alliance

In May, Sweden and neighboring Finland dropped their longstanding policies of military nonalignment and applied to join NATO following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The move requires the unanimous approval of the alliance members. Turkey has held up the process while pressing the two Nordic countries to crack down on groups it considers to be terrorist organizations and to extradite people suspected of terror-related crimes.

Last month, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Sweden was not even “halfway” through fulfilling the commitments it made to secure Ankara's support. His remarks came after a Swedish court ruled against extraditing a man wanted by Turkey for alleged links to a 2016 failed coup.

Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson has said that Sweden has lived up to its commitments and that the decision now “lies with Turkey.”

“Legislation banning participation in terrorist organizations is being implemented, and Turkey is known to name individuals it wants extradited. It is also known that Sweden has legislation that is clear and means that it is up to the courts. We also do not extradite Swedish citizens to any country.”

There was no immediate reaction from Turkey to the comments by Stoltenberg and Kristersson.

The parliaments of 28 NATO countries have already ratified Sweden and Finland's membership. Turkey and Hungary are the only members that haven't yet given their approval.

War, energy, markets: jan10 norway production 2022 in slightly mre detail; still concise

“Only rarely have we seen so much oil and gas produced on the Norwegian shelf as was the case last year – and only rarely have we seen such significant investment decisions,” the NPD said in its yearly overview of the production and investment activity on the Norwegian Continental Shelf.

In 2022, Norway’s gas production was 9 billion standard cubic meters higher compared with 2021. Gas now accounts for more than half of production from the shelf, the Norwegian authority said.

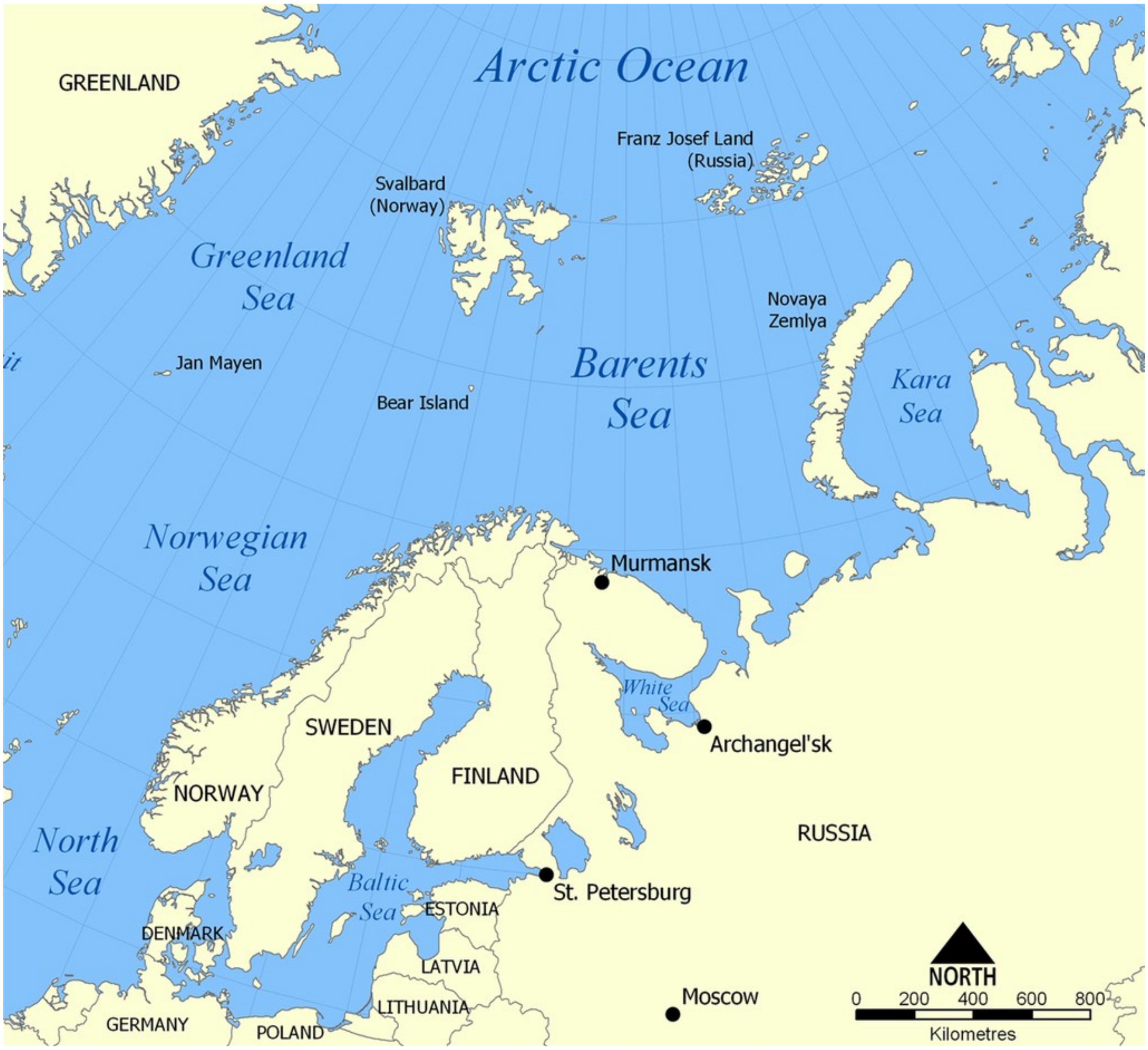
“Production is extremely high, and it will continue to grow in the years to come. Gas production is projected to remain at around 2022 levels for the next four to five years,” the directorate said.

The consistently high production has been the result of the higher number of producing fields, as several start-ups took place last year, as well as older fields producing longer and producing more than previously expected, according to the NPD.

Natural gas production in Norway, which supplies around 25% of the gas consumed in the EU and the UK, was expected to rise by 8 percent in 2022 compared to 2021, government estimates showed at the end of 2022.

In the summer of 2022, Norway’s authorities approved applications from operators to boost production from several operating gas fields, to allow higher gas production as its key partners, the EU and the UK, scrambled for gas supply ahead of the winter.
https://www.npd.no/en/facts/news/general-news/2023/investments-for-the-future-on-the-shelf/

war, journal: jan10 Barents sea: looks like this location is prime area for a turf war with russia


Arctic Ocean
GREENLAND
Franz Josef Land
(Russia)
Svalbard
(Norway)
Greenland
Sea
Novaya
Zemlya
Jan Mayen
Barents
Sea
Kara
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Bear Island
Norwegian
Sea
Murmansk
White
Sea
Archangel'sk
SWEDEN
FINLAND
NORWAY
RUSSIA
North
Sea
Baltic
Sea
St. Petersburg
ESTONIA
DENMARK
LATVIA
NORTH
LITHUANIA
Moscow
0 200 400 600 800
Kilometres
GERMANY
POLAND

War, stats, energy:
The Norwegian continental shelf is the area over which Norway exercises sovereign rights as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; The area of the shelf is four times the area of Norway mainland and constitutes about one-third of the Europe continental shelf; It is rich in petroleum and gas

and it is the base of the petroleum economy of Norway.

Utvinningsløyve per 20.juni 2016

Den norske kontinentalsokkelen

Oppdaterte fakta er tilgjengeleg via *www.npd.no* og OD sine *Faktasider* og *Faktakart*.
Sjå også nettstaden *www.norskpetroleum.no* som tilbyr tilrettelagde fakta om norsk petroleumsverksemd.

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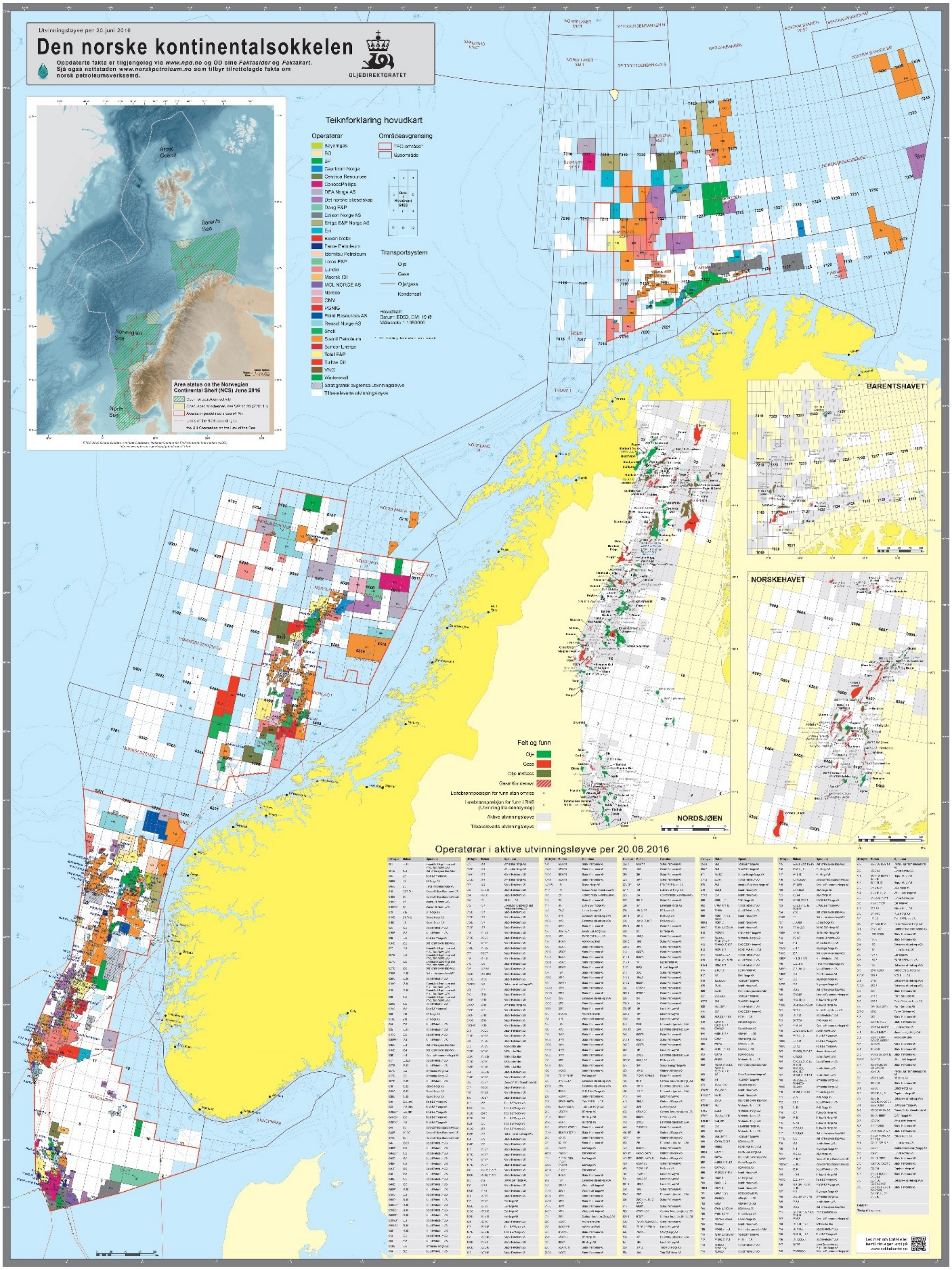

Area status on the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS) June 2016

- ▨ Open for petroleum activity
- 🟨 Open, special schemes, see WP no 28 (2010-11)
- ☐ Awards in predefined areas (APA)
- — Limits of the NCS according to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

Teiknforklaring hovudkart

Operatørar

- 🟩 Bayerngas
- 🟨 BG
- 🟩 BP
- 🟦 Capricorn Norge
- 🟫 Centrica Resources
- 🟪 ConocoPhillips
- 🟪 DEA Norge AS
- 🟪 Det norske oljeselskap
- 🟩 Dong E&P
- ⬛ Edison Norge AS
- 🟫 Engie E&P Norge AS
- 🟦 Eni
- 🟥 Exxon Mobil
- 🟦 Faroe Petroleum
- 🟧 Idemitsu Petroleum
- 🟩 Lotos E&P
- 🟥 Lundin
- 🟧 Maersk Oil
- 🟪 MOL NORGE AS
- 🟪 Noreco
- 🟥 OMV
- 🟥 PGNIG
- 🟦 Point Resources AS
- 🟦 Repsol Norge AS
- 🟩 Shell
- 🟧 Statoil Petroleum
- 🟥 Suncor Energy
- 🟨 Total E&P
- 🟥 Tullow Oil
- 🟫 VNG
- 🟩 Wintershall
- ▨ Strategisk avgrensa utvinningsløyve
- ☐ Tilbakelevarde utvinningsløyve

Områdeavgrensing

- ☐ TFO-område*
- ☐ Subområde

Transportsystem

- — Olje
- — Gass
- — Olje/gass
- — Kondensat

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Datum: ED50, CM: 15 Ø
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* TFO: Tildeling i førehandsdefinerte område

Felt og funn

- 🟩 Olje
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- ▨ Olje m/Gass
- ▨ Gass/Kondensat
- • Leitebrønnposisjon for funn utan omriss
- • Leitebrønnposisjon for funn i RK6 (Utvinning lite sannsynleg)
- ☐ Aktive utvinningsløyve
- ☐ Tilbakelevarde utvinningsløyve

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History, Erdogan, war: jan10 **turk greece fight is being staged on cypris, somehting I just learned now: makes sense...**

The island of Cyprus was split after a 1974 Turkish invasion spurred by a brief coup engineered by the military then ruling Greece. Turkey does not recognise Cyprus's Greek government. Attempts over the years to broker peace between the two sides have failed.

Stats, sanctions, energy, Russia: jan10 **mar.13: Sanctions have frozen around $300 bln of Russian reserves, FinMin says**

https://www.reuters.com/article/ukraine-crisis-russia-reserves-idUSL5N2VG0BU

war: jan10 **A Russian merchant ship whose owner has allegedly carried weapons for the Kremlin turned off its transponder last month before surreptitiously docking at South Africa’s largest naval base, where it delivered and loaded unidentified cargoes, according to witnesses and a senior U.S. official.**

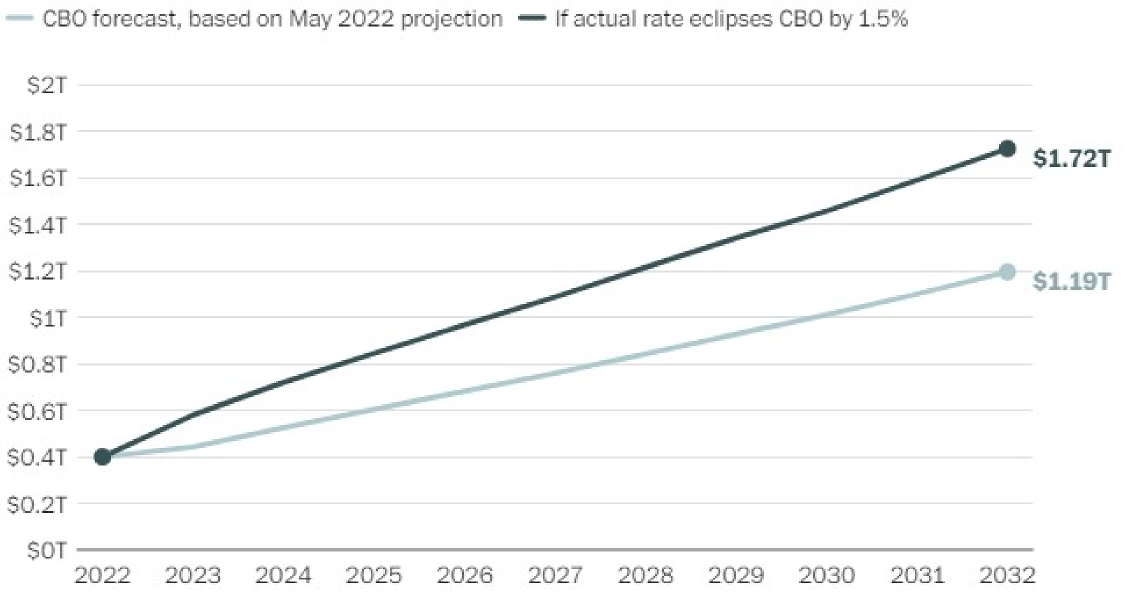
A senior U.S. official said Washington was concerned by the support the South African armed forces provided to the Lady R, including allowing it to enter and move cargo at a naval base while its automatic identification system was switched off.

Government, inflation, markets: jan10 **gov interest payments: Total interest payments on the government's debt could come in at nearly $580 billion this fiscal year, up from $399 billion in recently-completed fiscal 2022. That would bring the total interest cost in 2023 to roughly the same level as the federal government's 2022 budget for Medicaid.**

The publicly held national debt hit 100 percent of GDP and is heading toward the record of 106 percent set in 1946, at the conclusion of the worst war in human history. Within a decade the US faces trillion-dollar deficits for as far as government analysts can budget. By mid-century the Congressional Budget Office expects the debt/GDP ratio to run around 185 percent.

Check? Please.

The projected annual cost, in trillions of dollars, of interest payments on U.S. government debt each fiscal year.



Source: CBO, author's calculations

ALLAN SLOAN / THE WASHINGTON POST

washingtonpostdotcom/business/2022/10/13/debt-interest-rates/

war, stats: jan10 **2022 deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since …2005 according to UN Mideast Envoy, Tor Wennesland**

Moroccans, like other Arab nations, are following the news with alarm, especially following the swearing-in of Israel's new extremist government of Benjamin Netanyahu and his far-right fascist ilk – the likes of Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir.

"Ben-Gvir, a settler in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, has faced charges of hate speech against Arabs and was known to have a portrait in his living room of Israeli-American terrorist Baruch Goldstein, who massacred 29 Palestinian Muslim worshipers and wounded 125 others in Hebron, in the 1994 Cave of the Patriarchs massacre. He removed the portrait after he entered politics.[3] He was also previously convicted of supporting a terrorist group known as Kach, which espoused Kahanism, an extremist religious Zionist ideology.[6]"

His father was born in Jerusalem to Iraqi Jewish immigrants.

Ministry of National Security (Israel)

is the statewide law enforcement agency and oversees the Israel Police, the Israel Prison Service and the Israel National Fire and Rescue Services, Israel Border Police, National Headquarters for the Protection of Children on the Internet, National Authority for Community Safety and The Authority for Witness Protection.

Until 1995 the position was known as Minister of Police.

Israel wants to normalize with the Arabs and tap into their massive markets and economic largesse without having, in return, to relinquish its military Occupation or grant Palestinians basic freedoms. Politically engaged Arab masses understand this well, and are growingly mobilizing against their governments' betrayal of Palestine.

War, china: jan10 **add: Lieutenant General James Bierman, commanding general of the Third Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) and of Marine Forces Japan confirms what merkel recently revealed in a a rare interview in december snce her departure as chanceller f germany in an interview with the financial times: Re: improtant breakdown on the ukraine-russia-germany situation: in rare interview since her 16 years chanceller of germany, angela merkel gives her opinion on ukraines minks agreement, surprising commentators by saying that the 2014 minsk agreements were just meant to buy timne for ukraine to arm themselves for an eventually war**

Bierman said that the US and its allies in Asia were emulating the groundwork that had enabled western countries to support Ukraine’s resistance to Russia in preparing for scenarios such as a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

“Why have we achieved the level of success we’ve achieved in Ukraine? A big part of that has been because after Russian aggression in 2014 and 2015, we earnestly got after preparing for future conflict: training for the Ukrainians, pre-positioning of supplies, identification of sites from which we could operate support, sustain operations,” he said.

“We call that setting the theatre. And we are setting the theatre in Japan, in the Philippines, in other locations.”

Bierman’s unusually frank comparison between the Ukraine war and a potential conflict with China comes as Beijing has dramatically increased the scale and sophistication of its military manoeuvres near Taiwan in recent years. Japan and the Philippines are also intensifying defence co-operation with the US in the face of mounting Chinese assertiveness.

Shinzo Abe, the former prime minister of Japan and a serving member of the House of Representatives, was assassinated on 8 July 2022 while speaking at a political event outside Yamato-Saidaiji Station in Nara City, Nara Prefecture, Japan.[3][4][5] While delivering a campaign speech for a Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) candidate, he was shot from behind at close range by a man with a homemade firearm.[1] Abe was transported by a medical helicopter to Nara Medical University Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.[6]

Censorship, government: jan10 The Oregon Department of Education has released a document advising schools to keep their gender identities at school secret from

“Parent and family support is the goal when supporting gender expansive students, but may not be possible in all situations,” according to the document.

“**Schools should refer to their current policies when there may be a safety concern**. To the extent possible, schools should refrain from revealing information about a student’s gender identity, even to parents, caregivers, or other school administrators, without permission from the student.”

Markets, war, energy: jan10 Black Sea Shipping Rates Jump 20%

Last year, the Lloyd’s of London market declared the Black Sea and Sea of Azov waters a high risk zone before Russia’s invasion of Ukraine began on Feb. 24, meaning even ships entering areas not close to Ukraine required an additional war policy.

Known as breach cover, the policy has to be renewed every seven days.

Industry sources say breach war policies for hull insurance are up by 20%-25% since the end of last year, which translates into additional costs of tens of thousands of dollars a day for a single voyage, and they are expected to rise further.

“For shipments going in and out of Russia you will find premiums going up. It could easily rise by 50% (from the end of last year) to reflect the cost of capital from not being reinsured,” another marine insurance source said.

The rates are calculated as a percentage of the value of a ship. Ships values vary from around $20 million for older vessels to over $100 to $250 million for ultra modern tankers and liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessels.

The cost of transporting crude oil from non-Russian Black Sea ports is estimated at $80,000 a day for the smaller aframax tankers, slightly firmer from the end of last year.

Average tanker freight costs for aframaxes from Russian ports are quoted at $180,000 to $200,000 a day. The freight rates exclude the additional war risk premiums plus other expenses such as fuel.

Rises in separate cargo war insurance are also set to hit traders.

Around 90% of the war risk market for marine and aviation is insured in Lloyd’s SOLYD.UL and the wider London commercial insurance market, industry sources say.

hellenicshippingnewsdotcom/black-sea-shipping-rates-rise-as-reinsurers-cut-cover/

war : jan10 **sweden reinstitutes conscription....wow**

war, middle east, history: jan9 **Syria’s Arab League membership was suspended in November of 2011 following the start of the Syrian war, and it has been excluded ever since.; syria peace talks being framed with the key word "normalization"**

war: jan9 **US Department of State spokesman, Ned Price: We do not support countries upgrading their relations or expressing support to rehabilitate the brutal dictator Bashar al-Assad. We urge states to carefully consider the Assad regime’s atrocious human rights record**

The spokesman’s remarks are in reference to the first high-level meeting since 2011 between Turkish and Syrian defense officials that took place in Moscow in December 2022.

The tripartite talks were described as “constructive” and tackled various topics of shared concerns, including the refugee crisis and the effort to fight terrorist-designated groups in Syria.

Erdogan, war: jan9 **Erdogan remarks ahead of moscow-syria-turkish meeting, the first of it's kind since 2011:As Russia-Turkey-Syria, we have launched a process through the meeting of our intelligence chiefs and defense ministers in Moscow. Then, God willing, we will bring our foreign ministers together trilaterally. Then, depending on the developments, we will come together as leaders."**

Markets: jan9 **"This Could Get Very Ugly, Very Quickly": In His Latest Dismal Forecast, Mike Wilson Sees Stocks Tumbling Another 22%**

Housing, markets: jan9 **Australia’s Property values record fastest rate of Downturn in History**

Inflation, markets, government, stats: jan9 **Michael A. Gayed, CFA: "Powell will go down in history as having destroyed more wealth than all other Fed Chairs combined.**
twitterdotcom/leadlagreport/status/1612465219917193216?

Sanctions, war, energy: jan9 **German Economic Institute: "The risk of a gas shortage in the 2022/23 winter season is no longer as present as it was in the summer of 2022, and energy prices have also retreated since then. However, they remain at a high level and production disruptions cannot be ruled out,"**
https://www.investing.com/news/economy/around-40-of-german-companies-expect-output-decline-in-2023--iw-institute-2975631

markets, stats, inflation: jan9 Annual food inflation jumped to 13.3% in December, up from 12.4% in November, according to the latest monthly report from trade body the British Retail Consortium

war: jan9 crazy stuff going in brazil right now, historic their saying, former president in hospital for unknown reason

crypto, censorship, stats: jan9 largest shareholder (34.22%) of South Korean cryptocurrency exchange Bithumb, found dead mysteriously in front of his house in the early morning; Mr. Park Mo was found dead after an investigation had been launched against him for embezzlement and stock price manipulation.
Mr. Park Mo, the vice president of Vidente — the largest shareholder of South Korean Cryptocurrency exchange Bithumb — was reportedly found dead in front of his home at 4:00 am local time on the morning of Dec. 30.

Prior to his death, Mr. Mo had been named as a primary suspect in an investigation launched by South Korean prosecutors for his alleged involvement in the embezzling funds at Bithumb-related companies, as well as manipulating stock prices.

https://cointelegraph.com/news/bithumb-s-largest-shareholder-executive-found-dead-following-allegations-of-embezzlement

crypto, markets, stats: jan9 4 crypto billionaires dead in the span of a month. Just before, and during the FTX collapse, wall street silver, 1:33am, today

Russian billionaire Vyacheslav Taran is the latest crypto entrepreneur to have died under mysterious circumstances after his helicopter crashed in good weather.

According to original reports from the *Monaco Daily News*, both Taran and the helicopter’s 35-year-old pilot died after the aircraft crashed around 1pm on November 25, near the resort town of Villefranche-sur-Mer after taking off from Lausanne in Switzerland.

Taran was travelling in a single-engine Eurocopter EC130 (Airbus H130) operated by Monacair. The billionaire’s death was subsequently confirmed by the Russian Embassy in Paris on Monday.

Another unidentified passenger was scheduled to join Taran on the flight, but they cancelled at the last minute, according to local news sources.

The Deputy Public Prosecutor of Nice, who visited the scene of the crash said that the fault of an as of yet unidentified third party could not yet be ruled out.

Taran was the co-founder of trading and investment platforms Libertex and Forex Club. His company, Forex Club was stripped of its license in Russia in 2018 for allegedly ripping off investors, according to a report by *Life*, a pro-Russian media outlet.

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Life's official website claimed that Taran, "has many dissatisfied clients and enemies in Russia, who could well get him abroad".

The suspicious deaths of Russian oligarchs

Taran's name joins a growing list of Russian oligarchs with ties to Vladimir Putin who have all died in seemingly suspicious circumstances this year.

Less than two weeks ago, cryptocurrency entrepreneur Tiantian Kullander, the co-founder of Amber Group, who was just 30 years old and widely regarded to be in "good health" died unexpectedly in his sleep from unknown causes. Sudden death during sleep in healthy 30-year-olds is statistically uncommon.

Another wealthy Russian businessman to die in peculiar circumstances was Ivan Pechorin. Pechorin was Putin's top manager for developing Russia's vast Arctic resources. On September 10 his body was discovered after he reportedly fell off the side of a boat in waters close to Russky Island.

Earlier this year, 67-year-old oil magnate Ravil Maganov "fell from a window" at a Moscow hospital. His company Lukoil had criticised the war in Ukraine.

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55-year-old Sergey Protosenya was found dead in Spain. His body was discovered alongside his wife and daughter who were found dead in their beds with axe wounds. Protosenya was the deputy chairman of Novatek, the largest independent natural gas producer in Russia.

Newspaper editor Vladimir Sungorkin, 68, suffered a stroke and suffocated while on his way to lunch. Oil billionaire Alexander Subbotin, 52, was found dead in a shaman's house after he died from a "drug-induced heart attack".

Subbotin allegedly went to the shaman's home "in a state of severe alcoholic and drug intoxication" a day before his death, reported Russian news outlet *TASS*.

Bill Browder, an American-born British financier who was once the largest foreign portfolio investor in Russia, told *Newsweek* that people should automatically "assume the worst" any time they see "a wealthy Russian dying in suspicious circumstances."

"There has been enough empirical evidence of assassinations organised by the Kremlin or business rivals in Russia, to make it likely that these were murders and not suicides and other explanations that have been bandied about by the Russian authorities," Browder added.

Taran's wife pens an open letter

The deceased billionaire's wife, Olga Taran has since released an open letter urging journalists to stop spreading "lies" that suggested her husband was linked to the shady business dealings of Russian elites.

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"The Ukrainian news website UNIAN.net published a story that my husband allegedly was a billionaire and was involved in money laundering for Russian elites and on top of that, they claimed him to be a Russian spy," she wrote.

"I urge all Western journalists who cite UNIAN.net to stop spreading the lies (Will Steward and Rachael Bunyan from Daily Mail, Aliki Kraterou from The Sun). My children have already been bullied because of these accusations and I am concerned for their safety," she added.

Markets, inflation, censorship, stats: jan9 **Used-Car Prices Record "Largest Annualized Decline In Series' History" (chgart basically looks the exact same as m2 money supply--many charts do it seems; this straight up, then straight down pattern)**

War, Russia: jan9 **escalation: Nikolai Patrushev, seen as a likely successor to putin, and secretary of the Security Council of Russia since 2008, the top official defense board for the country, says: "The events in Ukraine aren’t a clash between Moscow and Kiev. It’s a military confrontation of NATO, first of all the US and Britain, with Russia. Fearing a direct engagement, NATO instructors push Ukrainian men to certain death,"**

"The events in Ukraine aren’t a clash between Moscow and Kiev. **It’s a military confrontation of NATO, first of all the US and Britain, with Russia**. Fearing a direct engagement, NATO instructors push Ukrainian men to certain death," he said in a fresh interview with state-owned newspaper aif.ru.

"**We are not at war with Ukraine** because we can’t have hatred for ordinary Ukrainians by default," he stressed. He then presented Russian and Ukrainian heritage and closely bound up together, according to state media:

"Get this: the Ukrainian language is one of the official languages in Crimea. Ukrainian cultural centers, Ukrainian folk song and dance groups continue to exist in many cities. A considerable number of people in the south of the Far East regard Ukrainian culture as their own, given a large proportion of migrants from the times of Stolypin," he said, referring to Pyotr Stolypin, a prime minister of the Russian Empire in the early 1900s, who oversaw a resettlement policy.

"The sooner the people of Ukraine realize that the West is using them to wage a war on Russia, the more lives will be saved," Patrushev added. "Many have realized that long ago, but they are afraid to say that publicly out of fear of reprisals. It’s not a part of the West’s plans to save someone’s life to the detriment of its enrichment and other ambitions. Even so, the Americans, the British and other Europeans often create an illusion that they protect civilization from barbarians."

Rome, history, stats: **Cloaca Maxima**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloaca_Maxima

rome, history, fall of rome: **Classical antiquity:the period of cultural history between the 8th century BC and the 5th century AD centred on the Mediterranean Sea, comprising the interlocking civilizations of ancient Greece and ancient Rome known as the Greco-Roman world.**

Conventionally, it is taken to begin with the earliest-recorded Epic Greek poetry of Homer (8th–7th-century BC), and continues through the emergence of Christianity (1st century AD) and the fall of the Western Roman Empire (5th-century AD). It ends with the decline of classical culture during late antiquity (250–750), a period overlapping with the Early Middle Ages (600–1000). Such a wide span of history and territory covers many disparate cultures and periods. *Classical antiquity* may also refer to an idealized vision among later people of what was, in Edgar Allan Poe's words, "the glory that was Greece, and the grandeur that was Rome".[3]

This Greco-Roman cultural foundation has been immensely influential on the language, politics, law, educational systems, philosophy, science, warfare, poetry, historiography, ethics, rhetoric, art and architecture of the modern world. Surviving fragments of classical culture led to a revival beginning in the 14th century which later came to be known as the Renaissance, and various neo-classical revivals occurred in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Late antiquity saw the rise of Christianity under Constantine I, finally ousting the Roman imperial cult with the Theodosian decrees of 393. Successive invasions of Germanic tribes finalized the decline of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century, while the Eastern Roman Empire persisted throughout the Middle Ages, in a state called the Roman Empire by its citizens, and labeled the Byzantine Empire by later historians.

Many writers have attempted to put a specific date on the symbolic "end" of antiquity with the most prominent dates being the deposing of the last Western Roman Emperor in 476,[17][18] the closing of the last Platonic Academy in Athens by the Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian I in 529,[19] and the conquest of much of the Mediterranean by the new Muslim faith from 634 to 718.[20] These Muslim conquests, of Syria (637), Egypt (639), Cyprus (654), North Africa (665), Hispania (718), Southern Gaul (720), Crete

(820), and Sicily (827), Malta (870) (and the sieges of the Eastern Roman capital, First Arab Siege of Constantinople (674–78) and Second Arab Siege of Constantinople (717–18)) severed the economic, cultural, and political links that had traditionally united the classical cultures around the Mediterranean, ending antiquity (see Pirenne Thesis).[20]

The original Roman Senate continued to express decrees into the late 6th century, and the last Eastern Roman emperor to use Latin as the language of his court in Constantinople was emperor Maurice, who reigned until 602. The overthrow of Maurice by his mutinying Danube army under Phocas resulted in the Slavic invasion of the Balkans and the decline of Balkan and Greek urban culture (leading to the flight of Balkan Latin speakers to the mountains, see Origin of the Romanians), and also provoked the Byzantine–Sasanian War of 602–628 in which all the great eastern cities except Constantinople were lost. The resulting turmoil did not end until the Muslim conquests of the 7th century finalized the irreversible loss of all the largest Eastern Roman imperial cities besides the capital itself. The emperor Heraclius in Constantinople, who emerged during this period, conducted his court in Greek, not Latin, though Greek had always been an administrative language of the eastern Roman regions. Eastern-Western links weakened with the ending of the Byzantine Papacy.

The Eastern Roman empire's capital city of Constantinople was left as the only unconquered large urban center of the original Roman empire, as well as being the largest city in Europe. Yet many classical books, sculptures, and technologies survived there along with classical Roman cuisine and scholarly traditions, well into the Middle Ages, when much of it was "rediscovered" by visiting Western crusaders. Indeed, the inhabitants of Constantinople continued to refer to themselves as Romans, as did their eventual conquerors in 1453, the Ottomans. (see Rûm and Romaioi.) The classical scholarship and culture that was still preserved in Constantinople were brought by refugees fleeing its conquest in 1453 and helped to spark the Renaissance (see Greek scholars in the Renaissance).

Ultimately, it was a slow, complex, and graduated change in the socio-economic structure in European history that led to the changeover between Classical antiquity and Medieval society and no specific date can truly exemplify that.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_antiquity

rome, history, stats: **add this to roman engineering, forgot**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pliny_the_Elder

tech, rome, stats: jan9 **roman concrete was self-healing, according to paper by MIT professor of civil and environmental engineering Admir Masic, former doctoral student Linda Seymour ’14, PhD ’21, and four others.**

The authors examined the chemical composition and nanostructure of the ancient Roman concrete samples and discovered that the lime clast gave concrete the ability to self-heal. Whenever a crack is formed, the white chunks react with water, causing the recrystallization of calcium carbonate and, eventually, the closing of the crack.

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/19-greatest-inventions-of-the-roman-empire-that-helped-shape-the-modern-world

betyter link here
https://news.mit.edu/2023/roman-concrete-durability-lime-casts-0106

history, stats, rome: jan9 **roman engineering was actually better portrayed by their sanitation ystems, something that would be lost to civilization for**

Romans were very knowledgeable when it came to civil engineering. But their talent wasn't limited to building large structures like the Colesseum or roadways. While it may seem less visually impressive, their engineering excellence is highlighted by their sewage and sanitary plumbing systems.

These consisted of a mixture of masonry, early concrete, and in some circumstances, lead piping.

The drainage pipes were connected and flushed regularly, with the water running off streams. Romans also used covered gutter systems and public bathrooms, ensuring the streets were clear of human waste. This improved the aesthetics of large population centers and drastically improved public health.

With the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the ability to build and maintain these structures was rapidly lost, with many post-Roman nations in Europe regressing hundreds of years in terms of sanitation. They would only develop similar systems over a thousand years later.

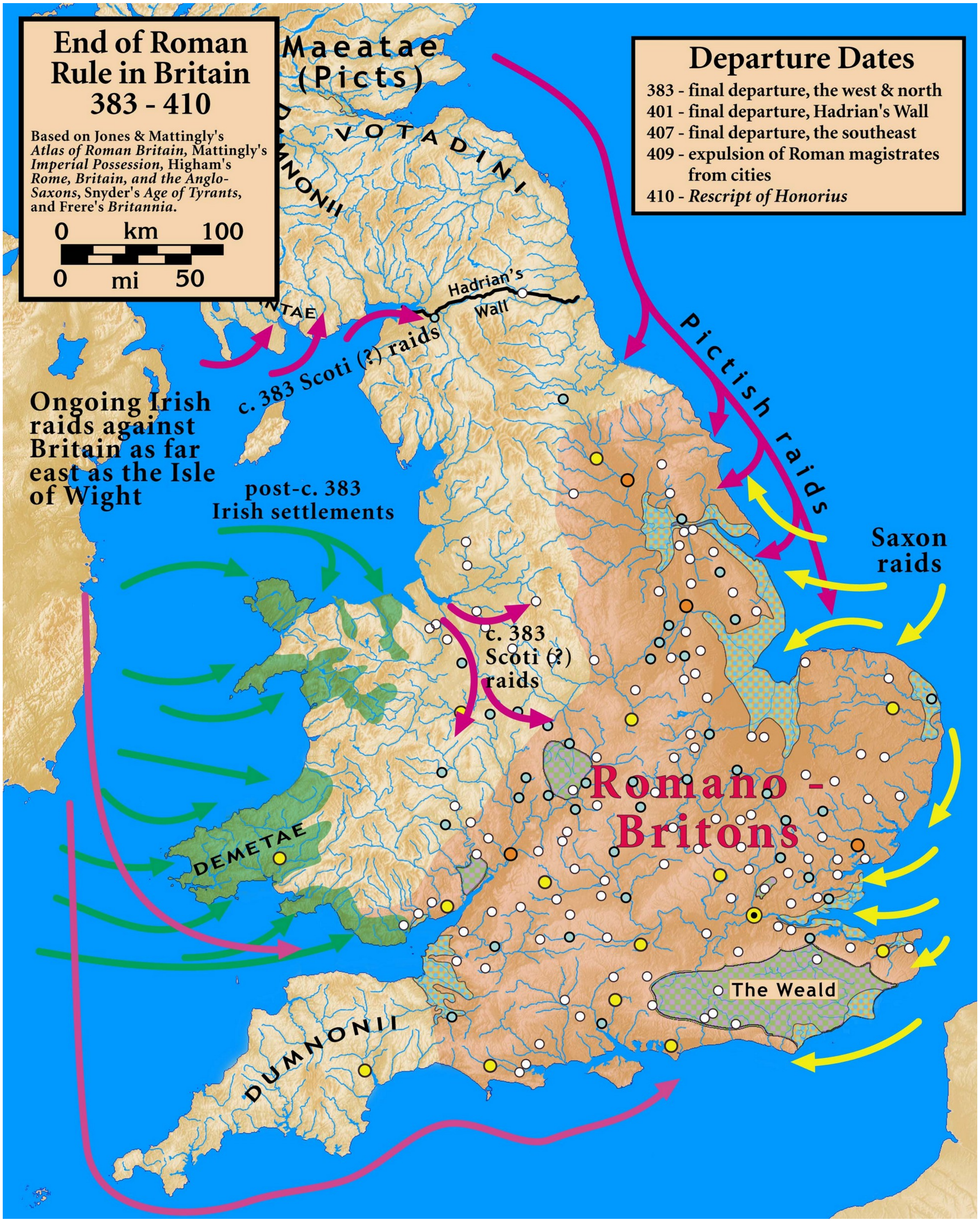
Some systems, like the *Cloaca Maxima* in Rome, would continue to be used up to the modern day.

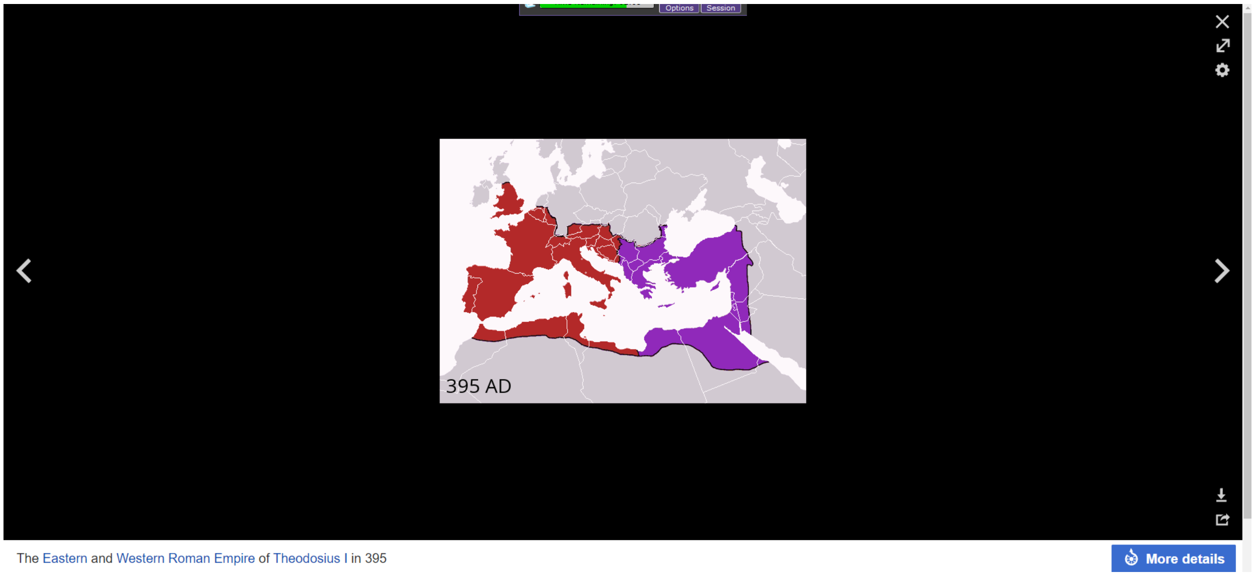
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_aquaeductu

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Roman_engineering

fall of rome, history, markets, Germany, holy roman empire: **Roman Dolaucothi Gold Mines in Wales: ancient Roman surface and underground mines located in the valley of the River Cothi, near Pumsaint, Carmarthenshire, Wales, said be important for showing advanced Roman technology.**

They were closely involved in exploiting gold resources such as those at Dolaucothi in south west Wales and in north-west Spain, a country where gold mining developed on a very large scale in the early part of the first century AD, such as at Las Medulas.


End of Roman Rule in Britain
383 - 410
Based on Jones & Mattingly's *Atlas of Roman Britain*, Mattingly's *Imperial Possession*, Higham's *Rome, Britain, and the Anglo-Saxons*, Snyder's *Age of Tyrants*, and Frere's *Britannia*.
0 km 100
0 mi 50
Departure Dates
383 - final departure, the west & north
401 - final departure, Hadrian's Wall
407 - final departure, the southeast
409 - expulsion of Roman magistrates from cities
410 - *Rescript of Honorius*
Maeatae (Picts)
DAMNONII
VOTADINI
NTAE
Hadrian's Wall
c. 383 Scoti (?) raids
Pictish raids
Ongoing Irish raids against Britain as far east as the Isle of Wight
post-c. 383 Irish settlements
Saxon raids
c. 383 Scoti (?) raids
Romano - Britons
DEMETAE
The Weald
DUMNONII



The Eastern and Western Roman Empire of Theodosius I in 395

80 of the 100 most common words in English are Germanic in origin. https://www.fluentu.com/blog/german/similarities-between-german-and-english/

the Anglo-Saxon period denotes the period in Britain between about 450 and 1066, after their initial settlement and up until the Norman Conquest.[2] The early Anglo-Saxon period includes the creation of an English nation, with many of the aspects that survive today, including regional government of shires and hundreds. During this period, Christianity was established and there was a flowering of literature and language. Charters and law were also established.[3] The term *Anglo-Saxon* is popularly used for the language that was spoken and written by the Anglo-Saxons in England and southeastern Scotland from at least the mid-5th century until the mid-12th century. In scholarly use, it is more commonly called Old English.[4]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Saxons

The **Danes** were a North Germanic tribe inhabiting southern Scandinavia, including the area now comprising Denmark proper, Yorkshire, and the Scanian provinces of modern-day southern Sweden, during the Nordic Iron Age and the Viking Age. They founded what became the Kingdom of Denmark. The name of their realm is believed to mean "Danish March", viz. "the march of the Danes", in Old Norse, referring to their southern border zone between the Eider and Schlei rivers, known as the Danevirke.

The Danes first appear in written history in the 6th century with references in Jordanes' *Getica* (551 AD), by Procopius, and by Gregory of Tours. They spoke Old Norse (*dǫnsk tunga*), which the Danes shared with the people in Norway and Sweden and later in Iceland and the Faroe Islands.[1] In his description of Scandza, Jordanes says that the **Dani** were of the same stock as the *Suetidi* ("Swedes") and expelled the Heruli and took their lands.

In the Nordic Iron Age, the Danes were based in present-day Denmark, the southern part of present-day Sweden, including Scania, and in Schleswig, now Northern Germany.

From around 800 AD, the Danes began a long era of well-organised raids across the coasts and rivers of Europe. Some of the raids were followed by a gradual succession of Danish settlers and during this epoch, large areas outside Scandinavia were settled by the Danes, including the Danelaw in England and countryside and newly established towns in Ireland, the Netherlands and northern France. In the early 11th century, King Cnut the Great (died 1035) ruled the extensive North Sea Empire for nearly 20 years, consisting of Denmark, England, Norway, southern Sweden and parts of northern Germany.[3]

During the 10th century the royal seat of the Danes was moved from Lejre to Jelling in central Jutland, marking the foundation and consolidation of the Kingdom of Denmark.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danes_(Germanic_tribe)
Danes (Danish: *danskere*, pronounced [ˈtænskɐɐ]) are a North Germanic ethnic group and nationality native to Denmark[27][28][29][30][31][32] and a modern nation identified with the country of Denmark.

Under the 14th century king Olaf II, Denmark acquired control of the Kingdom of Norway, which included the territories of Norway, Iceland and the Faroese Islands. Olaf's mother, Margrethe I, united Norway, Sweden and Denmark into the Kalmar Union.[37]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danes

"Old Saxony" is the original homeland of the Saxons. It corresponds roughly to the modern German states of Lower Saxony, eastern part of modern North Rhine-Westphalia state (Westphalia), Nordalbingia (Holstein, southern part of Schleswig-Holstein) and western Saxony-Anhalt (Eastphalia), which all lie in northwestern Germany

The Migration Period

350 to 550 AD was a migration period in Europe. In the seventh century the Frisian Empire extended from the coastal areas of north Belgium to southern Denmark. They controlled much of the North Sea trade routes from Friesland to England, Frankia, Scandinavia and northwestern Russia. A ‘Magna Frisia’ (Great-Friesland) consisted of a long narrow strip of land along the North Sea, from the Swin River in Belgium to the Weser River in Germany. The Saxons were their neighbors to the north and east, the Franks were in the south and the Anglo-Saxons in the west across the North Sea. Since the conversion to

Christianity of the Franks under Clovis the Frisians had become their major enemy. About 450 AD Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Frisians crossed the North Sea and established the Anglo-Saxon empire known as England. The Frisians colonized what became the county of Kent in southeast England.

https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~emty/family/Events_Before_King_Egbert-Beginning_in_Europe.html

The **Roman conquest of Britain** was the conquest of the island of Britain by occupying Roman forces. It began in earnest in AD 43 under Emperor Claudius, and was largely completed in the southern half of Britain by 87 when the Stanegate was established. Conquest of the far north and Scotland took longer with fluctuating success.

Even after Hadrian's Wall was established as the border, tribes in Scotland and northern England repeatedly rebelled against Roman rule and forts continued to be maintained across northern Britain to protect against these attacks.[14]

In common with other regions on the edge of the empire, Britain had enjoyed diplomatic and trading links with the Romans in the century since Julius Caesar's expeditions in 55 and 54 BC, and Roman economic and cultural influence was a significant part of the British late pre-Roman Iron Age, especially in the south.

Between 55 BC and the 40s AD, the *status quo* of tribute, hostages, and client states without direct military occupation, begun by Caesar's invasions of Britain, largely remained intact. Augustus prepared invasions in 34 BC, 27 BC and 25 BC

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_conquest_of_Britain

The principal enemies of Roman Britain were the Picts from the Scottish Highlands, Frisians, Angles, and Saxons. To deal with these groups, the Romans appointed a special Count of Saxon Shores, which included most of the east coast of England. For many years these “Saxons” were beaten off, but when the Roman empire itself was invaded by barbarians, Roman troops in Britain were called home and left the island at the mercy of the invaders. At first the Britons fought the Saxons, the Gaels and Picts, but Britain soon broke up into many small independent kingdoms.
https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~emty/family/Events_Before_King_Egbert-Beginning_in_Europe.html

The early Anglo-Saxon period covers the history of medieval Britain that starts from the end of Roman rule. It is a period widely known in European history as the Migration Period, also the *Völkerwanderung*[23] ("migration of peoples" in German). This was a period of intensified human migration in Europe from about 375 to 800.[24][b] The migrants were Germanic tribes such as the Goths, Vandals, Angles, Saxons, Lombards, Suebi, Frisii, and Franks; they were later pushed westwards by the Huns, Avars, Slavs, Bulgars, and Alans.[25] The migrants to Britain might also have included the Huns and Rugini.[26]: 123–124

Until AD 400, Roman Britain, the province of *Britannia*, was an integral, flourishing part of the Western Roman Empire, occasionally disturbed by internal rebellions or barbarian attacks, which were subdued or repelled by the large contingent of imperial troops stationed in the province. By 410, however, the imperial forces had been withdrawn to deal with crises in other parts of the empire, and the Romano-Britons were left to fend for themselves in what is called the post-Roman or "sub-Roman" period of the 5th century.[27]

Härke and Michael Wood estimate that the British population in the area that eventually became Anglo-Saxon England was around one million by the start of the fifth century;[36][42] however, what happened to the Britons has been debated.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Saxons

Roman Britain

Roman Britain was the period in classical antiquity when large parts of the island of Great Britain were under occupation by the Roman Empire. The occupation lasted from AD 43 to AD 410.[1][2] During that time, the territory conquered was raised to the status of a Roman province.

Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55 and 54 BC as part of his Gallic Wars.[3] According to Caesar, the Britons had been overrun or culturally assimilated by Belgic tribes during the British Iron Age and had been aiding Caesar's enemies. The Belgae were the only Celtic tribe to cross the sea into Britain, for all other Celtic tribes this land was unknown. [4] He received tribute, installed the friendly king Mandubracius over the Trinovantes, and returned to Gaul. Planned invasions under Augustus were called off in 34, 27, and 25 BC. In 40 AD, Caligula assembled 200,000 men at the Channel on the continent, only to have them gather seashells (*musculi*) according to Suetonius, perhaps as a symbolic gesture to proclaim Caligula's victory over the sea.[5] Three years later, Claudius directed four legions to invade Britain and restore the exiled king Verica over the Atrebates.[6] The Romans defeated the Catuvellauni, and then organized their conquests as the Province of Britain. By 47 AD, the Romans held the lands southeast of the Fosse Way. Control over Wales was delayed by reverses and the effects of Boudica's uprising, but the Romans expanded steadily northward.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Britain

https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/questions_01.shtml

media, censorship: jan9 Middle school art teacher arrested after overdosing on fentanyl in front of students at New Jersey school

https://www.cbsnews.com/news/art-teacher-frank-thompson-arrested-fentanyl-overdose-students-westfield-new-jersey/

markets, housing, government: jan9 SNB: Payment to government skipped only second time in 116 years

Unlike other central banks, the SNB is a publicly traded joint-stock company, with about half the shares held by public-sector institutions and the rest by companies and private individuals. Earnings from the SNB's operations do not influence monetary policy. Final results are due on March 6.

Swiss central bank posts $143 billion loss, the largest in its 116-year history (yeah, because they turned themselves into a hendge fund while using credit suisse (swiss credit, in english) as their trading department, ie, inventing money and loaning it to credit suisse (swwiss credit) for them to then turn into highly leveraged etf's (in a rough, probably slightly wrong, nutshell))

https://www.cnbc.com/2023/01/09/swiss-national-bank-posts-record-143-billion-loss.html

stats, war, middle east, islam, censorship: **Saudi blogger, Raif al-Badawi hit with 50 lashes a week for twenty weeks in 2014**

Rights activists say Saudi authorities are using Badawi's case as a warning to others who think to criticise the kingdom's powerful religious establishment from which the ruling family partly derives its authority.

London-based Amnesty International said he would receive 50 lashes once a week for 20 weeks. The US, a close ally of Saudi Arabia, has called on authorities to cancel the punishment.

Despite international pleas for his release, Badawi, a father of three, was brought from prison by bus to the public square on Friday and flogged on the back in front of a crowd that had just finished midday prayers at a nearby mosque. His face was visible and, throughout the flogging, he clenched his eyes and remained silent, said the witness.

The witness, who also has close knowledge of the case, said the lashing lasted about 15 minutes.

Badawi has been held since mid-2012 after he founded the Free Saudi Liberals blog. He used it to criticise the kingdom’s influential clerics who follow a strict, conservative interpretation of Islam known as Wahhabism, which originated in Saudi Arabia.

He was originally sentenced in 2013 to seven years in prison and 600 lashes in relation to the charges, but after an appeal the judge stiffened the punishment. Following his arrest, his wife and children left the kingdom for Canada.

Rights groups argue that the case against Badawi is part of a wider crackdown on freedom of speech and dissent in Saudi Arabia since the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings. Criticism of clerics is seen as a red line because of their prestige in the kingdom, as well as their influential role in supporting government policies.

According to Amnesty the charges against Badawi mention his failure to remove articles by other people on his website. He was also accused in court of ridiculing Saudi Arabia’s morality police.

In a statement after the flogging Amnesty called it a “vicious act of cruelty” and said Badawi’s “only ‘crime’ was to exercise his right to freedom of expression by setting up a website for public discussion”.

First detained on apostasy charges in 2008, Badawi was released after a day of questioning.[2] He was prevented from leaving Saudi Arabia, and both his and his wife's bank accounts were frozen in 2009.[13] The family of Badawi's wife subsequently filed a court action to forcibly divorce the couple on grounds of Badawi's alleged apostasy. On 17 June 2012, he was arrested on a charge of "insulting Islam through electronic channels",[2] and the following December he was also cited for apostasy, a conviction which carries an automatic death sentence.[14][15] However, Badawi was confirmed to be a Muslim after reciting the Shahada in court, and also stated that people should have the right to choose their faith. Human Rights Watch stated that Badawi's website had hosted material criticizing "senior religious figures".[15] Badawi had also suggested that Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University had become "a den for terrorists."[16]

Following the 2012 arrest, Amnesty International designated Badawi a prisoner of conscience, "detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression", and said: "Even in Saudi Arabia where state repression is rife, it is beyond the pale to seek the death penalty for an activist whose only 'crime' was to enable social debate online".[17] Calling for the government to drop the charges, Human Rights Watch stated: "The charges against him, based solely to Badawi's involvement in setting up a website for peaceful discussion about religion and religious figures, violate his right to freedom of expression".[2] Moroccan human rights activist Kacem El Ghazzali also criticized Saudi Arabia authority.

Charged with "setting up a website that undermines general security", "ridiculing Islamic religious figures", and "going beyond the realm of obedience", Badawi appeared before a district court in Jeddah on 17 December 2012.[1] The judge referred the charge of apostasy to a higher court, saying he "could not give a verdict in a case of apostasy."[18] On 22 December, the General Court in Jeddah found merits in the apostasy charges.[1] And then it referred the case back to the lower court, as the latter is said to require the wisdom of higher court to try apostasy.[19]

On 30 July 2013, Saudi media reported that Badawi had been sentenced to seven years in prison and 600 lashes for founding an Internet forum that "violates Islamic values and propagates liberal thought". The court also ordered the website closed.[20]

Sentence increased[edit]

On 26 December 2013, Badawi's wife Ensaf Haidar told CNN a judge had ruled that her husband should go before a high court for the apostasy charge which would result in a death penalty if convicted.[21] On 7 May 2014, Badawi’s sentence was increased to 1000 lashes, 10 years in prison, and a fine of SRls 1,000,000 (equal to about US$267,000 at the time), for "insulting Islam".[22][23] In mid-January 2015, the case was passed to the Saudi Supreme Court for review.[24][25][26] On 1 March 2015, Badawi's wife told reporters that judges in Saudi Arabia's criminal court wanted to retry him for apostasy, and that if found guilty he would be sentenced to death.[27][28]

History, Africa, stats: **Benin city, nigeria: The city was the most important settlement of the Edo Kingdom of Benin, which flourished during the 13th to the 19th century. It held important trade relations with Portugal during the last centuries before being captured, sacked and burnt in 1897 by a British punitive expedition**

A Portuguese captain described the city in 1691:"Great Benin, where the king resides, is larger than Lisbon; all the streets run straight and as far as the eye can see. The houses are large, especially that of the king, which is richly decorated and has fine columns. The city is wealthy and industrious. It is so well governed that theft is unknown and the people live in such security that they have no doors to their houses". This was at a time when theft and murder were rife in London.[14][15]

https://www.persee.fr/doc/cea_0008-0055_1965_num_5_18_3035

war, Africa: jan9 **Relations between Mali and its West African neighbours have been strained since Goita led a coup against elected President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in August 2020**

middle east, stats, media, war: jan9 **Taliban Insists Ban on Women From Afghan Schools and Universities Is 'Not Permanent'**

war, sanctions, energy, Russia, markets: jan9 **Norway Replaces Russia as Germany's Top Gas Supplier**

Norway became Germany’s single-largest natural gas supplier in 2022, overtaking Russia, as total German gas imports dropped by 12.3% compared to 2021, the German Federal Network Agency, Bundesnetzagentur, said on Friday.
Norway provided 33% of the gas Germany imported last year, followed by Russia, whose share fell to 22% for last year, compared to a 52% share in 2021, said the German regulator.

Last year, Russia started gradually cutting gas supply via the Nord Stream pipeline to Germany in June until shutting down the pipeline in early September, claiming an inability to repair gas turbines for the pumping stations due to Western sanctions.

The lack of gas deliveries from Russia was partly compensated for by additional imports, including from the Netherlands, Belgium, and Norway, the German network agency said today.

Europe’s biggest economy also saved a lot of gas in 2022, partly due to household saving and to industrial production curtailments due to soaring gas prices.

According to Bundesnetzagentur, Germany’s natural gas consumption dropped by 14% in 2022 compared to the average consumption for the past four years. Industrial demand fell by 15% compared to the average for the past four years. Between October and December, industrial gas consumption fell by 23%, and consumption by private consumers and businesses was 21% below the previous years.

As supply from Russia fell and then stopped in early September, Germany started looking at importing LNG and began construction of regasification terminals to be able to welcome cargoes. The first such terminal, a floating LNG import terminal, officially opened at the end of 2022 at Wilhelmshaven on Germany’s North Sea coast.
Earlier this week, Germany welcomed the first tanker carrying LNG at the newly opened LNG import terminal at Wilhelmshaven, with the cargo arriving from the Calcasieu Pass export facility in the United States.

By Charles Kennedy for Oilprice.
m

Stats, history, Russia: jan9 **Russian society has a strong undercurrent of mysticism, with as much as a fifth of the country said to have visited a psychic.**

Yevgeny Alexandrov, the chairman of the Russian Academy of Sciences’ commission on pseudoscience, has long criticized the rise of these beliefs in the nation, and the commission was formed to deal with that.

taskandpurposedotcom/news/pentagon-russia-psychic-weapons/

censorship: jan9 **nsa spying**

Surveillance operations by the NSA greatly expanded after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, and the phone calls of hundreds of millions of Americans have been tracked by the government since then, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

In 2013, The Guardian first reported that the NSA was collecting the telephone records of tens of millions of Americans. It was later revealed that the source of the information was NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden.

The report was followed by further reports that the NSA was tapping directly into the servers of nine internet firms, including Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo, to track online communication in a programme known as Prism.

Up until that point, intelligence officials publicly stated that the NSA never knowingly collected information on Americans. After the programme's exposure, American officials argued that the spying had played a crucial role in fighting domestic extremism.

War, sanctions: jan9 Venezuelan embassy run by opposition in US closes after Guaido ouster

War, stats, Africa: jan9 US airstrikes in Somalia rose by 30% in 2022, military times

According to data compiled by the Long War Journal, a project of the hawkish Foundation for the Defense of Democracies think tank, US Africa Command launched at least 15 airstrikes in Somalia in 2022, up from 11 airstrikes the previous year.

US airstrikes in Somalia initially dropped under President Biden, with many of the 2021 strikes being launched in January, during the final days of the Trump administration. According to the Long War Journal, AFRICOM launched 45 airstrikes in 2020 and 59 in 2019, which was a record high for US operations in Somalia.

But in 2022, Biden ordered the deployment of up to 500 troops in Somalia and stepped up airstrikes as the US-backed Mogadishu-based government began an offensive against al-Shabaab. There was heavy fighting on the ground during the final months of 2022, when many US airstrikes took place.

War, stats: jan9 **a sign of the times: antiwar posts message on top of page about ww111 and congress approving 112 billion in funding so far, not even one year into the conflict**

https://perma.cc/PLF5-U6V9

Russia, war: jan9 Russian Military Says "Retaliation" Strike Killed Over 600 Ukrainian Soldiers, ukraine denies casualty count

The Russian military says it has conducted a major strike on Ukrainian forces in retaliation for the New Year attack on a Russian barracks in Makiivka, Donetsk which marked one of the single deadliest days for Russian forces, and which set off a firestorm of criticism against the top chain of command.

Russia’s Defense Ministry (MoD) said Sunday that it **eliminated over 600 Ukrainian troops in a "retaliation operation"** in direct response to the "criminal attack" of a week ago. The MoD identified that the operation was conducted against the Ukrainian-held city of Kramatorsk in the Donbass. Photos are emerging from the site, but Ukrainian media is denying Moscow's claims of hundreds killed.

The Ukrainian government, as well as a handful of Western journalists on the ground and pro-Ukraine media outlets, are ***disputing that there were any large-scale casualties from strikes on Kramatorsk****...*

Last week's Makiivka barracks attack may have been Russia's **single biggest loss of the war** and was reportedly carried out by the Ukrainians using **US-supplied HIMARS missile systems**.

Markets: jan9 Morgan Stanley: After A Chaotic 2022, The Rest Of The World Will Outperform US Stocks

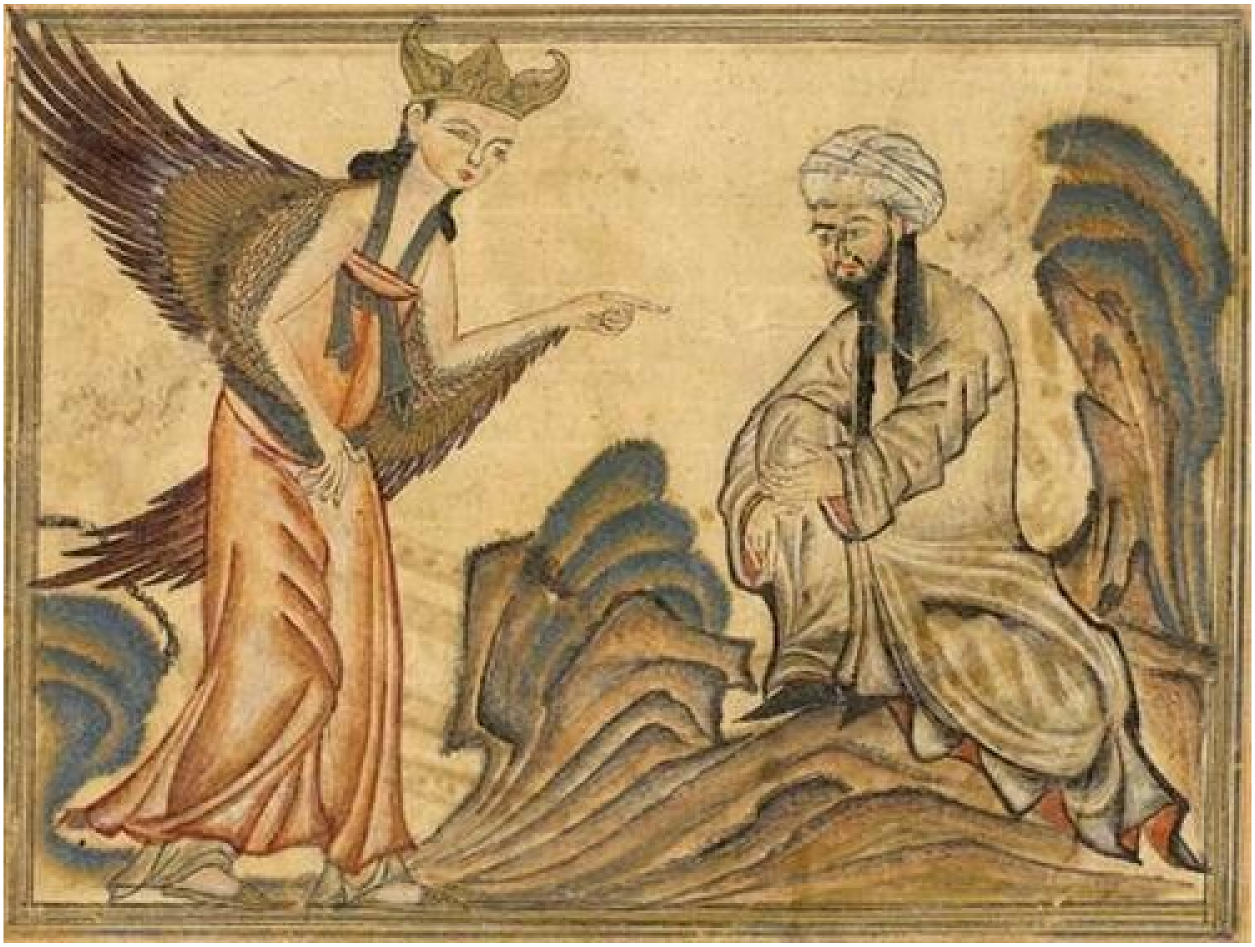
Censorship: jan9 AGs Slam White House Over Multiple Examples Of Big Tech Collusion To Censor Dissent

Censorship, islam: According to an email so-signed by Hamline president Fayneese S. Miller, respect for Muslim students "should have superseded academic freedom."

In response to the firing, **an Islamic art historian wrote an essay defending López Prater** and demanding that the university's board investigate the matter. An associated petition has received over 2,800 signatures.

"I’m like, ‘This can’t be real,’" she said. "As a Muslim and a Black person, I don’t feel like I belong, and I don’t think I’ll ever belong in a community where they don’t value me as a member, and they don’t show the same respect that I show them."

The image shown by López Prater is contained in one of the earliest Islamic illustrated histories of the world, "A Compendium of Chronicles," written by Rashid-al-Din during the 14th century. **It's shown regularly in art history classes**, and depicts a crowned Angel Gabriel pointing at the Prophet Muhammad and delivering the first Quaranic revelation.



According to Christine Gruber, professor of Islamic Art at the University of Michigan who wrote the essay defending López Prater, the image is a "masterpiece of Persian manuscript painting."

[S]imilar paintings have been on display at places like the Metropolitan Museum of Art. And a sculpture of the prophet is at the Supreme Court.

Dr. Gruber said that showing Islamic art and depictions of the Prophet Muhammad have become more common in academia, because of a push to "decolonize the canon" — that is, expand curriculum beyond a Western model. - NYT

China, vaccine, health, war: China reopens borders to tourists after three years of Covid closure jan9

China has reopened its borders to international visitors for the first time since it imposed travel restrictions in March 2020.
Incoming travellers will no longer need to quarantine - marking a significant change in the country's Covid policy as it battles a surge in cases.

They will still require proof of a negative PCR test taken within 48 hours of travelling.
The move has been welcomed by many eager to reunite with family.

Iran, war, middles east, stats: jan9 **How General Soleimani Kick-Started The Multipolar World**

The term ***Axis of Resistance*** (Persian: محور مقاومت, romanized: *mehvar–e moqâvemat*, Arabic: محور المقاومة, romanized: *miḥwar al-muqāwamah*) refers to an anti-Western, anti-Israeli and anti-Saudi political and informal military alliance[2] between Iran, Palestine, the Syrian Government and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.[3][4][5] Pro-Syrian government militias, Iraqi Shia militias that are part of the Iraqi Government-sanctioned Popular Mobilization Forces and the Yemeni Houthi movement (officially: "Ansar Allah") are also considered part of the alliance.

Despite the alliance's differing ideologies, such as secular Ba'athism and Shia Islamism, they are unified by their goal of opposing the activities of pro-Western parties, Israel, Gulf states and Sunni Islamists in the region.[6] Russia and China has also been considered by Iran as part of the alliance, due to their anti-Western political stance and mostly positive relations with Iran and Syria.[7]

Everyone not only along the Axis of Resistance – Tehran, Baghdad, Damascus, Hezbollah – but across the Global South had been aware of how Gen. Soleimani led the fight against Daesh in Iraq from 2014 to 2015, and how he had been instrumental in retaking Tikrit in 2015.

This was his real role – a true warrior of the war *on* terror, not the war *of* terror. For the Empire, to admit his aura glowed even across – vassalized - lands of Sunni Islam was anathema.

It was up to then-Iraqi Prime MinisterAdil Abdul-Mahdi, in front of Parliament in Baghdad, to offer the definitive context: Gen. Soleimani, on a diplomatic mission, had boarded a regular Cham Wings Airbus A320 flight from Damascus to Baghdad. He was involved in complex negotiations between Tehran and Riyadh, with the Iraqi Prime Minister as a mediator, and all that at the request of President Trump.

So the imperial machine - following trademark, decades-long mockery of international law - assassinated a de-facto diplomatic envoy.

The King is now Naked

But then everything went downhill.

Tehran’s direct response to Gen.Soleimani’s assassination, in fact quite restrained considering the circumstances, was carefully measured to not unleash unrestrained imperial “deterrence”.

It took the form of a series of precision missile strikes on the American-controlled Ain al-Assad air base in Iraq. The Pentagon, crucially, received an advance warning.

And it was precisely that measured response that turned out to be the game-changer.

Tehran’s message made it graphically clear – for the whole Global South to see - that the days of imperial impunity were over.

Any exceptionalist with a working brain would not fail to get the message: we can hit your assets anywhere in the Persian Gulf - and beyond, at the time of our choosing.

So this was the first instance in which Gen Soleimani, even after leaving his mortal coil, contributed to the birth of the multipolar world.

Those precision missile strikes on the Ain al-Assad base told the story of a mid-ranked power, enfeebled by decades of sanctions, and facing a massive economic/financial crisis, responding to a unilateral attack by targeting imperial assets that are part of the sprawling 800-plus Empire of Bases.

Historically, that was a global first –unheard of since the end of WWII.

Iran is now solidified as one of the key nodes of the New Silk Roads in Southwest Asia. The Iran-China strategic partnership, boosted by Tehran’s accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)in 2002, is as strong geoeconomically and geopolitically as the interlocking partnerships with two other BRICS members, Russia and India. In 2023, Iran is set to become a member of BRICS+.

In parallel, the Iran/Russia/China triad will be deeply involved in the reconstruction of Syria – complete with BRI projects ranging from the Iran-Iraq-Syria-Eastern Mediterranean railway to, in the near future, the Iran-Iraq-Syria gas pipeline, arguably the key factor that provoked the American proxy war against Damascus.

Censorship, Africa: jan9 **Watch: Six Journalists Arrested For Releasing Video Showing South Sudan President Wetting Himself**

The 71-year-old had been rumored to be in ill health for months, **but during a photo-op in December, Kiir was shown standing during the nation’s national anthem and wetting himself in a most embarrassing way.**

Six staffers for the national broadcasting company in South Sudan were arrested by the security service. There were immediate complaints from the trade union representing the staffers that the law, which gives the government the power to hold someone for 24 hours before taking them before a judge, is being violated.

The staffers are being charged with having knowledge of the unauthorized release of “certain footage.”

“If there is a prima facie case of professional misconduct or offense then let authorities expedite an administrative or legal process to address the issue in a fair, transparent [*sic*] and in accordance with the law,” union chair Oyet Patrick Charles said.

The Associated Press reports that ***“The presidential election was recently postponed again, this time to late 2024, amid the slow implementation of a 2018 peace deal ending a five-year civil war.”***

There hasn’t been a presidential election in South Sudan since the independence, and Kiir claimed he did not want “to rush you into an election that will take us back to war,” he said.

The national security services in South Sudan are making a habit of arresting people and holding them indefinitely.

Reuters:

Muthoki Mumo, CPJ’s sub-Saharan Africa representative, said the arrests match a “pattern of security personnel resorting to arbitrary detention whenever officials deem coverage unfavourable.”

“Authorities should unconditionally release these six SSBC employees and ensure that they can work without further intimidation or threat of arrest,” Mumo said.

So South Sudan’s agony will continue with a president who is at the very least incontinent and almost certainly losing the ability to lead his country.

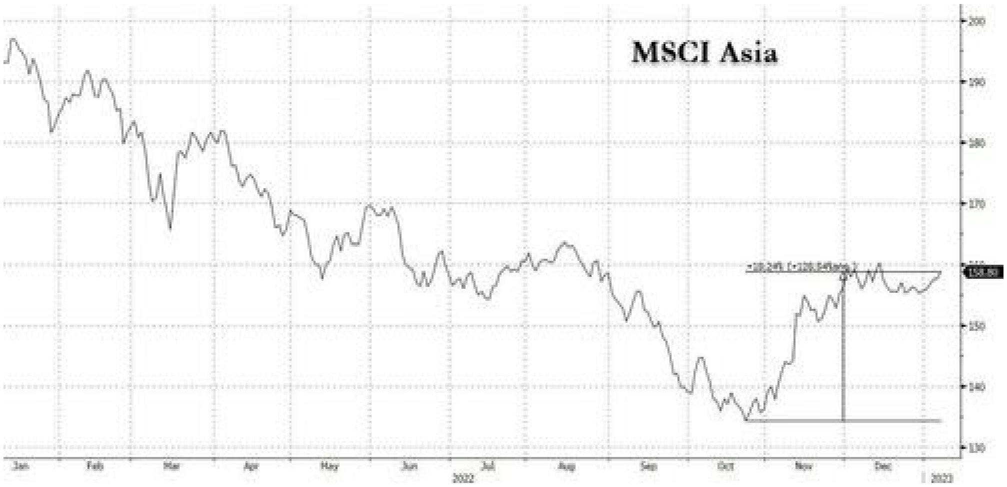
Inflation, markets: jan9 **Goldman Sachs' Epic Hiring Spree Ends With Biggest Round Of Job Cuts Ever**

War, Erdogan: jan9 **Swedish PM Kristersson said they have fulfilled commitments made to Turkey at the Madrid summit but noted that Turkey is demanding concessions that Stockholm cannot give to approve its application to join NATO, according to FT.**

War, markets, energy, sanctions: jan9 **MSCI asia enters bull market, surging 20% starting in october; russia's attack not working due to mild weather, increzased supply, with gas reserves nearly full; brazilian former president, who is said to have been the first national leader censored by twitter in history for saying coronavirus was a "little-flu" in the early days of the pandemic, has an irate minorty of people refusing to sucede victory or something, bunch of his supporters storm capital building one week after new brazilian president elected**

- Russian President Vladimir Putin’s plans to squeeze Europe by weaponizing energy look to be fizzling at least for now. Mild weather, a wider array of suppliers and efforts to reduce demand are helping, with gas reserves still nearly full and prices tumbling to pre- war levels

Earlier in the session, Asia’s benchmark stock index was on track to enter a bull market, as China’s reopening and a weakening dollar lure investors back to the region. **The MSCI Asia Pacific Index climbed as much as 1.9% on Monday, taking its advance from an Oct. 24 low to more than 20%.** The Asian benchmark is up 3.7% so far in 2023, beating the S&P 500 Index by about two percentage points. That’s after they both slumped about 19% last year, their worst performance since 2008.



Gauges in Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea led gains in the session, while Japan was closed for a holiday. Strategists have predicted a better year for Asian equities after a dismal 2022, especially as stocks in China, which carry the second-highest weighting in the regional gauge after Japan, turned a corner in November following the nation’s shift away from stringent virus curbs. The bull market milestone comes after the MSCI Asia gauge tumbled nearly 40% from a peak in early 2021. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is on track to enter a bull market after surging more than 20% from its October low, boosted by Chinese stocks after the nation pivoted on its Covid strategy and offered more policy support for the economy.

- Brazil’s capital was recovering early Monday from an insurrection by thousands of supporters of ex-President Jair Bolsonaro who stormed the country’s top government institutions, leaving a trail of destruction and testing the leadership of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva just a week after he took office

War, sanctions, inflation, markets, government: jan9 **A "Checkmate-Like" Situation: Zoltan Pozsar Says Fed Will Restart QE By The Summer Of 2023**

was just thining this yesterday. It could turn into a sort of volatile chart with regard to the federal funds rate, where America changing the rate to conform to constantly changing financial conditions. Maybe ythis whole high rates atmossphere won't be sustainable, causing the american government to re-adjust, again.

Stats, vaccine, health: jan9 schools shutting down: Declining birthrates, a rise in home schooling and growing competition from private and charter schools are contributing to the decline in traditional public school enrollment, according to school officials.”

https://www.wsj.com/articles/public-schools-lost-more-than-one-million-students-during-pandemic-11672881798

inflation, stats, markets, censorship: [3]3 messages in conversationpretty sure this whole kaplan trading scandal thing is actually only supposed to result in a fine and being kicked out of office--not criminal. Have to read the federal reserve act again

> 13. Any Federal reserve bank may receive from any of its memberbanks, and
>
> from the United States, deposits of current funds in lawful money,national-bank
>
> notes, Federal reserve notes, or checks and drafts upon solventmember banks,
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> payable upon presentation; or, solely for exchange purposes,may receive from other
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> Federal reserve banks deposits of current funds inlawful money, national-bank
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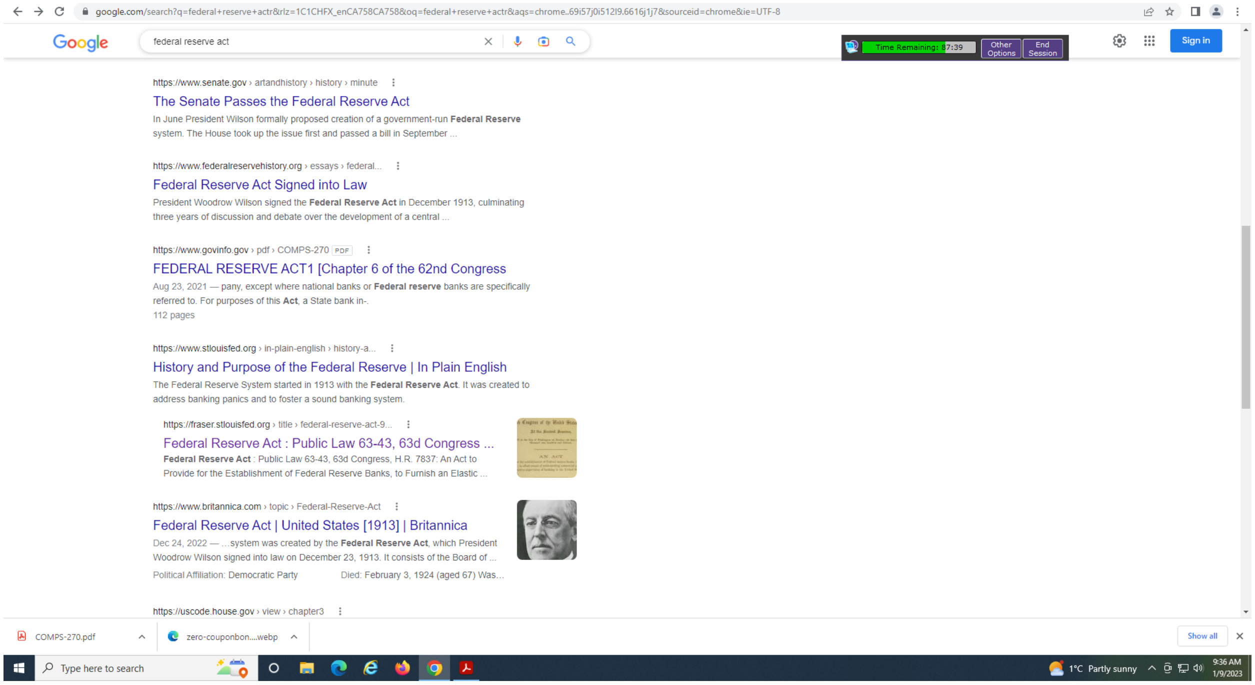
> notes, or checks and drafts upon solvent m em ber or other Federal reserve
>
> banks, payable upon presentation. Upon the indorsement of
>
> any of its member banks, with a waiver of demand,notice and protest by
>
> such bank, any Federal reserve bank may discount notes,drafts, and bills of
>
> exchange arising out of actual commercial transactions; that is, notes, drafts,
>
> and bills of exchange issued or drawn for agricultural, industrial,or commercial
>
> purposes, or the proceeds of which have been used, or are to be used, for such

> purposes, the Federal Reserve Board to have the right to determine or define the character of the paper thus eligible for discount, within the meaning of this Act. Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to prohibit such notes, drafts, and bills of exchange, secured by staple agriculturalproducts, or other goods, wares, or merchandise from being eligible for such discount; but such definition shall not include notes, drafts, or bills coveringmerely investments or issued or drawn for the purpose of carrying or trading in stocks, bonds, or other investment securities, except bonds and notes of theGovernment of the United States. Notes, drafts, and bills adm itted to discount under the terms of this paragraph must have a maturity at the time of discountof not more than ninety days: Provided, That notes, drafts, and bills drawn or issued for agricultural purposes or based on live stock and having a maturity notexceeding six months may be discounted in an amount to be limited to a percentage of the capital of the Federal reserve bank, to be ascertained and fixed by the Federal Reserve Board. Any Federal reserve bank may discount acceptances which are based on the importation or exportation of goods and which have a maturity at time of discount of not more than three months, and indorsed by at least one mem ber bank.

this link presents itself as the federal reserve act, when in fact it is not
https://perma.cc/3DNG-RA24

it's top ranked on google for federal reserve act...


google.com/search?q=federal+reserve+actr&rlz=1C1CHFX_enCA758CA758&oq=federal+reserve+actr&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i512l9.6616j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
Google
federal reserve act
Time Remaining: 87:39
Other Options
End Session
Sign in

https://www.senate.gov › artandhistory › history › minute

The Senate Passes the Federal Reserve Act

In June President Wilson formally proposed creation of a government-run **Federal Reserve** system. The House took up the issue first and passed a bill in September ...

https://www.federalreservehistory.org › essays › federal...

Federal Reserve Act Signed into Law

President Woodrow Wilson signed the **Federal Reserve Act** in December 1913, culminating three years of discussion and debate over the development of a central ...

https://www.govinfo.gov › pdf › COMPS-270 PDF

FEDERAL RESERVE ACT1 [Chapter 6 of the 62nd Congress

Aug 23, 2021 — pany, except where national banks or **Federal reserve** banks are specifically referred to. For purposes of this **Act**, a State bank in-.
112 pages

https://www.stlouisfed.org › in-plain-english › history-a...

History and Purpose of the Federal Reserve | In Plain English

The Federal Reserve System started in 1913 with the **Federal Reserve Act**. It was created to address banking panics and to foster a sound banking system.

https://fraser.stlouisfed.org › title › federal-reserve-act-9...

Federal Reserve Act : Public Law 63-43, 63d Congress ...

Federal Reserve Act : Public Law 63-43, 63d Congress, H.R. 7837: An Act to Provide for the Establishment of Federal Reserve Banks, to Furnish an Elastic ...

https://www.britannica.com › topic › Federal-Reserve-Act

Federal Reserve Act | United States [1913] | Britannica

Dec 24, 2022 — ...system was created by the **Federal Reserve Act**, which President Woodrow Wilson signed into law on December 23, 1913. It consists of the Board of ...

Political Affiliation: Democratic Party   Died: February 3, 1924 (aged 67) Was...

https://uscode.house.gov › view › chapter3

COMPS-270.pdf
zero-couponbon....webp
Show all
Type here to search
1°C Partly sunny
9:36 AM
1/9/2023

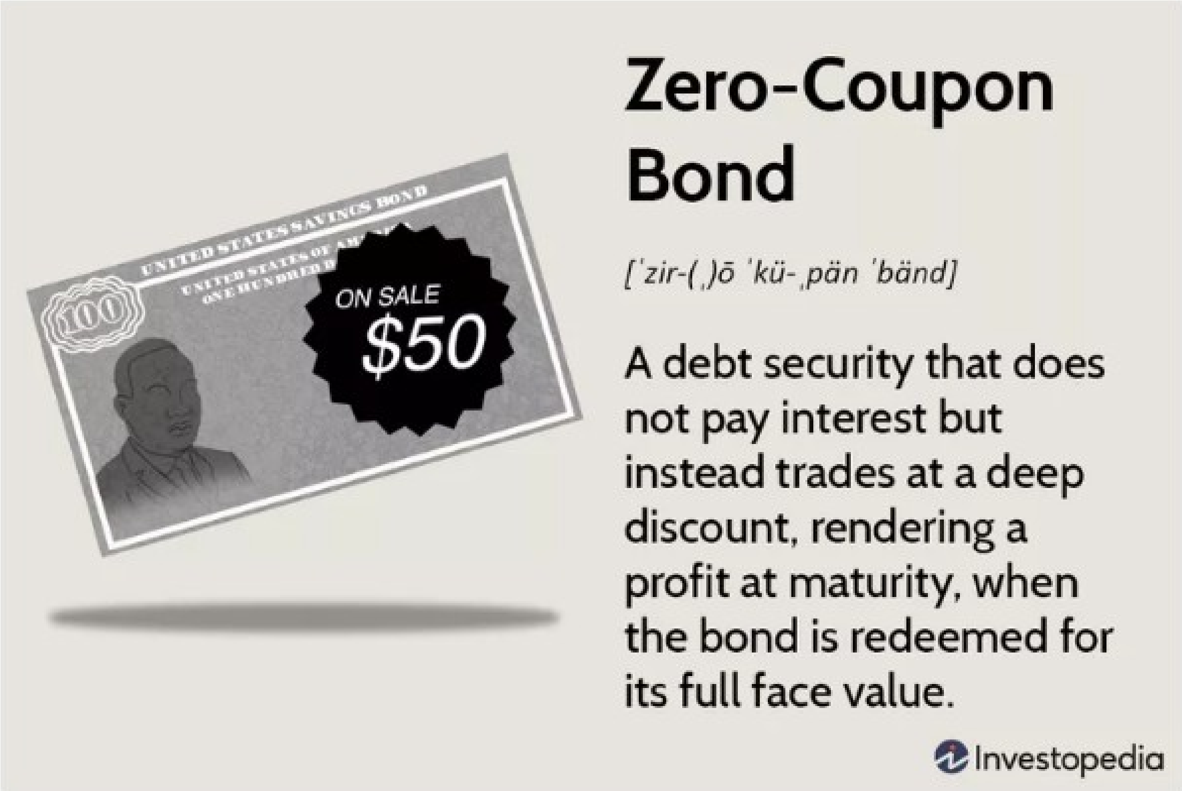
this link here provides the actual federal reserve act. I know because i searched for the word securities and it showed it was oinly mentioned 3 times in the whole act, and when I checked a 'better source'--didn't think I'd run into problems with stlouis feds official website, but whatever--it showed the word ws mentioned 44 times, which didn't surprise me because I've scanned though the act many times at this point.
https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/COMPS-270

history, markets, stats: **Banker’s acceptances have been around since the 12th century. Just like now, BAs were used as a method of facilitating trade. In the 18th and 19th centuries, BAs started to become an actively traded market in London.**

"The use of BAs is most common in international trade transactions. A buyer with an importing business can issue a banker’s acceptance with a date after a shipment is due to be delivered, and the seller with an exporting business will have the payment instrument in hand before finalizing the shipment."

The person who is paid with a banker's acceptance may hold onto it until its maturity date in order to receive its full value or can sell it immediately at a discount to face value.

Unlike a regular check, a banker’s acceptance relies on the creditworthiness of the banking institution rather than the individual or business that issues it. The bank requires that the issuer meet its credit eligibility requirements, typically including a deposit sufficient to cover the banker’s acceptance.


UNITED STATES SAVINGS BOND
100
ON SALE
$50
Zero-Coupon Bond
[ˈzir-(ˌ)ō ˈkü-ˌpän ˈbänd]
Investopedia

A debt security that does not pay interest but instead trades at a deep discount, rendering a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full face value.

Investopedia / Laura Porter

A zero-coupon bond, also known as an accrual bond, is a debt security that does not pay interest but instead trades at a deep discount, rendering a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full face value.

Government, china, sanctions, war: jan8 **US Computer Giant Dell to Replace All China-Made Chips in Its Products by 2024**

War, Erdogan: jan8 **Warning Shots Fired as Greek, Turkish Patrol Boats Face Off**

Health, stats, media, censorship: jan8 **1:17 on cancer is a perfect example of groupthink in the science community, and even medical community**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmxUsAI29fw&t=67s

tech, ai: jan8 **DoNotPay, a company founded in 2015 by a then-Stanford University freshman to appeal parking tickets, develops robot AI**

tech, stats, ai: jan8 **AI-Powered ‘Robot Lawyer’ Takes First Court Case Next Month**

stats, media, censorship: jan8 **Australia allows consent as a legitimate defense for sex with a minor, and of any age, apparently**

But, they can consent to sexual intercourse, making consent or reasonable belief of consent available as a defence, even when a child is involved.

Judge Richard Earwaker, who presided over the case, addressed the issue of consent on a person under 16 years old in the final days of the trial, the New Zealand Herald reported.
“Legally, a person under 16 cannot give consent for charges of indecent acts, therefore as a jury, all you need to decide is if the indecent acts took place,” he said. “But as for sexual intercourse, a person under 16 can give

consent. You need to consider whether or not the consent was given based on the evidence you have.”

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/05/calls-for-changes-to-new-zealand-law-after-rapist-claims-sex-with-12-year-old-consensual

censorship, media, stats, vaccine: jan8 read later: “These Doctors Pushed Masking, Covid Lockdowns on Twitter. Turns Out, They Don’t Exist”

Among other disturbing precedents, the strange episode recalls the saga of a white Arizona State University professor who admitted to inventing a bisexual Hopi Native American colleague she claimed died of COVID-19. At the time, a professor at the University of Arizona who is Hopi told The Daily Beast of their nonexistent colleague, “It sounds like a hoax to me. If so, it’s a sick hoax.”

Before the account was deleted on Tuesday, Honeyman’s tweets were shrouded in skepticism and demands for answers about their real identity—and whether they suffered any loss at all.

“Who r u and what’s your motivation for all these lies?” one Twitter follower demanded.

https://www.thedailybeast.com/robert-honeyman-described-a-covid-nightmare-on-twitter-before-people-started-asking-questions

The San Francisco Standard

The San Francisco Standard	
Format	Online
Editor-in-chief	Jonathan Weber
Language	English
Headquarters	San Francisco, California
Website	sfstandard.com

The San Francisco Standard is an online news organization based in San Francisco, California. It was funded in part by the billionaire venture capitalist Michael Moritz. The Standard was covered in other media for its coverage of Chesa Boudin's drug prosecution record.[1]

The San Francisco Standard was originally *Here/Say Media*, a project of Civic Action Labs, a 501(c)4 nonprofit. Some journalism ethicists were concerned about the organization's structure (nearly all nonprofit journalism organizations are 501(c)3 nonprofits) and refusal to disclose its donors.[2][3] In March 2021, Here/Say disclosed on its website that it was funded by Crankstart, a foundation funded by Michael Moritz and Harriet Heyman.[3] In August 2021, Here/Say wrote that it had incorporated into an independent, for-profit entity, and that Moritz and Heyman had invested $10 million.[4]

In November 2021, Here/Say Media announced that that the organization changed its name to *The San Francisco Standard*.[5]

In December 2021, the Standard partnered with ABC 7 to cover the 2022 California's 17th State Assembly district special election.

The San Francisco Standard's voter poll was featured in news coverage on the recall election of San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin.[6][7]

In May 2022, the Standard published a story showing that Boudin's office secured three convictions for drug dealing in 2021, whereas Boudin's predecessor George Gascón oversaw over 90 convictions in 2018. Instead, Boudin's office emphasized convictions for a different crime which would not penalize foreign nationals with deportation or threats to naturalization.[8] The story generated secondary coverage in the National Review,[9] Washington Monthly,[10] Center for Immigration Studies,[11] Courthouse News Service.[12] The story was criticized by Matt Charnock of *The Bold Italic* for allegedly misrepresenting facts and contributing to xenophobic rhetoric.[1]

References[edit]

1. ^ Jump up to:ᵃ ᵇ *Charnock, Matt (2022-05-19). "We Need to Talk About How Dangerous This Reported Piece on DA Chesa Boudin Is to San Francisco". The Bold Italic. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
2. ^ *Selig, Kate (2021-01-29). "New venture Here/Say Media won't disclose who its donors are. Experts say that's concerning". Mission Local. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
3. ^ Jump up to:ᵃ ᵇ *Schleifer, Theodore (2021-03-27). "How a $25 million donation to help students got ensnared in politics". Vox Media. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
4. ^ *"Jonathan Weber Joins Here/Say Media as Editor-in-Chief". The San Francisco Standard. 2021-08-10. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
5. ^ *"Here/Say Media Has a New Name". The San Francisco Standard. 2021-11-13. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
6. ^ *Dorn, Andrew (2022-06-07). "Why many outside San Francisco are watching the DA recall". NewsNation. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
7. ^ *Lowrey, Annie (2022-05-19). "The People vs. Chesa Boudin". The Atlantic. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
8. ^ *Tong, Anna; Koehn, Josh (2022-05-17). "DA Boudin and Fentanyl: Court Data Shows Just 3 Drug Dealing Convictions in 2021 as Immigration Concerns Shaped Policy". The San Francisco Standard. Retrieved 2022-08-17.*
9. ^ *Mills, Ryan (2022-06-08). "Progressive D.A. Chesa Boudin Recalled by San Francisco Voters". National Review. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
10. ^ *Scher, Bill (2022-06-10). "What Democrats Understand About Crime That Chesa Boudin Did Not". Washington Monthly. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
11. ^ *Arthur, Andrew R. (2022-06-07). "San Francisco DA Degrades Immigration Enforcement". Center for Immigration Studies. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
12. ^ *Hanson, Natalie. "Voters, investors and crime experts have eyes on bid to recall San Francisco DA". Courthouse News Service. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*

External Links[edit]

- San Francisco Standard website

Categories:

- News media in the United States
- Companies based in San Francisco

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The two fake doctors, whose accounts urged extreme caution about Covid-19, were part of a network of at least four fake accounts that touted their ties to the LGBTQ+ community, vocally advocated for mask-wearing and social distancing, and dished out criticism to those they felt were not taking the pandemic seriously.

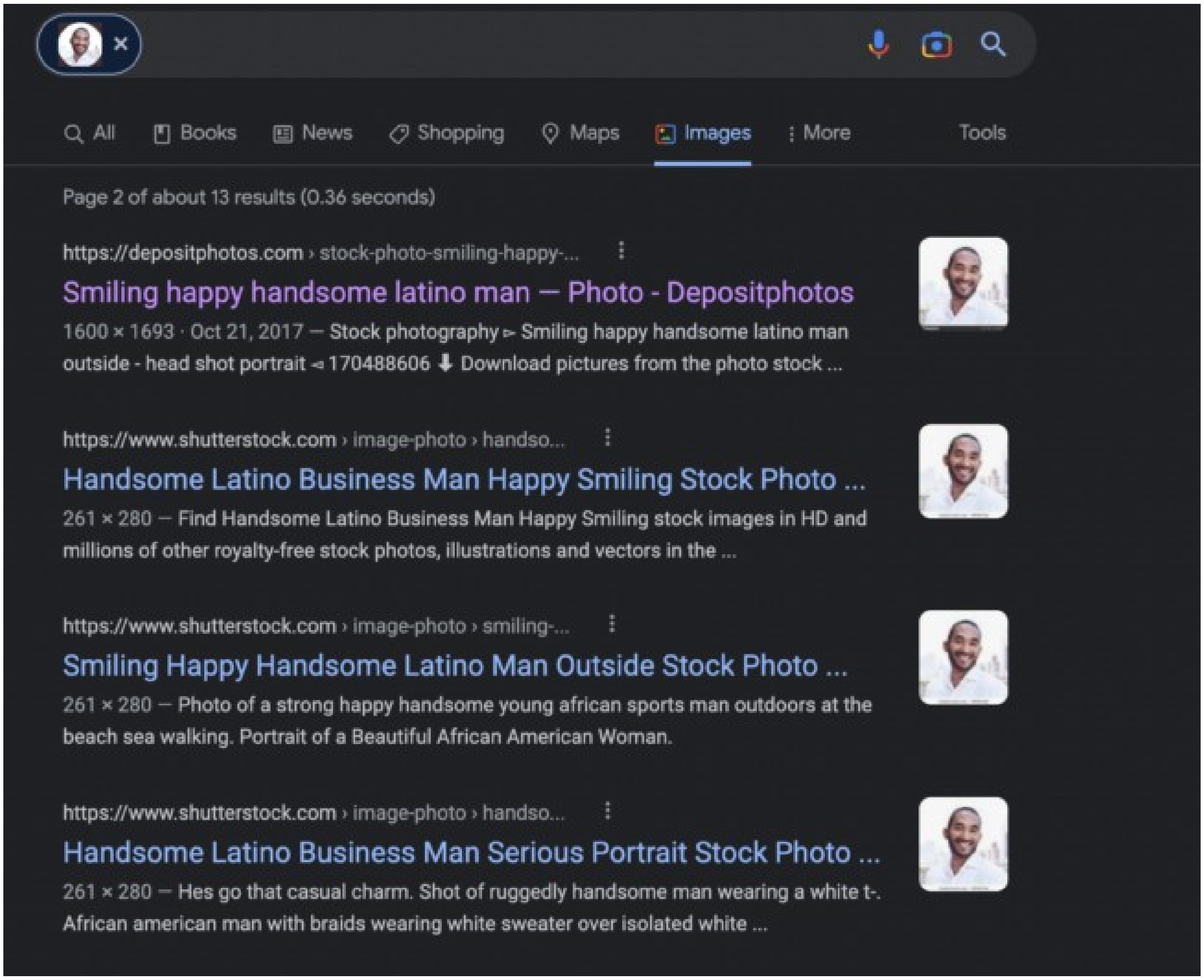
The Honeymans could not be reached for comment, as they do not exist. At publication time, Robert Honeyman’s account was no longer active.

The fake doctors were uncovered by Joshua Gutterman Tranen, a self-described “gay writer” pursuing a master’s of fine arts at Bennington College. He saw Robert Honeyman’s tweet about their husband being in a coma, noticed people he followed also followed them, and thought that they might be part of the LGBTQ+ academic community.

But after 10 minutes of googling, Gutterman Tranen concluded that Robert Honeyman’s photo was a stock image and their biography stretched boundaries of believability: an academic who left no traces on academic websites and had lost two family members to Covid in late 2022, despite masking and distancing.

The character looked like “liberal Mad Libs,” Gutterman Tranen said.

“I’m a self-identified leftist, and I understand that people have a lot of different identities, but it felt concocted in the lab about how many identities and horrible experiences can we put on one person,” he said.



Page 2 of about 13 results (0.36 seconds)

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Handsome Latino Business Man Serious Portrait Stock Photo ...
261 × 280 — Hes go that casual charm. Shot of ruggedly handsome man wearing a white t-. African american man with braids wearing white sweater over isolated white ...

The Standard ran Dr. Robert Honeyman’s Twitter photo through a Google reverse image search and found that it was a widely available stock photo. (Screenshot)

Throughout the pandemic, Twitter has been an important, if complicated, platform. Medical experts have used it to speak directly to the public about Covid and to criticize policies that they feel don’t do enough to protect people from the disease.

But Twitter has also been a site of disinformation and provocative claims that are based in fact or scientific knowledge but lack context. As the pandemic has dragged on, governments have lifted Covid restrictions, and people have shed their masks, more of the burden of charting a path in the “new normal” has fallen on individuals. And public-facing experts like UCSF’s Bob Wachter and Monica Gandhi have become important sources of advice.

But as the iconic *New Yorker* cartoon states, “On the internet, nobody knows you’re a dog”—or a fake doctor, for that matter.

The Honeymans offer one of the most blatant examples of this. It is unclear who created the two doctors, but their bios and personas signpost identities meant to appeal to a certain type of Twitter denizen: liberal, pro-diversity and concerned about Covid. Or meant to provoke the opposite of that type of person.

Both doctors present themselves as members of the LGBTQ+ community. Robert displayed the trans and Ukrainian flags in their Twitter name. Patrick had a rainbow flag in his bio.

Robert wrote openly about suffering from MPX, an infectious disease that caused San Francisco to declare a state of emergency earlier this year and had largely spread among men who have sex with men. “Don’t believe what the media have been sharing. […] it’s a horrible disease that has had me bed ridden,” they tweeted in July. They also claimed to have been the victim of a transphobic attack in October.

Another account associated with the group, Dr. Gerold Fischer, displayed rainbow, trans and Ukrainian flags next to his name and described himself as “an ally for all in the #LGBQT+ Community. #WearAMask.” Fischer’s account has since been taken down.

A fourth account, Dr. Steve “Ste” Ville, who claimed an affiliation with the University of Antwerp, described himself as an “LGBTQ+ Ally” and a “Proud Mask Wearer.”

All four doctors had a few things in common. Three had created their accounts during the pandemic. Fischer’s account dated to 2019, but his earliest visible tweet was from July 2022.

The doctors also frequently interacted with one another. Fischer’s first tweets were, in fact, a retweet, a quote tweet and a response to Robert Honeyman.

Robert Honeyman claimed that Fischer, who said he was suffering from post-Covid brain fog, was “the sharpest individual” they met at university. The two “doctors” sent greetings to each other’s families.

All four accounts urged caution about Covid. They also amplified the voices of other Twitter users calling on the public to mask, vaccinate and socially distance. At times, they criticized policies that they felt undermined pandemic safety and individuals who they believed did not take Covid seriously enough.

But as Twitter users responded to Gutterman Tranen’s thread on the Honeymans, they also discovered the accounts expressing views that appeared implausible.

“Come on china! Stop protesting, I wish we had similar lockdown measures here,” Robert Honeyman wrote in a Nov. 27 tweet.

They also claimed to have been a consultant who helped to the make the character Velma a lesbian in the new Scooby-Doo movie.

The Standard was unable to establish who created the four fake doctors. But perhaps the most alarming aspect of their nonexistence online is that it is also unclear *why* they were created.

Gutterman Tranen wondered about the motivation behind them.

“Is this someone who is well-intentioned but perhaps has a lot of anxiety about Covid, and this is a way for them to act out those anxieties?” he asked. “Or is this something more nefarious where someone thinks creating accounts like this is a way to point at them and say: ‘Look how crazy the liberals are’?”

As he watches his initial tweet about the Honeymans go viral, Gutterman Tranen is philosophical about the situation. He believes people are responding so strongly to his discovery because we all know that these kinds of accounts exist, but we seldom delve deeply into whether the person tweeting is actually authentic.

“We’ve just accepted that disinformation is an essential part of how Twitter works,” he said.

But as Twitter users marveled over the four fake doctors, at least one “person” wasn’t having it: Ville.

“Disgusting to see the accusations being thrown my way, it’s truly incredible to see how quick ‘good’ people can switch up on you in the blink of an eye,” he tweeted on Dec. 13, “that age old saying rings true, ‘The one thing they love more than a hero is to see a hero fail, fall, die trying.’”

Rage on, Dr. Steve.

Energy, markets, history, sanctions: jan8 Colonial Pipeline, carrying some 45 percent of the gasoline and diesel fuel the East Coast of the U.S. consumes, helping oil prices to steady on Thursday after a massive selloff on Tuesday and Wednesday that saw crude oil plunging by 9% in two days for the worst start to a year since 1991.

The Colonial Pipeline disruption is the second oil/fuel pipeline shutdown in as many months.

Colonial Shuts Key Fuel Pipeline to New York Harbor After Spill

Sheela Tobben and Chunzi Xu, Bloomberg News

(Bloomberg) -- Colonial Pipeline Co. halted operations on a critical conduit that supplies fuel to the US Northeast, the latest disruption to energy flows following an outage on the Keystone oil pipeline last month.

Some product was released at Colonial's Witt booster station near Danville, Virginia, prompting the shutdown of its Line 3 Tuesday, spokeswoman Meredith Stone said in an email. The company is planning a restart at around 12 p.m. Eastern time on Saturday, she said. The company said an equipment failure had resulted in the leak, and this was being repaired.

The ruptured Colonial pipe leaked an estimated 60 barrels of diesel, which flowed into a storm water collection basin at its facility, said Aaron Proctor, a spokesman for the state's environmental quality department. The pipe's operator indicated it expected repairs will occur by Friday, according to an emailed statement from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Colonial's Line 3 transports refined products such as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel to the New York Harbor market from Greensboro, North Carolina, and is part of a broader system that supplies fuels to the eastern US from refineries on the Gulf Coast.

The incident follows the outage to TC Energy Corp.'s Keystone pipeline after the biggest onshore oil spill since 2010. The conduit, which can deliver as much as 600,000 barrels a day of Canadian crude into the US Midwest, only fully returned to service last week.

The outage coincided with the largest weekly drop in US gasoline demand since March 2020. The weakness for consumption means fuel producers on the Gulf Coast are feeling the pinch from the pipeline disruption more than consumers: Gulf Coast gasoline fell by a couple cents per gallon against futures following the outage, while New York markets also softened. East Coast gasoline supplies have been building over the past few weeks during a seasonal demand lull worsened by a severe winter storm.

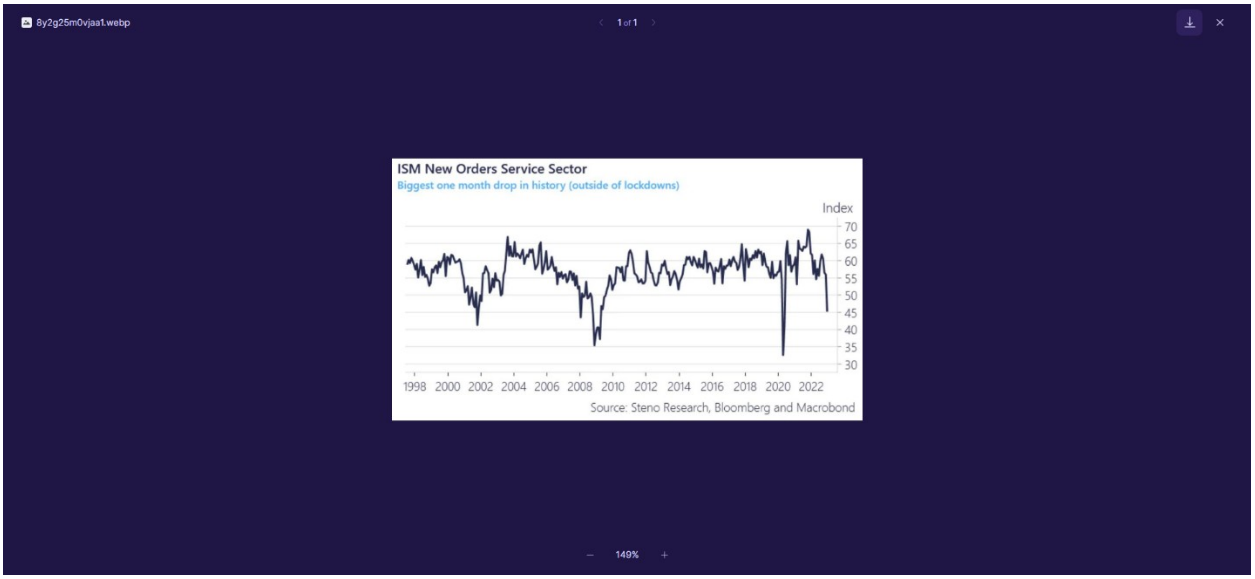
New York Harbor is a major import hub receiving fuel from Canada, Europe, India and South America, making it better insulated from Colonial pipeline disruptions than the Southeast. A prolonged outage of Line 3 could strain supplies on the East Coast, though, while flooding the Gulf Coast with fuel.

Colonial didn't provide details about the volume and product that leaked.

--With assistance from Joe Aboussleman.

(Updates with additional comments from Colonial in second paragraph and price movements in sixth paragraph)

Markets: ISM New Orders Service Sector shows crazy drop (not seen other than during the lockdown)… Most major banks agree: 2023 spells BIG TROUBLE for the U.S. economy



Stats, housing: jan8 they say median mortgage payment is the better guage of the average than calculating the actual average in a recent business insider article

Data from the 2021 American Community Survey shows that homeowners paid a median amount of $1,672 per month

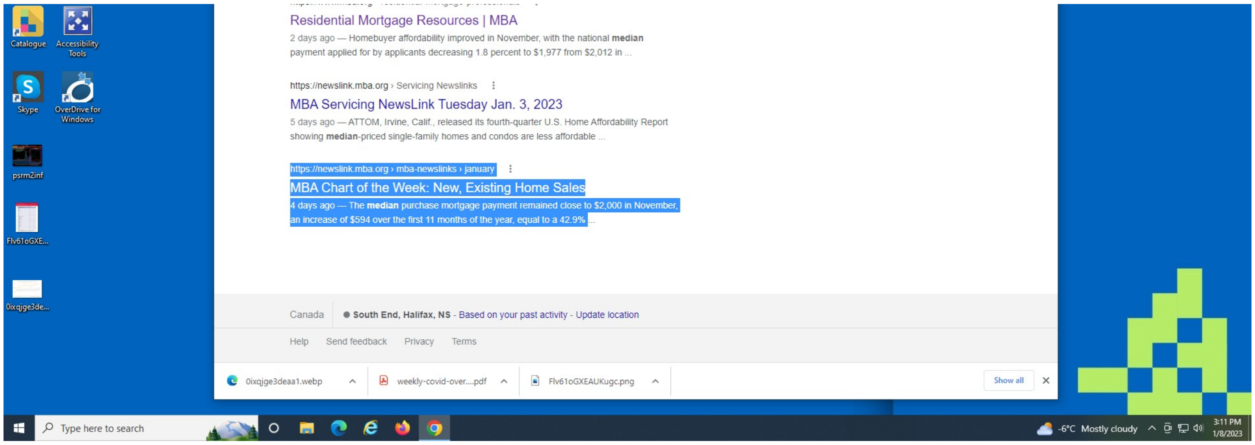
However, an average, which can be skewed by payments that are atypically low or high, probably isn't the most accurate depiction of what the typical US homeowner actually pays. A better measure of this is the median, which represents the middle number in a data set.

The median monthly cost of homeownership in the US is $1,672 per month, according to the most recent data from the Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey. That cost includes not only the monthly mortgage payment, but also other necessary costs like homeowners insurance, HOA fees, and property taxes.

businessinsiderdotcom/personal-finance/average-mortgage-payment

The reason I'm savingthis is because i see in this chart that the median rose to 2600 in 2022. When I looked at the business insider article, they cite the lower number, but then igf you look closer, you see that they are referencing 2021 figures, even though the article says it was written this year in january.

then it says this on the best source



Residential Mortgage Resources | MBA

2 days ago — Homebuyer affordability improved in November, with the national **median** payment applied for by applicants decreasing 1.8 percent to $1,977 from $2,012 in ...

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MBA Servicing NewsLink Tuesday Jan. 3, 2023

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https://newslink.mba.org › mba-newslinks › january

MBA Chart of the Week: New, Existing Home Sales

4 days ago — The **median** purchase mortgage payment remained close to $2,000 in November, an increase of $594 over the first 11 months of the year, equal to a 42.9% ...

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and after reading this article here, you see that the rise was due to the fed pivot

Homebuyer affordability worsened in October as higher mortgage rates pushed the monthly payment to record highs.

The national median monthly payment increased 3.7% to $2,012 in October from $1,941 in September, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA), marking a new high for the survey. That’s also equal to a 45.5% year-over-year increase, increasing the average monthly mortgage payment by $629 in the first 10 months of the year.

The figures underscore the challenging conditions many would-be buyers have faced this year as higher rates, elevated home prices, and inflation put homeownership out of reach.

“Higher mortgage rates are also squeezing the purchasing power of prospective buyers," Edward Seiler, MBA’s associate vice president, housing economics, and executive director, Research Institute for Housing America, said in a news statement. "The median loan amount last month decreased to $295,000 – the lowest level since January 2021."

ca.news.yahoo.com/housing-median-mortgage-payment-reaches-record-high-in-october-145537241.html

stats: **Layoffs.fyi is tracking corporate layoffs in the tech sector**

censorship: jan8 Leader of the Conservative Party of canada, the official opposition for the country, says, "Free speech isn't free unless people are allowed to disagree" in response to the Jordan Peterson debacle
twitterdotcom/PierrePoilievre/status/1611363161126633472?

Vaccine, health: jan8 Australia reports 5.6% death rate due to COVID infection for the week ending december 31st

NSW COVID-19 WEEKLY DATA OVERVIEW

Epidemiological weeks 51 and 52, ending 31 December 2022

www.health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus

Table 1. People with a COVID-19 diagnosis in the previous 14 days who were admitted to hospital, admitted to ICU or reported as having died in the two weeks ending 31 December 2022

	Admitted to hospital (but not to ICU)	Admitted to ICU	Deaths
Gender			
Female	842	63	42
Indeterminate	1	0	0
Male	936	77	53
Age group (years)			
0-9	85	3	0
10-19	24	3	0
20-29	67	8	1
30-39	79	7	0
40-49	64	6	0
50-59	105	17	3
60-69	199	27	8
70-79	436	42	19
80-89	507	24	31
90+	213	3	33
Local Health District of residence[*]			
Central Coast	113	3	5
Illawarra Shoalhaven	135	8	7
Nepean Blue Mountains	82	7	2
Northern Sydney	165	12	9
South Eastern Sydney	184	13	11
South Western Sydney	190	18	13
Sydney	157	10	5
Western Sydney	165	26	8
Far West	20	0	0
Hunter New England	176	16	16
Mid North Coast	76	5	3
Murrumbidgee	59	7	1
Northern NSW	77	3	8
Southern NSW	54	2	1
Western NSW	94	6	4
Vaccination status[^]			
Four or more doses	810	58	53
Three doses	377	29	19
Two doses	218	17	9
One dose	10	1	1
No dose	0	0	6
Unknown	364	35	7
Total	**1779**	**140**	**95**

[*] Excludes cases in correctional settings

[^] Vaccination status is determined by matching to Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) data. Name and date of birth need to be an exact match to that recorded in AIR for vaccination status to be determined. People with unknown vaccination status were those unable to be found in AIR. This may occur when names in AIR are different, for example shortened name or different spelling, to those used for the COVID-19 notification.

twitterdotcom/rodochri90/status/1611158706661765121?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1611159982912962562%7Ctwgr%5E61cb8847d47f04f6571a5504c984f1463c523d01%7Ctwcon%5Es2_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.investmentwatchblog.com%2Fholy-shit-the-weekly-covid-report-in-australia%2F

stats, vaccine, health, censorship: jan8 More people died than were born in the Netherlands for the first time since 1900, entire growth last year all due to migration

‘The birth rate has been falling and deaths increasing for years, so it could be a temporary dip,’ Ter Steege said. ‘But if the excess deaths stop next year then more babies will be born than people dying.’

Read more at DutchNews.nl:

Media, stats, censorship: jan8 Former Lobbyist: Soda Companies Paid NAACP And Other Groups To Call Opponents “Racist”

“We (Coke) will give you money. You need to paint opponents of us as racist.”
The effort was successful, and the message was carried in thousands of articles between 2011-2013.
https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2023/01/former-lobbyist-soda-companies-paid-naacp-groups-call-opponents-racist/

Calley Means

Jan 2 • 11 tweets • 4 min read

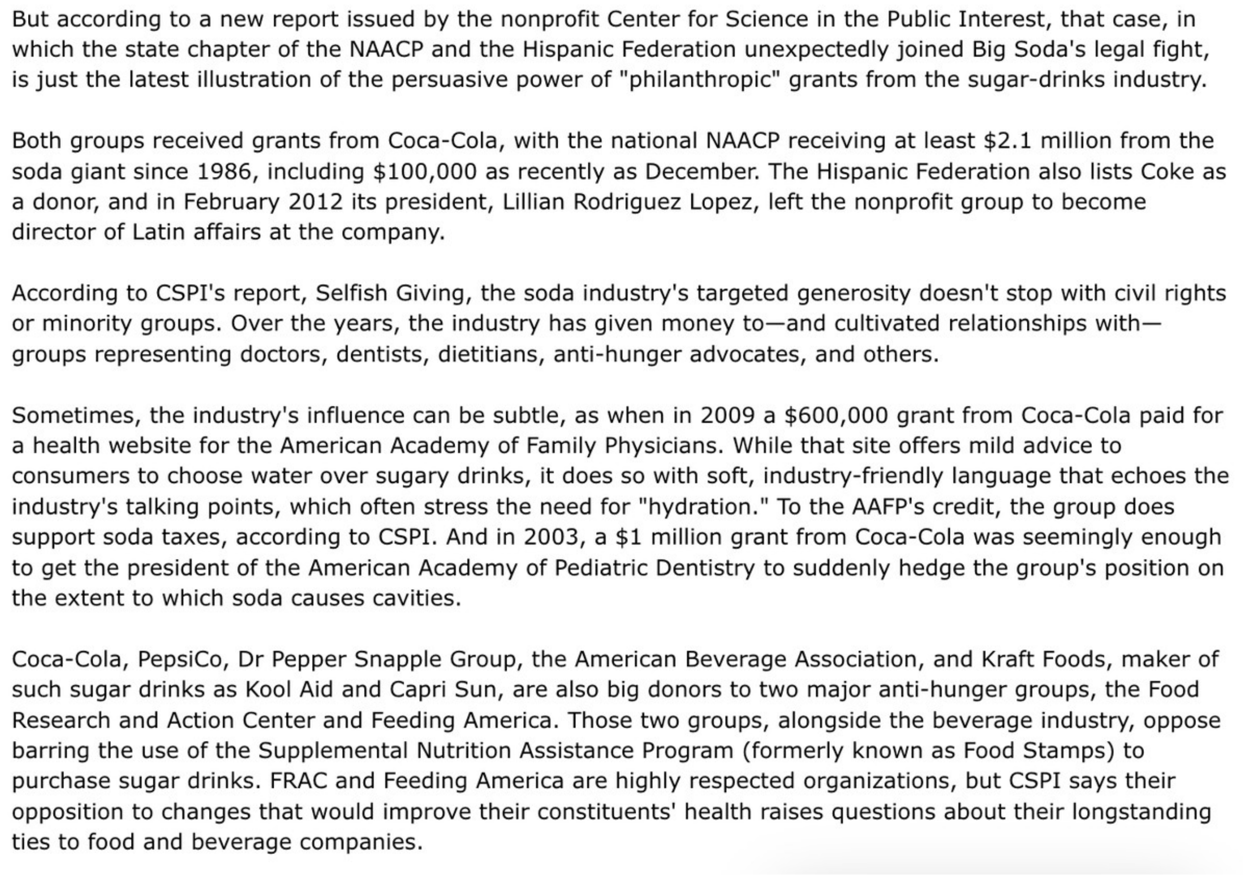
> Early in my career, I consulted for Coke to ensure sugar taxes failed and soda was included in food stamp funding.
>
> I say Coke's policies are evil because I saw inside the room.
>
> The first step in playbook was paying the NAACP + other civil rights groups to call opponents racist

Coke gave millions to the NAACP and the Hispanic Federation - both directly and through front groups like the American

Beverage Association.

This picked up in 2011-2013 - when the Farm Bill and soda taxes were under consideration.

nutritioninsight.com/news/cspi-repo…


But according to a new report issued by the nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest, that case, in which the state chapter of the NAACP and the Hispanic Federation unexpectedly joined Big Soda's legal fight, is just the latest illustration of the persuasive power of "philanthropic" grants from the sugar-drinks industry.

Both groups received grants from Coca-Cola, with the national NAACP receiving at least $2.1 million from the soda giant since 1986, including $100,000 as recently as December. The Hispanic Federation also lists Coke as a donor, and in February 2012 its president, Lillian Rodriguez Lopez, left the nonprofit group to become director of Latin affairs at the company.

According to CSPI's report, Selfish Giving, the soda industry's targeted generosity doesn't stop with civil rights or minority groups. Over the years, the industry has given money to—and cultivated relationships with—groups representing doctors, dentists, dietitians, anti-hunger advocates, and others.

Sometimes, the industry's influence can be subtle, as when in 2009 a $600,000 grant from Coca-Cola paid for a health website for the American Academy of Family Physicians. While that site offers mild advice to consumers to choose water over sugary drinks, it does so with soft, industry-friendly language that echoes the industry's talking points, which often stress the need for "hydration." To the AAFP's credit, the group does support soda taxes, according to CSPI. And in 2003, a $1 million grant from Coca-Cola was seemingly enough to get the president of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry to suddenly hedge the group's position on the extent to which soda causes cavities.

Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Dr Pepper Snapple Group, the American Beverage Association, and Kraft Foods, maker of such sugar drinks as Kool Aid and Capri Sun, are also big donors to two major anti-hunger groups, the Food Research and Action Center and Feeding America. Those two groups, alongside the beverage industry, oppose barring the use of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as Food Stamps) to purchase sugar drinks. FRAC and Feeding America are highly respected organizations, but CSPI says their opposition to changes that would improve their constituents' health raises questions about their longstanding ties to food and beverage companies.

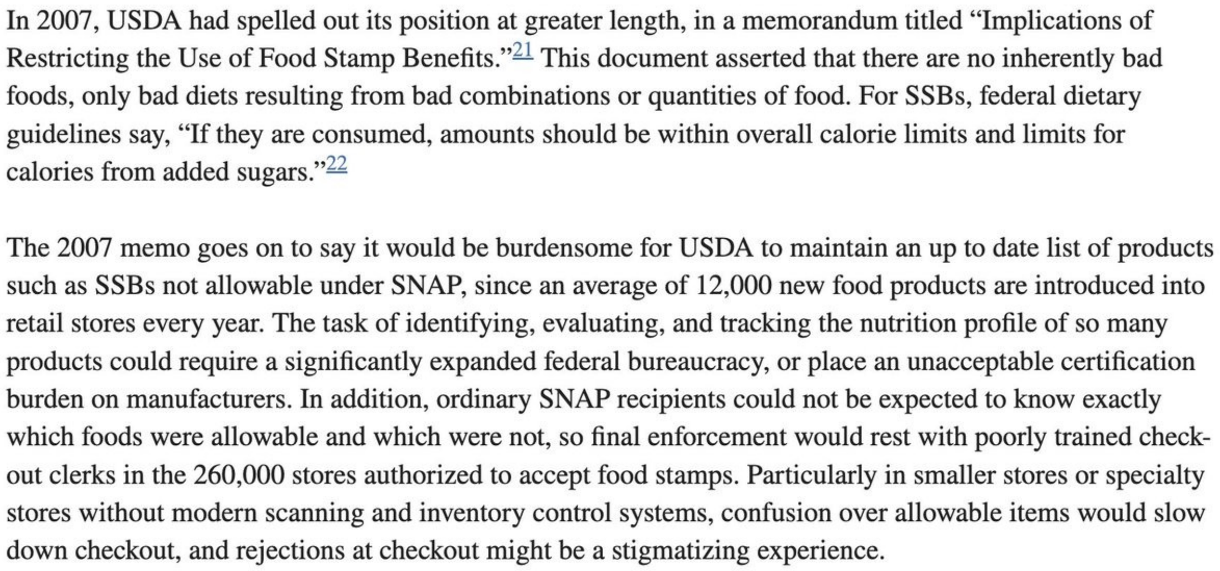
The conversations inside these rooms was depressingly transactional:

"We (Coke) will give you money. You need to paint opponents of us as racist."
The effort was successful, and the message was carried in thousands of articles between 2011-2013.

Coke's position was clear: soda is one of the cheapest ways to get calories - a flagrantly inaccurate statement when factoring in the health consequences.
I watched as the FDA funneled money to professors at leading universities - as well as think tanks on the left and right - to create studies showing soda taxes hurt the poor. They also paid for studies that say drinking soda DIDN'T cause obesity.

reuters.com/article/us-usa...
Of course, not mentioned in these studies is that incontrovertible fact that sugary drinks are one of the top causes of obesity and diabetes - leading to harrowing statistics like this.
Soda companies are deeply embedded in the USDA - so much so that the agency carries discredited talking points like "there are no bad food, only bad diets."

This ignores fact that sugar is highly addictive and has negative nutritional value.



In 2007, USDA had spelled out its position at greater length, in a memorandum titled "Implications of Restricting the Use of Food Stamp Benefits."[21] This document asserted that there are no inherently bad foods, only bad diets resulting from bad combinations or quantities of food. For SSBs, federal dietary guidelines say, "If they are consumed, amounts should be within overall calorie limits and limits for calories from added sugars."[22]

The 2007 memo goes on to say it would be burdensome for USDA to maintain an up to date list of products such as SSBs not allowable under SNAP, since an average of 12,000 new food products are introduced into retail stores every year. The task of identifying, evaluating, and tracking the nutrition profile of so many products could require a significantly expanded federal bureaucracy, or place an unacceptable certification burden on manufacturers. In addition, ordinary SNAP recipients could not be expected to know exactly which foods were allowable and which were not, so final enforcement would rest with poorly trained check-out clerks in the 260,000 stores authorized to accept food stamps. Particularly in smaller stores or specialty stores without modern scanning and inventory control systems, confusion over allowable items would slow down checkout, and rejections at checkout might be a stigmatizing experience.

In the end: racial tensions flared, soda spending was kept in SNAP funding, and many of the soda taxes were defeated...

Of course, this has been a disaster for low-income communities. Addictive, deadly sugary drinks should never be included in a government nutrition program.
People saying that restricting soda from SNAP funding is "paternalistic" or an "assault on personal choice" are unwittingly doing the work of the soda companies.

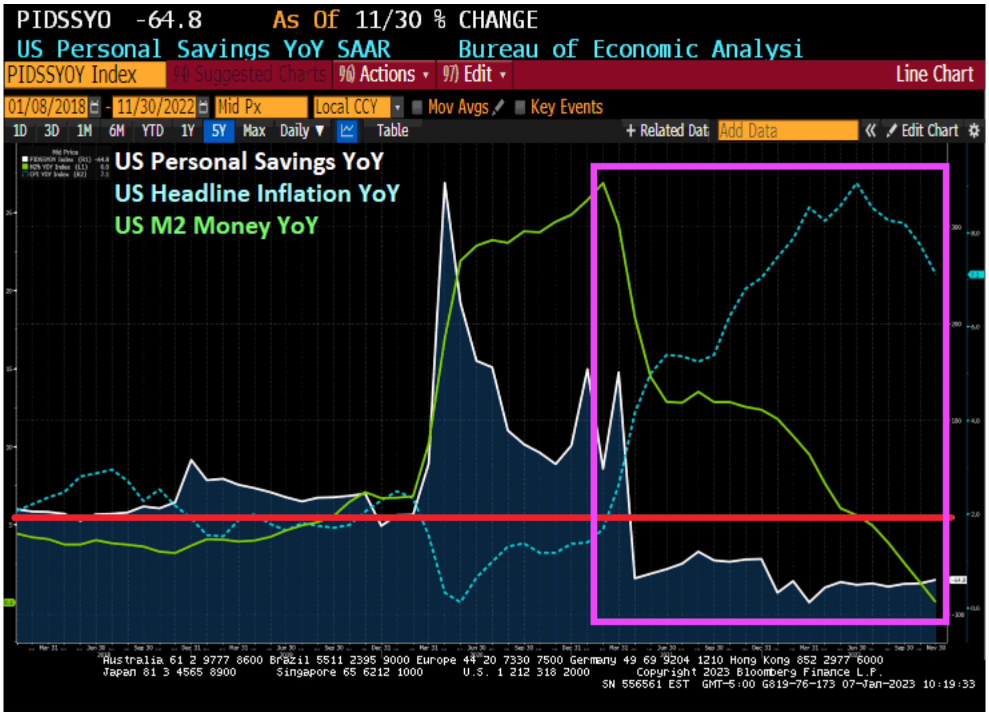
You can't have a free market if that market is rigged.
If this resonates, I am sending out a daily email exploring the food/health system and giving actionable health ideas that have impacted me:

Crypto, markets, stats: jan8 **Over 100 Countries are developing their own digital currency**

Health, stats, censorship: jan8 **looks like a nice cancer expose just came out; 2 hour documentary. Ill watch this.."Burzynski: The Cancer Cure Cover-up". Addresses beurocracy, regulatory roadblocks..**

Censorship, vaccine: jan8 **Mar 28, 2022 7:47 PM: B.C. doctor accused of spreading COVID-19 misinformation suspended from practice**

Inflation, markets: jan8 **the fed pivot: m2 money yoy 0% growth, lowest level in history, inflation reversing, but still has a way to go**



Stats, vaccine, government, censorship: jan8 Fear Of COVID Is The Opiate Of The People (writer describes the exact same symptoms that were reported by practically everyone (all 100+ people) at our covidemergency quarentine center

After all of the criticism I’ve directed toward Coronamaniacs and the Vaxxmongers over the past three years - in-person and online - I know that many of them have wished that I’d get very sick and die “from Covid.” If I had, they would have gleefully jeered me, as many did when lockdown critic Herman Cain died. Bear in mind that Mr. Cain was 74 and had Stage IV cancer.

Authored by Mark Oshinskie via The Brownstone Institute,

After all of the criticism I’ve directed toward Coronamaniacs and the Vaxxmongers over the past three years - in-person and online - I know that many of them have wished that I’d get very sick and die “from Covid.” If I had, they would have gleefully jeered me, as many did when lockdown critic Herman Cain died. Bear in mind that Mr. Cain was 74 and had Stage IV cancer.

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Bond selloff 'unambiguously bad for all assets' -CIO
Huawei: 'business as usual' as U.S. sanctions pain ebbs
Africa in Business: China's COVID risk on S. Africa rand
Chinese airlines to win big on border openingNOW PLAYING
The Year in Numbers: rising prices, endless Elon
Southwest promises refunds over snow chaos
But I haven't died "from Covid." Like the super-vast majority of people, I was never at any risk of doing so.

While I'd prefer to never get sick, I always knew it was possible that I might "get Covid," just as I had gotten some other, prior, unnamed coronavirus-driven colds or flus. It's how life is, has been and will always be. Many people seem to be sick lately. It doesn't help immune function to be in the low light/low Vitamin D state of winter. And during the past three years of disrupted social life, our immune systems haven't been properly tested.

Many have said that, by Spring, 2022, everyone had been exposed to Covid-causing coronaviruses. Maybe it's true, though it sounds like hyperbole; I'm not sure how this could be known. Regardless, except for one February, 2020 day of malaise, and then a week-long dry cough with no apparent cause—perhaps a quick, nearly asymptomatic, pre-Lockdown brush with Covid, or perhaps nothing at all—I've felt fine for the past three years.

Last week, on the day after Christmas, that changed.

My muscles started to ache. These aches spread and lasted for three days, accompanied by a tight chest and a banging headache. On Day 2, I also got a high fever. I let the fever crest until I took some Tylenol to moderate my temperature. Serial doses over the next two days quelled the headaches. My wife got sick the day after I did and exhibited the same symptoms.

By our respective Day 4s, we each felt much better.

Aside from the fever, we didn't have the publicized, original Covid symptoms: shortness of breath, dry cough and fatigue. Plus, for what it's worth, we each tested negative on home antigen tests that my wife had gotten in the mail. Thus, we mutually guessed that we probably had some form of flu. I didn't care whether or not I had "had Covid." That diagnosis never scared me. I only cared that we felt sick for three days.

A day later, by coincidence—or perhaps because my computer was, in our surveillance society, eavesdropping on my wife and my conversations about how we were feeling, physically—this clickbait headline appeared on my screen: "The New Symptoms of Covid."

I took the bait. The article set forth a revised list of symptoms closely resembling those that my wife and I had just endured.

Hmm. Maybe we did "have Covid." The new kind. Because heaven forbid that anyone might think that they just got some unspecified sort of cold or flu, as they might have thought three-plus years ago.

To the extent I might believe the article, it said that the virus had mutated into yet another variant, this one with the parodic name, "XBB-1.5." I've known for decades that viruses mutate. This adaptability was another reason that I declined to begin to take an endless series of shots said to protect against viruses that would continually go out of fashion, only to be replaced by others.

Throughout, my understanding has been that viruses typically weaken—not strengthen—following such mutations. Thus, I might expect that a coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, which was unscary to begin with, would cause the same symptoms—only weaker—as it evolved into some different variant under the "Covid" umbrella.

But as a virus weakens, I didn't assume—as the clickbait article suggested—that the types of symptoms would change. I've wondered why an illness caused by an ever-evolving virus, that is supposedly genetically distinct from its viral predecessors and said to cause different symptoms than other viruses or variants have caused, is still widely presented to the public as "Covid."

Like other marketing campaigns—only more so—countless money and boundless effort went into building the "Covid" brand. In order to incite fear, Government/Media/Pharma had to set "Covid" apart from centuries of respiratory illnesses experienced by those infected by other coronaviruses. Given the name recognition that Government/Media have developed for "Covid" since March, 2020, they're motivated to stick with this well-known brand name to describe a viral disease that wasn't much different from centuries of pre-March, 2020 Coronavirus infections; which, in turn, won't be much different from infections that follow it, ad infinitum.

Christian Scientists say that to name a disease is to empower it. But while the Chistian Scientists think it's bad to empower an illness, Government/Media/Pharma have taken the opposite approach: for three years, they've relentlessly strived to empower, and thus, exploit "Covid."

Politically and economically, it's been extremely useful to perpetuate the Covid franchise. Keeping some people scared of Covid helps to sustain the perpetual State of Emergency—oxymoron intended—and all of the Covid-linked government oppression and subsidy schemes that depend upon the myth of crisis. If, instead of referring to "Covid," Government/Media used all of the various variant names, the public might eventually figure out what they should have known in March, 2020: we've always lived among evolving respiratory viruses that briefly sicken many people but don’t seriously threaten anyone who’s healthy.

Though to those with the attention span to accommodate all of the shifting variant names, these names might have a certain spooky sci-fi cachet of their own: so many viruses keep emerging that some people feel they’re under siege.

But overall, from a fear-marketing standpoint, it’s best to stick with the simpler, original brand name:

“Covid.”

“Covid.”

“Covid.”

Did I mention “Covid?”

Government/Media/Pharma have seared “Covid” into the American consciousness and terrorized people by grossly exaggerating Covid’s lethality. They aggressively suppressed criticisms of the attendant scam. By repeatedly saying “Covid” and “Pandemic,” they weaponized these words in order to pacify and control the masses, to effect the biggest wealth transfer in history to the already rich—including but not limited to, Pharma—to further impoverish the working class that they now disdain, and to strategically change election laws.

Aside from sustaining the perception of a public health Crisis, and to justify imposing a wide array of deprivation restrictions on basic liberties, sustaining Covid brand loyalty also provides at least three other important, continuing benefits.

Firstly, by keeping at least some segment of the population afraid of the Covid bogeyman, politicians can use it as an excuse to print ever more “Covid Emergency” relief and research money, ostensibly, but not actually, to control what Biden strategically labeled “this God-awful disease;” even though everyone I know who has had it experienced it as a cold or flu. This massive, annually supplemented slush fund will be used for a vast array of chicanery, including widespread political patronage, with tentacles reaching through politically-aligned state and municipal governments, political donors, the Medical Industrial Complex and the Defense/Biosecurity apparatus. Covid is worth far more alive than it is dead.

Secondly, sustaining Covidism protects politicians and public health bureaucrats. By continuing to invoke “Covid” to spook a gullible public, the scaremongers can use this word to defuse public anger regarding the overreaction of the past three years and all of the lasting damage which people are belatedly seeing. People who are constantly reminded of the Covid Scare of the past three years or who remain naively scared of the Covid Monster will continue to think that all measures to crush it were worth the suffering that the Government/Media/Pharma opportunistically caused with their orchestrated overreaction. Thus, most people won’t demand accountability for the scam of the past three years. They’ll allow the Government/Media/Pharma to continue to hide behind the foundational lie that “We did all of that to save you from death!”

Fear of Covid is the opiate of the people.

Lest we forget how essential it was—not—to wreck American society and economy over a virus that threatened almost no one under 75, politicians will order and fund the construction of public monuments where people can go and wring their hands over, and speak in hushed tones about, the deaths of unhealthy septugenarians, octogenarians and nonagenarians “from Covid.”

Thirdly, preserving the Covid Scare also enables Government/Media/Pharma to unilaterally, arbitrarily declare victory over Covid whenever it wants. If Covid ever becomes a political liability, it can be decreed to have been conquered. The self-proclaimed Covid-slaying politicians can portray themselves, and the public health bureaucrats, as saviors of humanity. The Media can hail, and gullible people will venerate, those who may claim to have liberated our nation from the long-lasting grip of, as Trump so inaptly called it, “The Plague.”

Fundamentally, whether my wife or I had some weird, sore-throat-free cold, some nausea-less flu or just the latest style of “Covid,” neither of us enjoyed our three-day viral experience. Like any old school respiratory virus, this one made us feel lousy, albeit with a different constellation of symptoms. We handled it the same way as other viral illnesses: we drank extra water, took some home remedies, and tried to get some extra sleep. A few years ago, no one made a big deal about, or needed to categorize, being sick like this. People rode it out. No one cared what you had. Or didn’t have.

During the three days that my wife and I felt the effects of some sort of virus, I never regretfully thought that I would’ve been fine if I had only worn a mask. Nor, while reclining on the sofa sipping hot tea, did I think to blame anyone for passing a virus to me; I understood that an occasional respiratory infection is an unavoidable cost of social life.

And I definitely didn’t think that any coronavirus justified shutting down a society or mass-injecting some experimental substance.

These measures have failed miserably and caused tremendous, lasting and expanding harm.

markets, china jan8 **Prices of Tesla vehicles in China are now between 13% and 24% lower than they were in September.**

"About a dozen police officers" were on site at the protests in Shanghai. "Return the money, refund our cars," a crowd in one protest video, posted to social media, chants out loud.

Tesla has cut prices to help spur demand as the company heads into the new year. In Q4 2022, Tesla reported a record number of vehicle deliveries, but still missed Wall Street's estimates.

Stats, vaccine, media: jan8 2022 Box Office Still 33% Shy Of Pre-Pandemic Levels

War, history, stats, Erdogan, middle east: jan8 perfect syria brekadown ive been looking for: Without Turkiye’s involvement in Syria, the Neocons’ goal of strangling Russia on gas imports to Europe never happens

Without Turkiye’s involvement in Syria, the Neocons’ goal of strangling Russia on gas imports to Europe never happens. This was the main impetus behind the Syrian War in the first place. To get him on board, Erdogan had to be bribed with a massive land grab, which he’s tried to accomplish.

But when he didn’t do enough to start a war with Russia in November 2015 after Turkiye supposedly shot down a Russian SU-24, he was rewarded with a coup attempt against him led by the CIA and US military out of the Incerlik airbase, by all accounts.

He was saved, apparently, by an early warning from Putin and ferried out to Iran to issue his counter-attack orders to the Turkish military on the night of the coup attempt.

This was the beginning of the end of Turkiye’s relationship with NATO and the US.

The road between Turkey and Russia to this point has been incredibly rocky. Putin has been exceedingly patient with Erdogan over a dozen issues, his back-pedaling and, at times, double-dealing.

But the reality is that, like him or not, every year since Russia’s move into Syria Erdogan has acted in his interest, creating leverage on the ground by taking territory in Syria, making outrageous claims against the Eastern Mediterranean, while playing the West and Russia against each other on NATO expansion, refugee policy, and his support of Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

War, sanctions, Germany: jan8 improtant breakdown on the ukraine-russia-germany situation: in rare interview since her 16 years chanceller of germany, angela merkel gives her opinion on ukraines minks agreement, surprising commentators by saying that the 2014 minsk agreements were just meant to buy timne for ukraine to arm themselves for an eventually war

Merkel, who was also leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), has made few public statements since she was replaced as chancellor by Olaf Scholz (Social Democratic Party, SPD) a year ago, after sixteen years in office. The extensive interview published by *Die Zeit* on December 7 is a rare exception.

According to former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the Minsk agreement served to buy time to rearm Ukraine. “The 2014 Minsk agreement was an attempt to give Ukraine time,” Merkel told the weekly *Die Zeit*. “It also used this time to become stronger, as you can see today.”

Behind the scenes, however, Merkel remains politically active. In her office, to which she is entitled as a former chancellor, she employs nine people, four more than approved—an office manager, a deputy manager, two desk officers, three clerks and two drivers. She maintains regular contact with Scholz, as he himself has reported. She had already cultivated a good relationship with him when he was still finance minister in the grand coalition government.

All the more remarkable is her admission that the Minsk agreement served to buy time for Ukraine’s rearmament. “It was clear to all of us that this was a frozen conflict, that the problem had not been solved, but that is precisely what gave Ukraine valuable time,” Merkel told *Die Zeit*.

Previously, the Minsk agreement, which Merkel signed together with then-French President François Hollande, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin in September 2014, had been portrayed as an effort towards peace that the Russian president had allegedly later thwarted.

Now, Merkel confirms that NATO wanted war from the start but needed time to prepare militarily—an assessment WSWS has long held.

Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the US has pursued the goal of remaining the “sole world power.” To this end, Washington has waged numerous criminal wars and expanded NATO into Eastern Europe. Now it also wants to integrate Ukraine, Georgia and other former Soviet republics into NATO and subjugate Russia in order to plunder its resources and isolate China.

Under these circumstances, Merkel and Hollande organized the Minsk agreement—as Merkel now admits—to freeze the conflict and buy time. The agreement included a cease-fire, the withdrawal of heavy weapons, and the establishment of a security zone, monitored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The Ukrainian government pledged to amend the constitution to allow special status for Donetsk and Luhansk and grant them greater autonomy.

NATO used the “valuable time” (Merkel) gained by this terror to rebuild, arm to the teeth, and train the Ukrainian armed forces. For example, according to a British parliamentary report, the British Army has trained and equipped Ukrainian soldiers since 2014. Ukraine has not formally become part of NATO but is doing so in practice.

Russia’s decision to take military action against Ukraine was the predictable—and intended—reaction to this NATO offensive. That does not make it any less reactionary. The Putin regime represents the interests of the Russian oligarchs who looted the Soviet Union’s socialised property and are at war with the Russian working class.

Since the beginning of the war, they have been flooding Ukraine with state-of-the-art weaponry. They provide logistical support, determine attack targets, direct the fighting, and operate secretly in Ukraine with their own elite troops. They stifle any attempt at a negotiated solution. In reality, NATO has long been waging a war against the nuclear power Russia, risking the nuclear annihilation of mankind.

War, sanctions: jan7 “Cuba, Nicaragua and now Bolivia are the countries that deny me entry." says Víctor González, a right-wing lawmaker from the Spanish party Vox

The Civic Committee of Santa Cruz invited González and Sánchez to Bolivia to get a first-hand look at the situation following the detention of Camacho.

A judge on Friday ordered four months of pre-trial detention for Camacho after prosecutors alleged the governor in 2019 orchestrated what they describe as a coup while leading mass protests following elections that the Organization of American States said were marred by fraud. The unrest resulted in 37 deaths.

The opposition, which characterizes Camacho’s detention as a “kidnapping,” has long disputed the government’s characterization of the 2019 unrest as a coup. It argues that the events were legitimate political protests that led to the resignation of then-President Evo Morales.

Camacho’s detention has sparked protests and clashes with law enforcement. Leaders in Santa Cruz, the country’s wealthy agribusiness center that is widely considered to be Bolivia’s economic engine, have called for a blockade to prevent goods from reaching the rest of the country.

Media, censorship, stats: jan7 Woman charged with repeatedly poisoning her veteranarian husband

https://apnews.com/article/crime-wisconsin-homicide-4600a5916f5becd5442ac2871c0e0a06

censorship, middle east, islam: jan7 Saudi Arabia jails two Wikipedia staff in ‘bid to control content’

https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/jan/05/saudi-arabia-jails-two-wikipedia-staff-in-bid-to-control-content

stats, middle east, war, iran: Much of Iraq’s current leadership consists of Iran-aligned politicians, according to al-monitor

Erdogan, war: conversationTurkish embassy requests U.S. government use name “Republic of Turkiye” in communications in place of Turkey...

Turkey asked last year for its name to be changed to Turkiye in international forums and most, including the United Nations and NATO, had switched to the new spelling.

The State Department, however, does not often change its style on the names of foreign countries and, in at least one notable case, has refused to do so for decades.

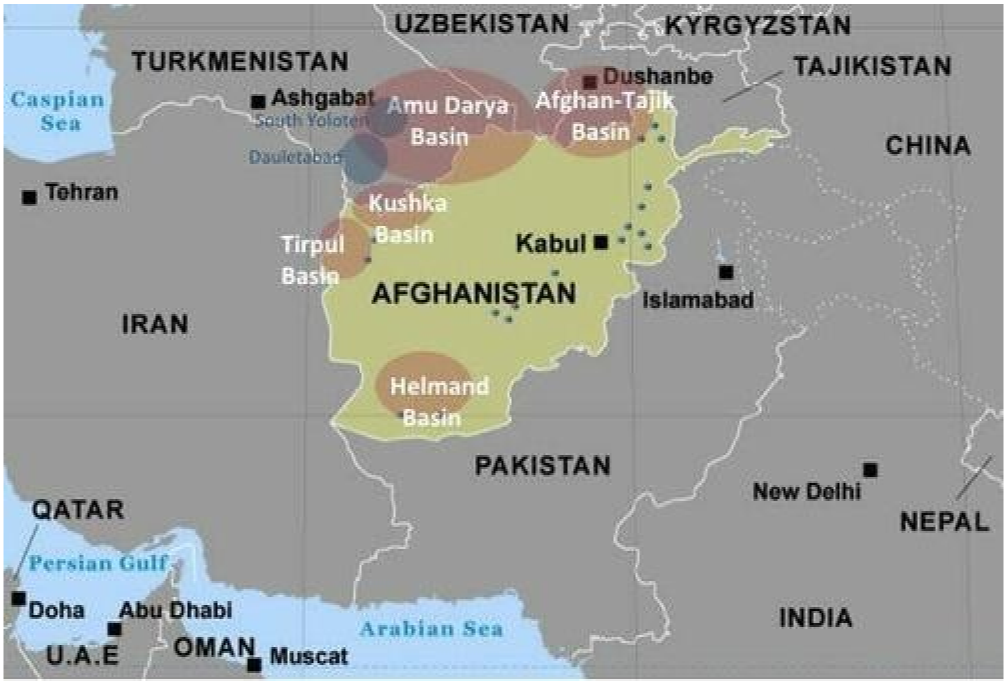
The U.S. still refuses to refer to Burma as Myanmar although the country’s military rulers formally adopted Myanmar in 1989.

The last two countries that the State Department renamed following requests by their governments were North Macedonia, which changed its name from Macedonia in 2019, and Eswatini, which changed its name from Swaziland a year earlier.

Tech, stats: read later: Most Important Science Headlines Of 2022

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/science-headlines-of-2022

middle east, war, markets: taliban signs first major deal since taking power in 2021 after what has been called america's longest foreign occupation, agreeing to open the northern Afghanistan Amu Darya basin to China’s Xinjiang Central Asia Petroleum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PAKISTAN
New Delhi
QATAR
NEPAL
Persian Gulf
Doha
Abu Dhabi
Arabian Sea
INDIA
U.A.E
OMAN
Muscat

War, stats: jan7 **exactly what looking for on bases; more on bases, basically**

A new Quincy Institute study by American University’s David Vine and World Beyond War’s Patterson Deppen and Leah

Bolger details the global US military presence. Washington has nearly three times as many bases as embassies and consulates. America also has three times as many installations as all other countries combined. The United Kingdom has 145. Russia two to three dozen. China five. Although the number of US facilities has fallen in half since the end of the Cold War, the number of nations hosting American bases has doubled. Washington is as willing to station forces in undemocratic as democratic countries.

The study figures the annual cost of this expansive base structure to be about $55 billion. Adding increased personnel expenses takes the total up to $80 billion. Wealthier countries, which needlessly enjoy what amounts to defense welfare, typically cover a portion of the cost through “host nation support.” Not so Washington’s newest clients. Indeed, through the Global War on Terror over the last two decades the US military spent as much as $100 billion on new construction, mostly in countries, like Iraq and Afghanistan, which were financial black holes.

750 Bases in 80 Countries Is Too Many for Any Nation: Time for the US to Bring Its Troops Home

Ending US security guarantees and avoiding fights not America’s own would allow Washington to shutter many existing military facilities.

OCTOBER 4, 2021 • COMMENTARY

By Doug Bandow

SHARE

This article appeared in *Antiwar.com* on October 4, 2021.

TOP

President Joe Biden did what his three predecessors could or would not: halt a seemingly endless war. It took two decades, but American troops no longer are fighting in Afghanistan.

An important aspect of the US withdrawal was closing Washington's bases, which once spread across the country. Uncle Sam left Bagram Air Base, America's biggest facility in Afghanistan, on his way home.

However, some 750 American military facilities remain open in 80 nations and territories around the world. No other country in human history has had such a dominant presence. Great Britain was the leading colonial power, but its army was small. London had to supplement its own troops with foreign mercenaries, as in the American Revolution. In wars with great powers Britain provided its allies with financial subsidies rather than soldiers.

Previous empires, such as Rome, Persia, and China, were powerful in their own realms but had little reach beyond. The latter never reached outside Asia. Persia was twice halted by the Greek city states. As great as Rome became, its writ never went much beyond the Mediterranean, with Central Europe, North Africa, and the Mideast its boundaries. The New World remained beyond the knowledge let alone control of all three.

Ending US security guarantees and avoiding fights not America's own would allow Washington to shutter many existing military facilities.

A new Quincy Institute study by American University's David Vine and World Beyond War's Patterson Deppen and Leah Bolger details the global US military presence. Washington has nearly three times as many bases as embassies and consulates. America also has three times as many installations as all other countries combined. The United Kingdom has 145. Russia two to three dozen. China five. Although the number of US facilities has fallen in half since the end of the Cold War, the number of nations hosting American bases has doubled. Washington is as willing to station forces in undemocratic as democratic countries.

The study figures the annual cost of this expansive base structure to be about $55 billion. Adding increased personnel expenses takes the total up to $80 billion. Wealthier countries, which needlessly enjoy what amounts to defense welfare, typically cover a portion of the cost through "host nation support." Not so Washington's newest clients. Indeed, through the Global War on Terror over the last two decades the US military spent as much as $100 billion on new construction, mostly in countries, like Iraq and Afghanistan, which were financial black holes.

Although American bases face intense local opposition in some areas, such as Okinawa, facilities are seen as welcome money-makers in others. When President Donald Trump proposed pulling US forces out of Germany many locals' greatest concern was economic. Indeed, the whining of local politicians who saw America's presence as a financial rather than security issue was loud enough to heard across "the Pond." Not only did they believe that Americans owed them military protection. In their view Americans also had a duty *to bolster their economies*.

However, the price of Washington's globe-spanning is more than economic. Explained Vine, et al.: "These bases are costly in a number of ways: financially, politically, socially, and environmentally. US bases in foreign lands often raise geopolitical tensions, support undemocratic regimes, and serve as a recruiting tool for militant groups opposed to the US presence and the governments its presence bolsters. In other cases, foreign bases are being used and have made it easier for the United States to launch and execute disastrous wars, including those in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, and Libya."

Perhaps the most expensive installations were those established in Saudi Arabia after the first Gulf War. By renting out members of the US military as bodyguards for the Saudi royals Washington underwrote one of the most vile dictatorships in existence, a veritable totalitarian state with no political, religious, or social liberty. Although Crown Prince Mohammed "Slice & Dice" bin Salman, responsible for the murder and dismemberment of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi three years ago, has loosened some social strictures, he has greatly tightened political controls.

Worse from a foreign policy standpoint, America's presence is one of the grievances which motivated Osama bin Laden to target the US Then Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz admitted in February 2003, before the invasion of Iraq, that America's regional presence had cost "far more than money." US bombing of Iraq and US troops in Saudi Arabia had "been Osama bin Laden's principal recruiting device." After the planned invasion, he added: "I can't imagine anyone here wanting to … be there for another 12 years to continue helping recruit terrorists."

Perhaps the most serious price of endless bases has been endless wars. Obviously, causation is complex. However, going to war usually leads to creation of new facilities. Such installations encourage a continuing military presence. Existence of nearby bases reduces the marginal cost of intervening and increases the maximal temptation to make new commitments, meddle in local controversies, and enter nearby conflicts. Observed the Quincy study: "Since 1980, US bases in the greater Middle East have been used at least 25 times to launch wars or other combat actions in at least 15 countries in that region alone. Since 2001, the US military has been involved in combat in at least 25 countries worldwide."

American military facilities also raise expectations of host and neighboring nations. After Iran attacked Saudi oil facilities in September 2019 the well-pampered Saudi royals expected US retaliation but were sorely disappointed. Although President Donald Trump was right to allow the Saudis to "fight their own wars," as he had tweeted five years before, America's military presence, which Trump had increased, encouraged Riyadh to expect more – and might have motivated a more conventional president to act.

Vine, et al. point to other costs as well. The Department of Defense is a terrible environmental actor. Although its practices have much improved in recent years, the accumulated damage is enormous. There also are questions about Washington's tendency to load up US territories, such as Guam, with military installations. Such areas are not exactly foreign, but the Quincy report contended that the heavy base presence "helped perpetuate their colonial relationship with the rest of the United States and their peoples' second class US citizenship."

Alas, DOD is less than forthcoming about the number of bases it maintains overseas. According to the report: "Until Fiscal Year 2018, the Pentagon produced and published an annual report in accordance with US law. Even when it produced this report, the Pentagon provided incomplete or inaccurate data, failing to document dozens of well-known installations. For example, the Pentagon has long claimed it has only one base in Africa – in Djibouti. But research shows that there are now around 40 installations of varying sizes on the continent; one military official acknowledged 46 installations in 2017."

The Biden administration should make rationalizing the US base network a priority. Indeed, this should be an integral part of the Global Posture Review that the president announced in his February speech to State Department employees. He explained that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin would lead the process "so that our military footprint is appropriately aligned with our foreign policy and national security priorities. It will be coordinated across all elements of our national security."

The initial task should be publicly listing military installations and their purposes. Then facilities should be consolidated, even if doing so angers local politicians and communities. After all, this process should be relatively painless overseas, in contrast to domestic base closures, which inevitably trigger fevered local and congressional opposition.

The next step would be tougher but necessary. The administration should rethink the underlying commitments used to justify the bases. Europe has no need of a US military presence for defense: the continent enjoys an 11–1 economic advantage and more than 3–1 population edge over Russia. South Korea has a 55–1 economic and 2–1 population superiority over the North. The Mideast Gulf monarchies are well-armed and now working with Israel as well as each other. Washington's presence in Iraq is unnecessary, since it and its neighbors could together confront any remaining threats from the Islamic State. America's intervention in the Syrian civil war never made sense. The Marine Expeditionary Force stationed on Okinawa is tied to Korean rather than Chinese contingencies and America's bases there unfairly burden the local population.

Ending US security guarantees and avoiding fights not America's own would allow Washington to shutter many existing military facilities. Halting endless wars in the Mideast would diminish the importance of logistical nodes in Germany and elsewhere. In appropriate cases the US could replace its bases with emergency access to foreign facilities to deal with unexpected contingencies. In broad sweep Washington should move from frontline to reserve status around the world.

The international threat environment has changed dramatically since the end of World War II, yet America's global network persists. The impact of the Soviet collapse and Warsaw Pact dissolution was too great not to have eliminated some US facilities, but otherwise the Pentagon has been reluctant to leave existing bases.

The only sure way to close a local installation, it seems, is to lose a war, as in Vietnam and Afghanistan. That needs to change. America no longer can afford to garrison the globe. The Biden administration should make the US into a normal country again. And that means no more imperial legions stationed around the world for purposes other than America's defense.

War, middle east, stats: jan7 despite seeing an unprecedented six-month-long ceasefire and a significant drop in fatalities, Saudi Arabia-led international coalition destroys over 14,300 homes, 12 hospitals, 64 schools, and 22 power stations in Yemen in just 2022 according to Yemen-based Eye for Humanity Centre for Rights and Development

According to the Eye for Humanity report, in the last seven years of the Yemen war, **bombings** carried out by the Saudi-led coalition have killed **17,734 people** and injured close to 30,000. According to the data, at least 4,017 deaths were of children.

Health Minister Taha Moutawakil claimed last month that at least **"80 newborn babies die every day due to the lack of medical equipment and medicines"** amid the blockade imposed on Yemeni people.

The Saudi-led coalition has imposed **a comprehensive land, sea and air blockade of Yemen since 2015**, purportedly to prevent the supply of weapons. However, the blockade prevents the inflow of essential supplies including food and medicines to Yemen, which is heavily dependent on imports.

UNICEF issued a report last month claiming that around **11,000 Yemeni children have been either killed or maimed** due to the war in the country

Censorship, stats, government: jan7 it's an unelected beurocracy with literally no oversight. smart person breaks it down quickly and precisely

"While this may be the most egregious case of alleged corruption the European Parliament has seen in many years," explained Michiel van Hulten, director of Transparency International EU, "it is not an isolated incident."

"Over many decades, the Parliament has allowed a culture of impunity to develop, with a combination of lax financial rules and controls and a complete lack of independent (or indeed any) ethics oversight. In many ways it has become a law unto itself. Every serious attempt to improve accountability is blocked by the Parliament's ruling Bureau, with the acquiescence of a majority of MEPs. **The recent backroom deal approved by the Bureau to appoint a**

new EP Secretary-General is emblematic of an institution that thinks that rules for ethics and integrity should only apply to others.... As a first step, the European Commission should now publish its long-delayed proposal on the creation of an independent EU ethics body, with powers of investigation and enforcement."

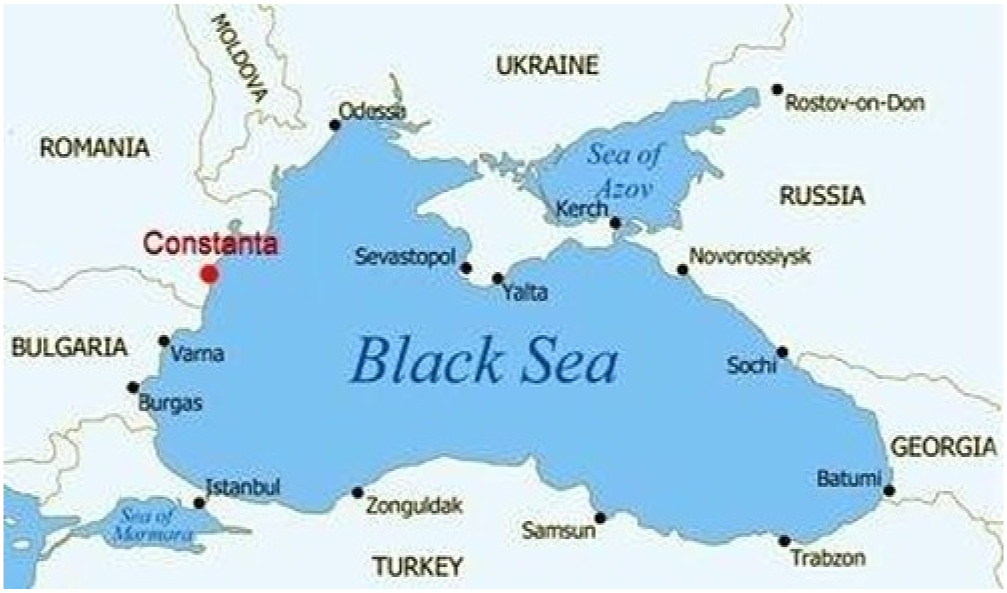
This situation has been perfectly understood by Qatar, which published the following statement as soon as possible retaliatory measures were announced following discovery of the alleged corruption:

"The decision to impose... a discriminatory restriction that limits dialogue and cooperation on Qatar before the legal process has ended, will negatively affect regional and global security cooperation, as well as ongoing discussions around global energy poverty and security."

The blackmail is clear.

War, Russia, stats: jan7 About 4,000 members of the US Army’s 101st Airborne Division are still deployed in Romania as part of a military buildup in Eastern Europe that President Biden ordered last year; deployment marks the first time the 101st has been sent to Europe since World War II

The military buildup in Eastern Europe has brought US troop levels on the continent to **over 100,000 for the first time since**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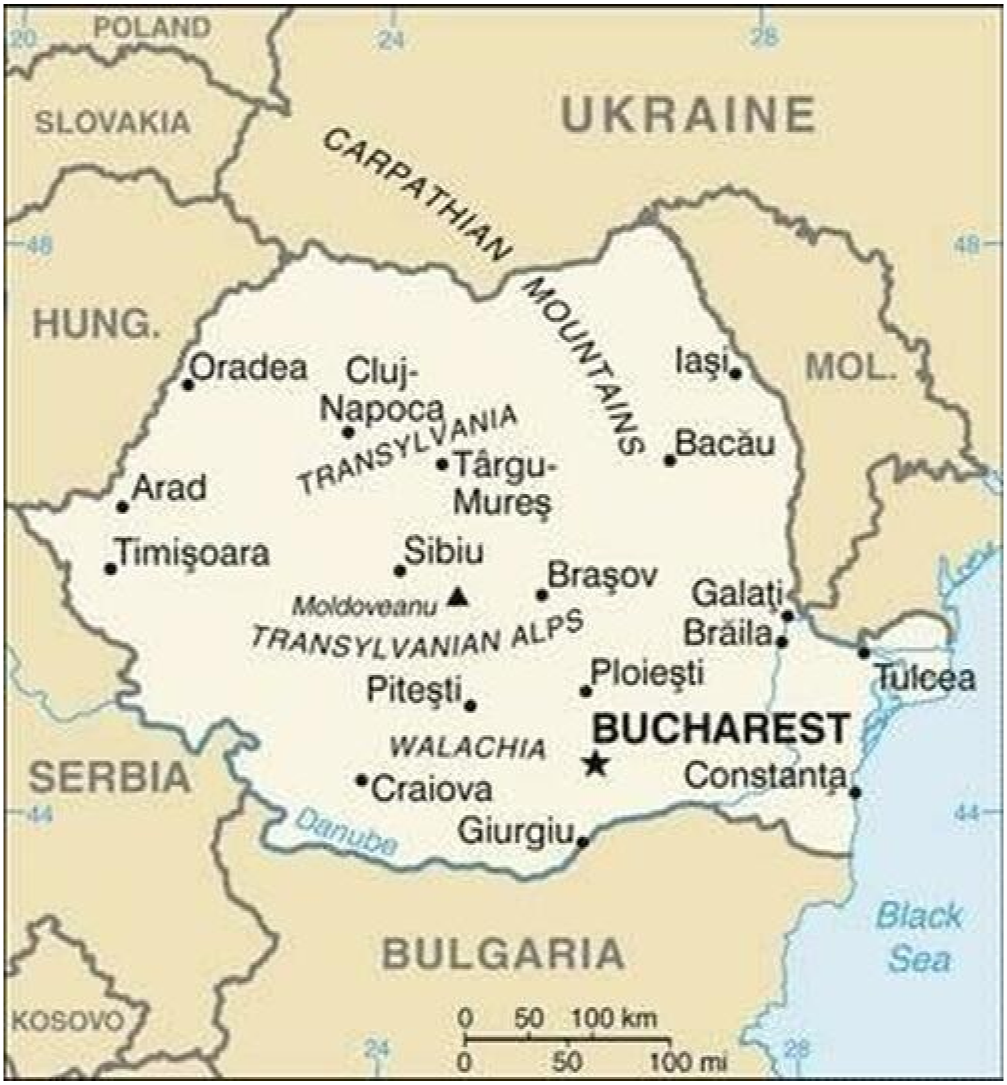
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Giurgiu
Black Sea
BULGARIA
KOSOVO
0 50 100 km
0 50 100 mi
24
28

Stats, media: jan7 6-Year-Old Shoots Teacher At Virginia Elementary School

Censorship: jan7 Doctors shutdown on linkin for misinfo, allow back on after removal shown to be based on false pretenses/assumption

LinkedIn abruptly shut down mRNA vaccine pioneer-turned-critic Robert Malone's premium account in June 2021 when he mentioned the spike in the context of heart inflammation reports among young men. Malone later said a LinkedIn "senior executive" personally apologized for the wrongful removal.

these doctors could be part of the deception somehow. Never trust any MSM narrative. I still think they are going to release something worse when mistrust in government and covid vaccines reaches some kind of critical mass.

As you probably know, world-famous doctors and scientists and researchers like Dr. Robert Malone, Dr. Peter McCullough, Dr. Naomi Wolf, and Dr. Andrew Huff appear on my TV show regularly to explain the complete failure of the COVID vaccines and the dangers of mRNA shots — just in case you need to spoof the names of real doctors in the future.

Stats, censorship, tech, ai, government: jan7 read later, important: SCIENCE HAS BEEN BUREAUCRATIZED, AND BUREAUCRACIES AREN'T INNOVATIVE: Innovation in Science Is on The Decline And We're Not Sure Why.

While previous research has shown downturns in individual disciplines, the study is the first that "emphatically, convincingly documents this decline of disruptiveness across all major fields of science and technology,” lead author Michael Park told AFP.

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-05543-x

history, health, vaccine, stats: In 1996, following an epidemic, Pfizer tested a new drug on 200 children in Muslim Nigeria. Eleven children died while others were disabled.

Following a meningitis epidemic in 1996, Pfizer conducted human trials of an experimental antibiotic on 200 children in the Muslim state of Kano in Northern Nigeria. Eleven children died and multiple children were disabled following the trials. In 2000, a reporter at The Washington Post published an exposé alleging Pfizer’s fault in the children’s deaths and for unethical medical trials. The news sent shockwaves throughout Nigeria, sparking a series of protests led by Muslim religious leaders alleging that Pfizer and “the West” were trying to kill Muslims with medicines and calling for boycotts of vaccinations among Muslims. The subsequent reduction in routine child vaccination among Muslim mothers set back global polio eradication efforts by over a decade; negative effects lasted for up to 12 years after the initial disclosure. The event provides evidence to study the effects of negative news about vaccination on vaccine hesitancy and noncompliance.

Stats, journal, vaccine, history: the bextra story for the early 2000's, at the time the largest pharma settlement in history, seems connected to the pharma sales culture of get rich or die tryin attitude that existed at that time. Back then, and probably still today, pharmacuetical sales was MASSIVE MONEY, and they were known for being shady as fuck

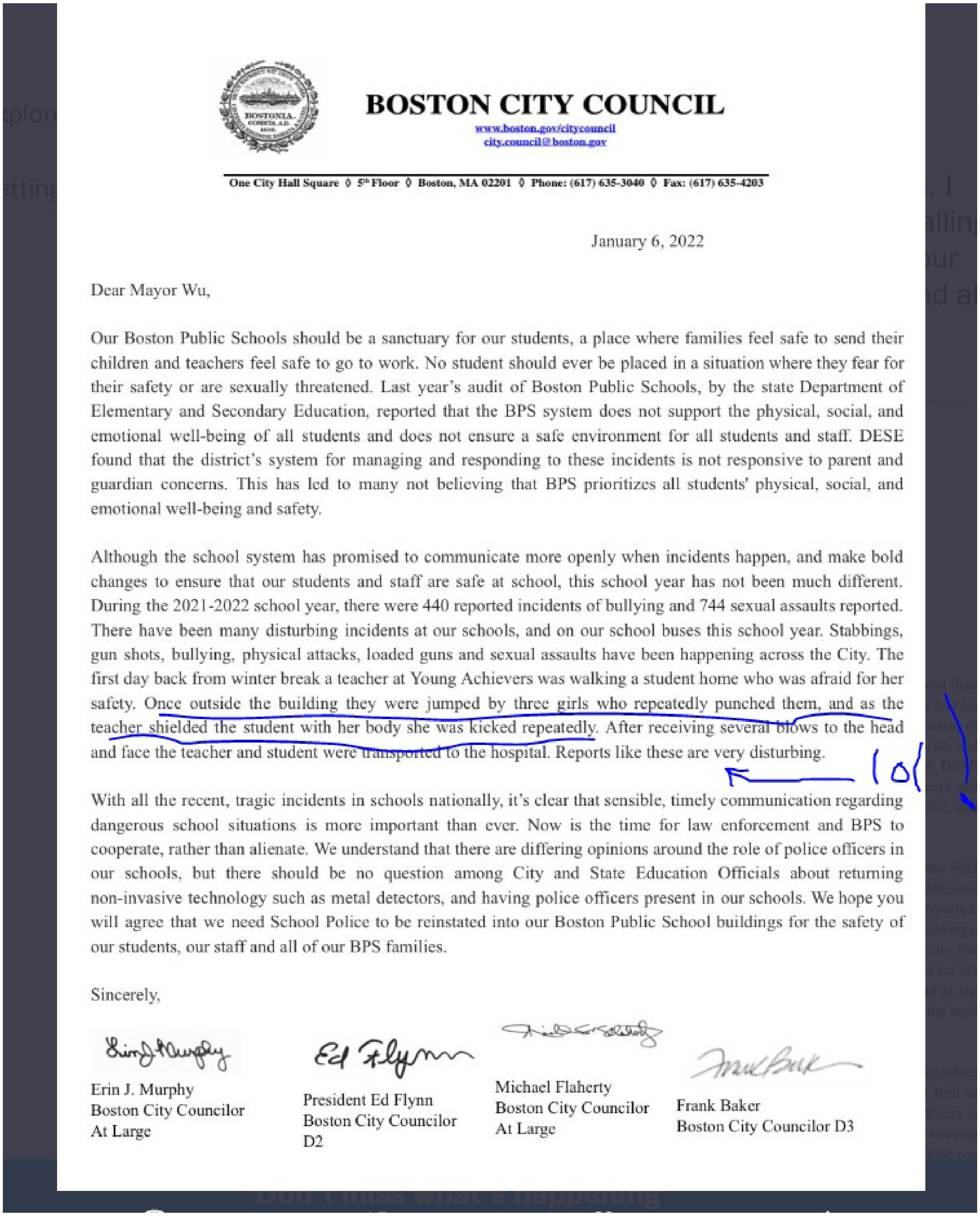
On September 2, 2009, the United States Department of Justice fined Pfizer $2.3 billion after one of its subsidiaries, Pharmacia & Upjohn Company, pleaded guilty to marketing four drugs including Bextra "with the intent to defraud or mislead."[9] Pharmacia & Upjohn admitted to criminal conduct in the promotion of Bextra, and agreed to pay the largest criminal fine ever imposed in the United States for any matter, $1.195 billion.[10] A former Pfizer district sales manager was indicted and sentenced to home confinement for destroying documents regarding the illegal promotion of Bextra.[11][12] In addition, a Regional Manager pleaded guilty to distribution of a mis-branded product, and was fined $75,000 and twenty-four months on probation.[13]

The remaining $1 billion of the fine was paid to resolve allegations under the civil False Claims Act case and is the largest civil fraud settlement against a pharmaceutical company. Six whistle-blowers were awarded more than $102 million for their role in the investigation.[14] Former Pfizer sales representative John Kopchinski acted as a qui tam relator and filed a complaint in 2004 outlining the illegal conduct in the marketing of Bextra.[15] Kopchinski was awarded $51.5 million for his role in the case because the improper marketing of Bextra was the largest piece of the settlement at $1.8 billion.[16]

Vaccine, censorship: jan7 January 6, 2023Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority finally lifts vaccine mandate requiring all of it's 6000 workers to be vaccinated in order to keep their jobs; 8 employees who refused the vaccine offered chance to get jobs back..

MBTA to rehire unvaccinated workers after rescinding policy

Media, stats: hilarious example of school violence in America..



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL
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city.council@boston.gov

One City Hall Square ◊ 5th Floor ◊ Boston, MA 02201 ◊ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ◊ Fax: (617) 635-4203

January 6, 2022

Dear Mayor Wu,

Our Boston Public Schools should be a sanctuary for our students, a place where families feel safe to send their children and teachers feel safe to go to work. No student should ever be placed in a situation where they fear for their safety or are sexually threatened. Last year's audit of Boston Public Schools, by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, reported that the BPS system does not support the physical, social, and emotional well-being of all students and does not ensure a safe environment for all students and staff. DESE found that the district's system for managing and responding to these incidents is not responsive to parent and guardian concerns. This has led to many not believing that BPS prioritizes all students' physical, social, and emotional well-being and safety.

Although the school system has promised to communicate more openly when incidents happen, and make bold changes to ensure that our students and staff are safe at school, this school year has not been much different. During the 2021-2022 school year, there were 440 reported incidents of bullying and 744 sexual assaults reported. There have been many disturbing incidents at our schools, and on our school buses this school year. Stabbings, gun shots, bullying, physical attacks, loaded guns and sexual assaults have been happening across the City. The first day back from winter break a teacher at Young Achievers was walking a student home who was afraid for her safety. Once outside the building they were jumped by three girls who repeatedly punched them, and as the teacher shielded the student with her body she was kicked repeatedly. After receiving several blows to the head and face the teacher and student were transported to the hospital. Reports like these are very disturbing.

← 101!!

With all the recent, tragic incidents in schools nationally, it's clear that sensible, timely communication regarding dangerous school situations is more important than ever. Now is the time for law enforcement and BPS to cooperate, rather than alienate. We understand that there are differing opinions around the role of police officers in our schools, but there should be no question among City and State Education Officials about returning non-invasive technology such as metal detectors, and having police officers present in our schools. We hope you will agree that we need School Police to be reinstated into our Boston Public School buildings for the safety of our students, our staff and all of our BPS families.

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn

Erin J. Murphy
Boston City Councilor
At Large

President Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor
D2

Michael Flaherty
Boston City Councilor
At Large

Frank Baker
Boston City Councilor D3

https://twitter.com/ErinforBoston/status/1611476972076507136 government: jan7 21 holdouts force House of Representatives to 10th speaker ballot for first time since 1859, McCarthy receives 200 votes, leaving him 17 short of the 217 necessary for him to become Speaker of the House; All 212 Democrats support incoming House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York; some representative in republican party joking refering to republican holds as "terrorists"

inflation: french small business with 190 employees and 9 factories to scale down 80% due to inflation jan7

40 million euros of energy bill

Cofigeo is caught between two fires. Its first problem is energy, which should cost it ten times more. Next year, the bill should increase from four to 40 million euros. According to information from Europe 1, this soaring price should only entitle it to modest state aid, as the company is not considered to consume enough energy.

Rising raw material costs

The other problem is the rising cost of raw materials such as the price of durum wheat or tomatoes which are difficult to pass on to selling prices.

Stats, vaccine, health: jan7 look into if this is real or not: "Myocarditis Was 4 cases per Million, Now 25K Per Million?!"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_A._McCullough

https://twitter.com/cuttheshite/status/1611046072864112641

Myocarditis Was 4 cases per Million, Now 25K Per Million?!

January 6, 2023 8:35 pm by IWB

Sharing is Caring!

by Chris Black

WHAT????

That’s 1 in 40 FYI.

twitter.com/cuttheshite/status/1611046072864112641

>it’s safe and effective!

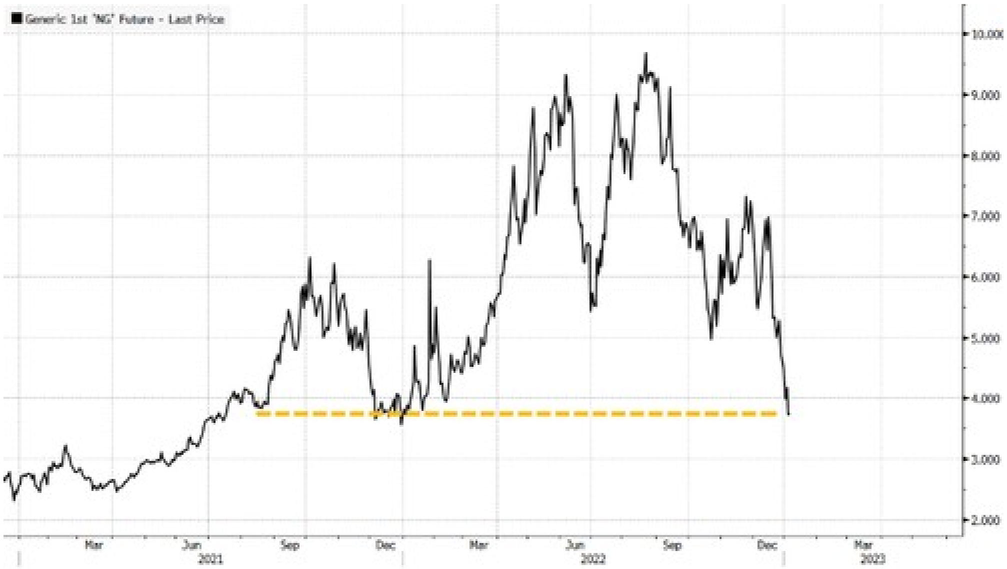
>okay it doesn’t stop infection but it stops transmission!
>okay it doesn’t stop transmission but it keeps you from getting sick!
>okay you still get sick but it’s not as bad as non-jabbed getting sick!
>okay there are some people having side effects but it’s extremely rare and not serious
>okay some of those side effects are irreversible heart damage but it’s very rare

okay the irreversible heart damage is not that rare but if we present it like this it doesn’t look as bad

stats, markets, energy: jan6 **we export 128 billion worth of petroleum products to the united states**
https://energy-information.canada.ca/en/indicators

markets, energy, inflation, government, war, sanctions: jan6

The natural gas market began the new year with very strong production and low demand, relative to normal weather. Production quickly recovered from the Christmas freeze-offs and is back near 99-100 Bcf/d, while demand has fallen through the floor amid above-normal temps across much of the country that are expected to last through the next two weeks.



The EU has imposed unprecedented sanctions against Russia in response to the **unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine** on 24 February 2022 and the illegal annexation of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

They add to existing measures imposed on Russia since 2014 following the annexation of Crimea and the non-implementation of the Minsk agreements.

What goods cannot be imported from Russia to the EU?

- **crude oil** (from December 2022) **and refined petroleum products** (from February 2023), with limited exceptions

  As the majority of the Russian oil delivered to the EU is seaborne, these **restrictions will cover nearly 90% of Russian oil imports to Europe** by the end of 2022. This will significantly reduce Russia’s trade profits.

The EU has also adopted sanctions against:

- **Belarus**, in response to its involvement in the invasion of Ukraine
- **Iran**, in relation to the use of Iranian drones in the Russian aggression against Ukraine

EU leaders stressed at the European Council on 23-24 June 2022 that **Russia is solely responsible for the global food crisis** and that EU sanctions do not target food and agricultural products. Food security and affordability are a key priority for the EU and its member states.

In total, also taking into account earlier individual sanctions imposed after the annexation of Crimea in 2014, the EU has sanctioned 1386 individuals and 171 entities.

What goods cannot be exported to Russia from the EU?

The list of sanctioned products includes among others:

- cutting-edge **technology** (e.g. quantum computers and advanced semiconductors, high-end electronics and software)
- certain types of machinery and **transportation** equipment
- specific goods and technology needed for **oil refining**
- **energy** industry equipment, technology and services
- **aviation and space industry** goods and technology (e.g. aircraft, aircraft engines, spare parts or any kind of equipment for planes and helicopters, jet fuel)
- **maritime navigation** goods and radio communication technology
- a number of **dual-use goods** (goods that could be used for both civil and military purposes), such as drones and software for drones or encryption devices
- **luxury goods** (e.g. luxury cars, watches, jewellery)
- civilian firearms and other army materiel

What goods cannot be imported from Russia to the EU?

The list of sanctioned products includes among others:

- **crude oil** (from December 2022) **and refined petroleum products** (from February 2023), with limited exceptions
- **coal** and other solid fossil fuels
- **steel**, steel products and iron
- **gold**, including jewellery
- cement, wood, paper and plastics
- seafood and liquor (e.g. caviar, vodka)
- cigarettes and cosmetics

In addition, the EU **banned the export to Russia of goods and technology in the aviation and space industry**. **three-quarters of Russia's current commercial air fleet were produced in the EU, the US or Canada**

EU has **closed its ports to Russia's entire merchant fleet** of over 2 800 vessels

The EU has **prohibited the maritime transport of Russian crude oil** (from 5 December 2022) **and petroleum products** (from 5 February 2023) to third countries. It has also prohibited the related provision of technical assistance, brokering services or financing or financial assistance. This ban doesn't apply if the crude oil or petroleum products are purchased at or below the oil price cap.

Won't give Russia's foreign currency reserves back if they are in a central bank that is located in the european union

The European Union has **prohibited all transactions with the National Central Bank of Russia** related to the management of the Russian Central Bank's reserves and assets. As a result of the central bank asset freeze, the central bank can no longer access the assets it has stored in central banks and private institutions in the EU.

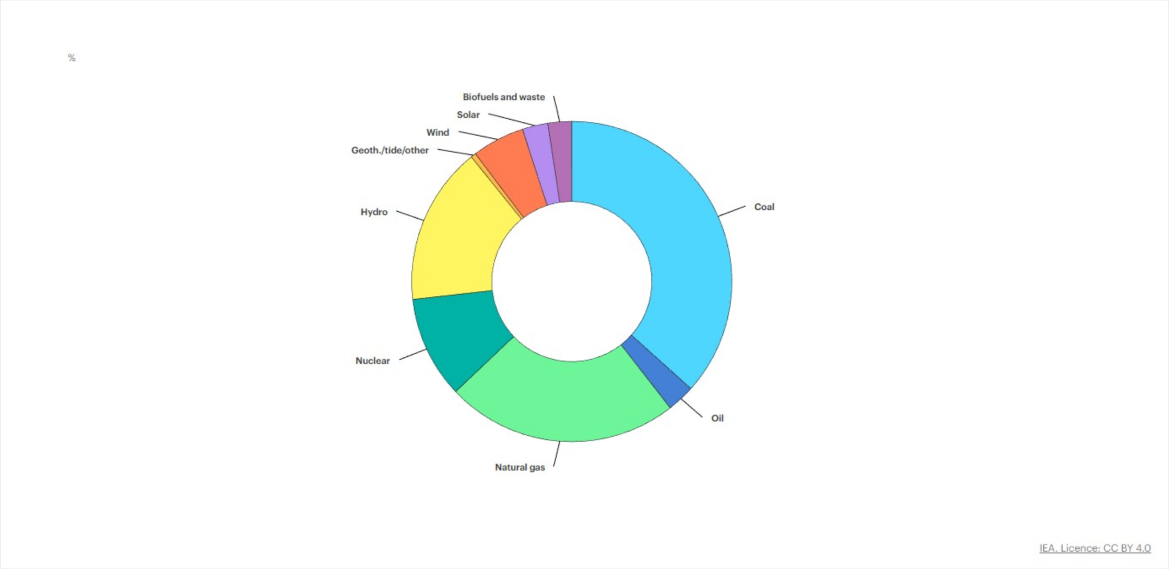
In December 2022, the EU added the Russian Regional Development Bank to the list of Russian state-owned or controlled entities that are subject to a full transaction ban.

In February 2022, Russia’s international reserves accounted for $643 billion (€579 billion). Among other purposes, having reserves in foreign currencies helps keep the exchange rate of a country’s own currency stable.

Due to the ban on transactions from the EU and other countries, **it is estimated that more than half of Russian reserves are frozen**. The ban was also imposed by other countries (such as the US, Canada and the UK) which also store a share of Russia’s foreign reserves.

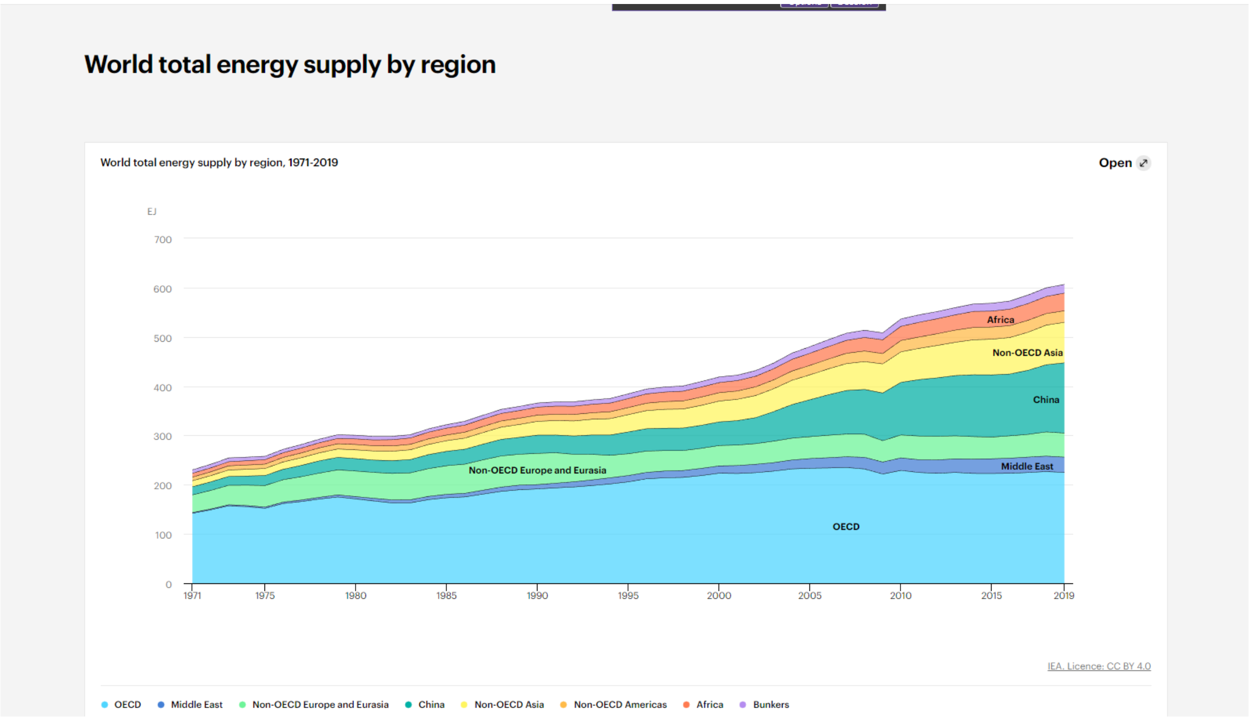
Consequently, Russia cannot use this cushion of foreign assets to provide funds to its banks and thus limit the effects of other sanctions. Even the gold reserves stored in Russia now appear to be more difficult to sell due to international sanctions affecting Russian entities.

Sanctions, Russia, war, energy: jan6 finland



IEA. Licence: CC BY 4.0

https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/world-gross-electricity-production-by-source-2019



https://www.iea.org/reports/key-world-energy-statistics-2021/supply

The delays in the construction of the third reactor at the Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Plant (est. 1,600 MWe when completed), which was projected to be operating commercially by 2010 but is now being estimated to be completed no earlier than 2022, have caused a significant domestic energy production deficit. A consortium of Finnish industry and power companies called Fennovoima has applied and been granted a permission to build another new nuclear power plant, delivered by Russia's Rosatom, which also has a 1/3 stake on the power plant. This has caused some concern among observers about Russia being able to manipulate Nordic electricity prices or use the power plant as a leverage in conflict situations. The plant was estimated to be operational by 2024 and projected to produce 1,200 MW of electricity, but all work was stopped in 2022 due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.[29]

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service (Supo) indicated in 2016 that foreign intelligence activity in Finland was aimed at influencing decision-making in energy policy.[30]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electricity_sector_in_Finland
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanhikivi_Nuclear_Power_Plant

middle east, war, stats: [Updated 7:10 AM EDT, Fri April 14, 2017] US drops largest non-nuclear bomb in Afghanistan; the first time the bomb has been used since it was first developed 15 years ago

WashingtonCNN —

The US military dropped America’s most powerful non-nuclear bomb on ISIS targets in Afghanistan Thursday, the first time this type of weapon has been used in battle, according to US officials.

A GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB), nicknamed the “mother of all bombs,” was dropped at 7:32 p.m. local time, according to four US military officials with direct knowledge of the mission.

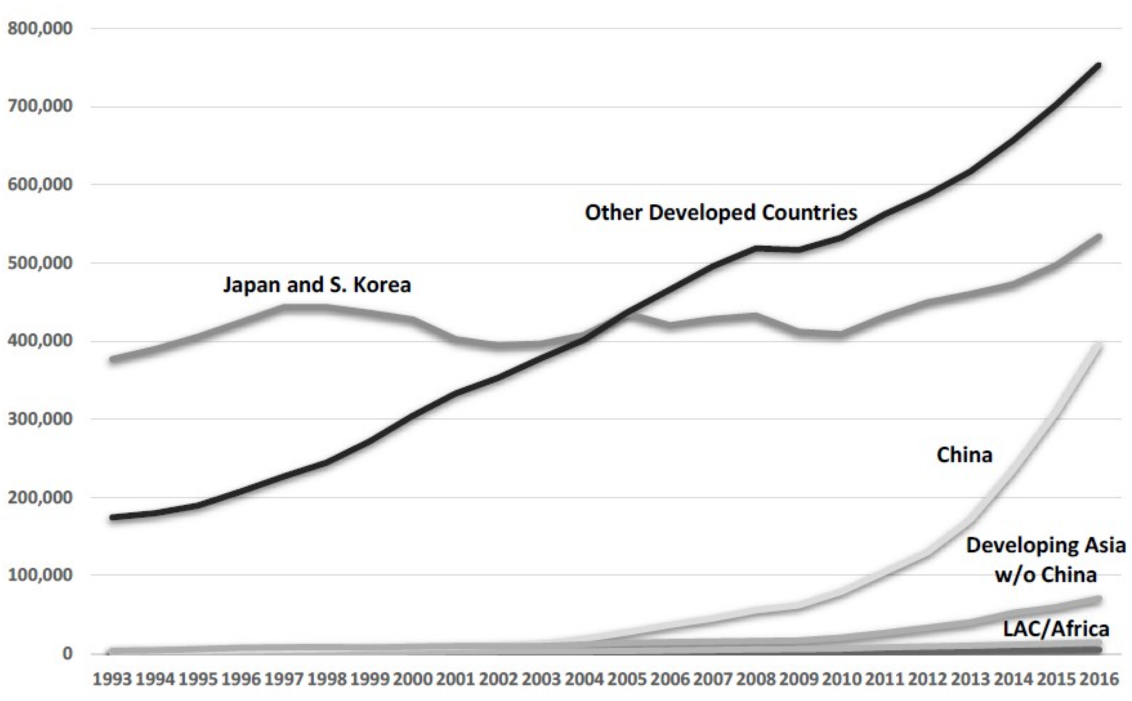
cnndotcom/2017/04/13/politics/afghanistan-isis-moab-bomb/index.html

stats, tech, government, china, ai: **what i was looking for: "AUTOMATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND RESHORING - ILO", April, 2020**

ina: jan5

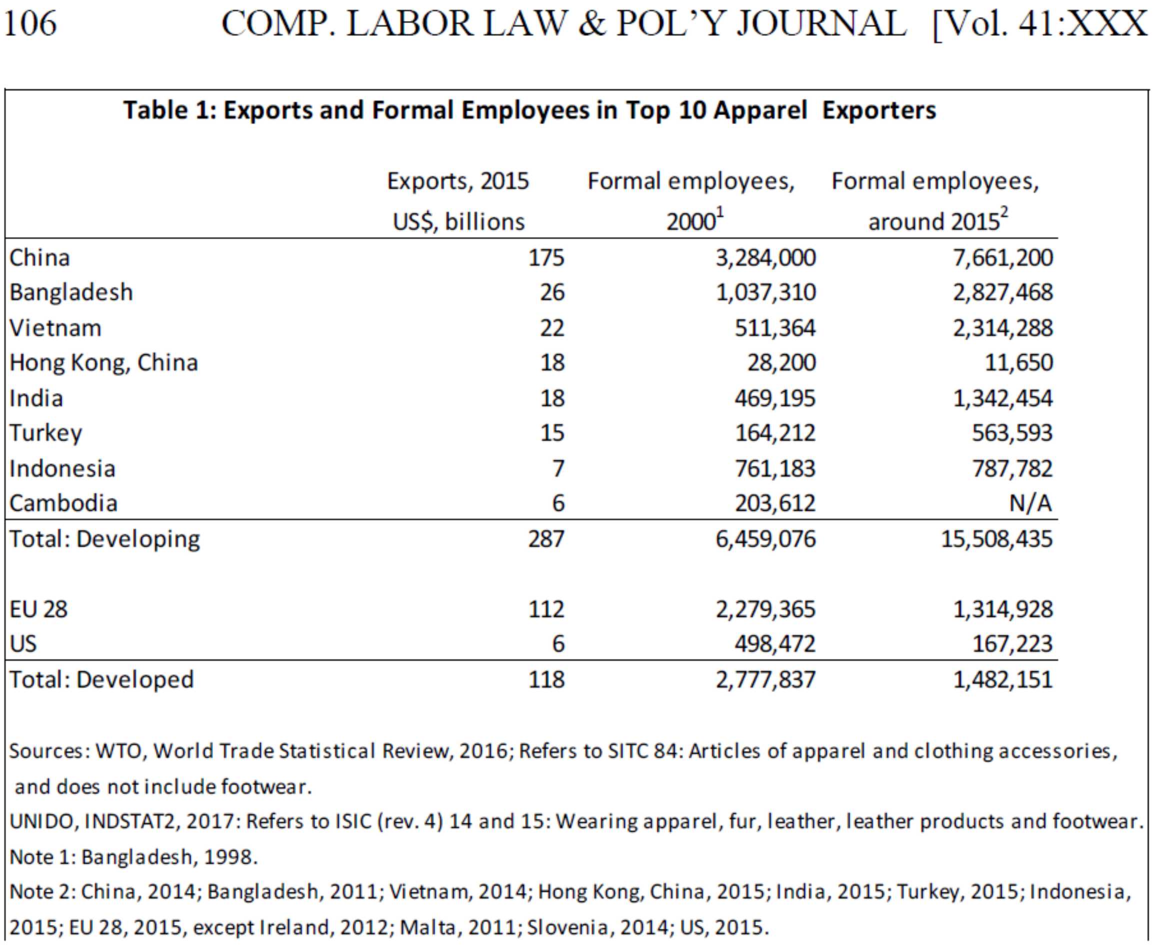
The purported risk of potential
automation by computer-controlled equipment in the next ten years or so is 99% for hand sewers, 89% for sewing machine operators, and 95% for electrical and electronic equipment assemblers. These figures are high because the occupations are classified as being comprised largely of routine work that is judged to be more amenable to automation. Since developing countries have much higher shares of such occupations than developed countries, the method inevitably yields the result that the country-wide share of jobs at high risk (70% or greater) of potential automation is considerably higher in developing than developed countries.

Figure 1: Global Unit Stock of Industrial Robots, 1993-2016



Source: International Federation of Robotics, 2017.

For 2015, apparel exports for the European Union (EU) totaled $112 billion—second only to China—compared to $6 billion for the United States. The much larger volume of exports from the European Union 28 than the United States is striking, suggesting that EU producers have been much better at holding their own in global markets than their counterparts in the United States.6 Yet employment has dropped sharply in both the EU and the United States since 2000: by 42% in the former and 66% in the latter. While in 2000, the European Union 28 and United States accounted for 30% of employment in the industry among these ten exporters, this plummeted to just 9% around 2015, a massive compositional shift in employment in such a short span of time.



106 COMP. LABOR LAW & POL'Y JOURNAL [Vol. 41:XXX

Table 1: Exports and Formal Employees in Top 10 Apparel Exporters

	Exports, 2015 US$, billions	Formal employees, 2000[1]	Formal employees, around 2015[2]
China	175	3,284,000	7,661,200
Bangladesh	26	1,037,310	2,827,468
Vietnam	22	511,364	2,314,288
Hong Kong, China	18	28,200	11,650
India	18	469,195	1,342,454
Turkey	15	164,212	563,593
Indonesia	7	761,183	787,782
Cambodia	6	203,612	N/A
Total: Developing	287	6,459,076	15,508,435
EU 28	112	2,279,365	1,314,928
US	6	498,472	167,223
Total: Developed	118	2,777,837	1,482,151

Sources: WTO, World Trade Statistical Review, 2016; Refers to SITC 84: Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, and does not include footwear.

UNIDO, INDSTAT2, 2017: Refers to ISIC (rev. 4) 14 and 15: Wearing apparel, fur, leather, leather products and footwear.

Note 1: Bangladesh, 1998.

Note 2: China, 2014; Bangladesh, 2011; Vietnam, 2014; Hong Kong, China, 2015; India, 2015; Turkey, 2015; Indonesia, 2015; EU 28, 2015, except Ireland, 2012; Malta, 2011; Slovenia, 2014; US, 2015.

Stats, ai, tech: jan5 Google's Medical AI Detects Lung Cancer With 94% Accuracy

"The whole experimentation process is like a student in school," said Tse. "We're using a large data set for training, giving it lessons and pop quizzes so it can begin to learn for itself what is cancer, and what will or will not be cancer in the future. We gave it a final exam on data it's never seen after we spent a lot of time training, and the result we saw on final exam — it got an A."

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/googles-medical-ai-detects-lung-cancer-with-94-accuracy

tech, ai, stats: The first fully-functional prototype of the ASKA A5 electric drive and fly Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) vehicle was introduced at CES 2023, ASKA A5 is the size of an SUV and the world's first four-seater electric vehicle that can travel by road and up to 250 miles by air on a single charge.

https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/aska-unveils-worlds-first-drive--fly-evtol---aska-a5-at-ces-2023-las-vegas-301713240.html

stats: In the U.S. alone, there are around 15,000 airfields with runways

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/this-evtol-size-of-an-suv

tech, ai, stats: cool website for 3-d printers: https://3dprintingindustry.com/

journal: nice way to introduce a topic from an interesting engineering article.

How is the Ability Hand built? What is the science and engineering behind it? What can its wearer accomplish? How flame-resistant is it? This video answers all these questions and gives a live demonstration of the hand in action.

War, Erdogan: jan5 PKK's armed defense force, the HPG, claims to have killed 2900 turkish soldiers in 2022

The People’s Defense Forces (HPG), the armed wing of the PKK, claimed that 2,942 Turkish soldiers were killed and 408 injured during their attacks against the Turkish

The YPG is the backbone of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a mostly-Kurdish force in Syria that fought the lion’s share of the battle against the Islamic State (ISIS) and ultimately territorially defeated the terror group in 2019.

More than 500 villages have been emptied in the Kurdistan Region over three decades of the Turkey-PKK conflict.

rudawdotnet/english/middleeast/04012023

war, stats, islam: jan5 Myanmar’s military honours Wirathu, leader of the extremist anti-muslim 969 Movement, frees prisoners

The monk, Wirathu, was awarded the honorific “Thiri Pyanchi” title for his “outstanding work for the good of the Union of Myanmar”, the military’s information team said on Tuesday, ahead of the country’s independence day celebrations.

He has called for boycotts of Muslim-owned businesses and restrictions on marriages between Buddhists and Muslims.

Human rights groups have accused Wirathu of helping to whip up animosity towards the Rohingya community, laying the foundations for a military operation in 2017 that forced an estimated 740,000 Rohingya to flee over the border to Bangladesh.

Myanmar has been in chaos since the military’s coup in February 2021 saw the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi and her detention along with other key officials. The military has also responded to pro-democracy protests and dissent with deadly force, imprisoning thousands and fighting a growing conflict with an anti-coup movement that has resulted in hundreds of thousands of people displaced.

The UN Security Council last month adopted its first resolution on Myanmar in 74 years, demanding an end to violence in the country and for the military regime to free all political detainees. China and Russia abstained from the security council resolution, as did India.

Canada, the European Union, the UK and the US are among those who have imposed sanctions on Myanmar’s military and individuals deemed to have assisted the regime.

Censorship, islam, iran: jan5 iran pissed off about french cartoonist's latest edition making fun of their Ayatolla

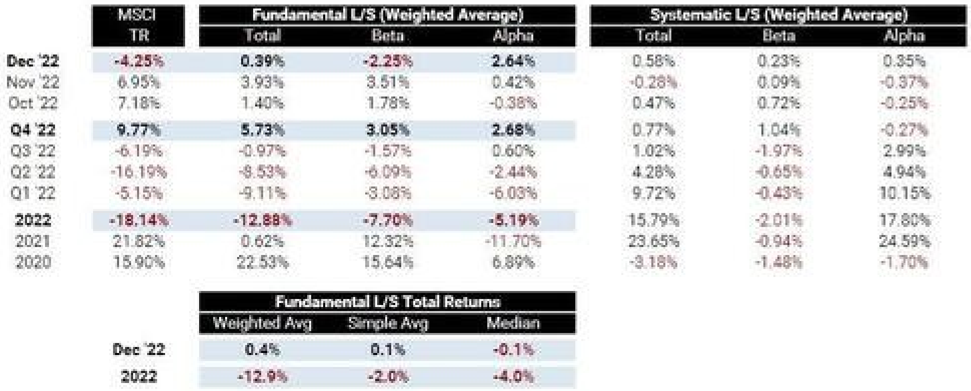
The weekly had published dozens of cartoons ridiculing the highest religious and political figure in the Islamic republic as part of a competition it launched in December in support of the three-month-old protest movement.

"The insulting and indecent act of a French publication in publishing cartoons against the religious and political authority will not go without an effective and decisive response," tweeted Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

Media, markets, censorship: they try to make it about him..

As for Citadel Securities, regular readers are quite familiar with it (not lease because of their threat to sue Zerohedge for suggesting it was frontrunning client orderflow just days before securities regulator FINRA accused it of doing just that) as a global market-making operation that handles more than 20% of the shares that change hands in U.S. stock markets each day. The business, which also trades futures, options, Treasuries and currencies, benefits from increased volumes and volatility, as well as reduced liquidity allowing it to pocket huge bid/ask spreads and prosper even when markets fall.

To be sure, most other hedge funds have had a rougher year. As we noted yesterday, Goldman told its prime-brokerage clients that hedge funds betting on and against stocks lost an average 12.9% for the year, on an asset-weighted basis, while the S&P 500 lost about 18% including dividends.



	MSCI	Fundamental L/S (Weighted Average)			Systematic L/S (Weighted Average)		
	TR	Total	Beta	Alpha	Total	Beta	Alpha
Dec '22	-4.25%	0.39%	-2.25%	2.64%	0.58%	0.23%	0.35%
Nov '22	6.95%	3.93%	3.51%	0.42%	-0.28%	0.09%	-0.37%
Oct '22	7.18%	1.40%	1.78%	-0.38%	0.47%	0.72%	-0.25%
Q4 '22	9.77%	5.73%	3.05%	2.68%	0.77%	1.04%	-0.27%
Q3 '22	-6.19%	-0.97%	-1.57%	0.60%	1.02%	-1.97%	2.99%
Q2 '22	-16.19%	-8.53%	-6.09%	-2.44%	4.28%	-0.65%	4.94%
Q1 '22	-5.15%	-9.11%	-3.08%	-6.03%	9.72%	-0.43%	10.15%
2022	-18.14%	-12.88%	-7.70%	-5.19%	15.79%	-2.01%	17.80%
2021	21.82%	0.62%	12.32%	-11.70%	23.65%	-0.94%	24.59%
2020	15.90%	22.53%	15.64%	6.89%	-3.18%	-1.48%	-1.70%

	Fundamental L/S Total Returns		
	Weighted Avg	Simple Avg	Median
Dec '22	0.4%	0.1%	-0.1%
2022	-12.9%	-2.0%	-4.0%

Citadel's flagship multi-strategy fund, Wellington, returned 38.1% by contrast. Previous reports from the WSJ revealed that commodities made up more than 60% of the second-quarter gross investment gains for Wellington.

But even more remarkably, **all of Citadel's five strategies—fixed income and macro, commodities, equities, quant and credit—were profitable for the year,** according to WSJ sources. That was evident in the returns of its three other hedge funds, which notched gains of more than 20%. One of the funds, Citadel Equities, was up 21.4% for the year. Unable to keep up with its newfound wealth, Citadel returned about $8.5 billion in profits to its investors Dec. 31, up from the $7 billion it earlier expected.

Rivals Millennium Management and Point72 Asset Management gained 12.4% and 11.8% for the year, respectively. D.E. Shaw Group's flagship multi-strategy fund, Composite, returned about 24.7%.

Censorship, war, Africa: this is how it goes in other parts of t he world: "Tanzania's President Hassan Ends Six-Year Ban on Opposition Rallies"; law forced bloggers, social media influencers and online platforms to apply for a licence and pay a one-time fee of $930 to keep their sites up.

The ban was proscribed by former President John Magufuli in 2016 during his first term. Initially meant to apply to all political parties, critics said it targeted only the opposition.

In 2018, the Magafuli-led government passed a law forcing bloggers, social media influencers and online platforms to apply for a licence and pay a one-time fee of $930 to keep their sites up.

Three years on, Hassan took office after the death of Magufuli who was nicknamed “The Bulldozer” by many who said he curbed free speech and targeted dissidents.

The incumbent president is constitutionally serving the remainder of Magufuli’s second five-year term, which ends in 2025.

Middle east, stats, markets, energy: Iraq Oil Revenues Top $115 Billion in 2022 jan5

Censorship, government, middle east: Jan5they just openly steal billions in USD in developing or wartorn countries. same hing happened in nigeria: they didn't even try to hide! They just stole th money, barely even tried to cover it up, then nobody got into trouble

Iraq said Tuesday it had recovered another $2.6 million in public funds fraudulently withdrawn from a government account, but the money is still only a fraction of the $2.5 billion that disappeared.

According to a document from the country's tax authority, the $2.5 billion was allegedly expropriated between September 2021 and August last year through 247 cheques cashed by five enterprises.

The money was subsequently withdrawn from the companies' accounts, the document showed.

The owners of those accounts -- most of whom are on the run -- are subject to arrest warrants.

In November, Sudani said Nour Zuhair Jassem, a wealthy businessman implicated in the theft from tax authorities, had given back part of more than $1 billion that he "confessed" to having received. Released on bail, the man has returned $211.6 million in several payments.

The top echelons of power routinely evade accountability in Iraqi corruption cases.

War, history: The Battle of Kashmir: Rebels in Indian-administered Kashmir have been fighting New Delhi’s rule since 1989; Indian officials said at least 172 suspected rebels and 26 armed forces personnel were killed in fighting last year; New Delhi regularly blames Pakistan for supporting the rebels, an allegation denied by Islamabad; in 2019, india removed Kashmir's partial autonomy status

The 2019 move – and subsequent laws and policies – have strengthened anti-India sentiments in the valley and led to a wave of attacks by suspected rebels against the region’s minority communities, mainly the Hindus.

Tens of thousands of civilians, rebels and government forces have been killed in the decades-old conflict.

India bars Kashmiri journalist Sanna Irshad Mattoo from flying to the united states to recieve her pulizter prize

The Kashmiri journalist was prevented from flying to the US to receive the prestigious Pulitzer Prize.
“This was a once-in-a-lifetime moment for me to go for receiving the Pulitzer Prize. But I was stopped without any reason. I am very heartbroken and disappointed.” Sanna told Al Jazeera.

The media is operating in a climate of fear, with the homes of several journalists raided and some summoned by police for questioning – which observers describe as an attempt to silence the press from reporting about realities in the region.

The strategy appears to be working. Analysts said that the government’s controversial orders are being overlooked by the media, while state-sponsored events promoting the administration’s picture of Kashmir are covered on the front pages in local and national media.

The arrest of two journalists, Sajad Gul and Fahad Shah early this year under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA), a law under which a person can be imprisoned for up to two years without a trial, has further frightened journalists. Both of them have been shifted to distant jails making it difficult for their families to reach them.

They were arrested for “spreading false narratives” and “glorifying terrorism”.

Stats, middle east: conversationDheisheh Camp, 2018, refugee camp in palistine, population 8000

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dheisheh

Akram Shafout, 47, an activist from the camp, told Middle East Eye the night raid on Dheisheh camp started around four in the morning, sparking confrontations with local youths.

Shafout said that the raid began with special forces in civilian cars entering the camp, followed soon by “hundreds” of armed soldiers and a convoy of military vehicles.

Palestinian media said the army arrested one resident of the camp after raiding their home. During the raid, groups of local youth - reportedly including Ayyad - confronted the soldiers with rocks.

Israeli media reported Palestinians throwing Molotov cocktails and said one soldier was "lightly injured". Meanwhile, Israeli forces opened fire at several Palestinians, with the army reporting that "suspects were hit”.

“As the soldiers were pulling out of the camp they started to use live ammunition, and that is when Adam was killed," said Shafout.

"It was not the ‘violent riot’ that they [the Israeli army] described. These boys are throwing rocks at fully armoured vehicles. The soldiers' lives are not in danger.”

War, history, stats: jan5 1948 Arab–Israeli War: The 1948 (or First) Arab–Israeli War was the second and final stage of the 1948 Palestine war. It formally began following the end of the British Mandate for Palestine at midnight on 14 May 1948

-On 29 November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution recommending the adoption and implementation of a plan to partition the British Mandate of Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish, and the City of Jerusalem.[31]

The General Assembly resolution on Partition was greeted with overwhelming joy in Jewish communities and widespread outrage in the Arab world. In Palestine, violence erupted almost immediately, feeding into a spiral of reprisals and counter-reprisals. The British refrained from intervening as tensions boiled over into a low-level conflict that quickly escalated into a full-scale civil war.[32][33][34][16][35][36]

-In 1948 more than 700,000 Palestinian Arabs – about half of prewar Palestine's Arab population – were expelled or fled from their homes,[1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8] during the 1948 Palestine war.[9] The exodus was a central component of the fracturing, dispossession and displacement of Palestinian society, known as the Nakba,[10][11] in which between 400 and 600 Palestinian villages were destroyed, village wells were poisoned in a biological warfare programme to prevent Palestinians returning,[12] and other sites subject to Hebraization of Palestinian place names,[13] and also refers to the wider period of war itself and the subsequent oppression up to the present day.[14]

-the 29 November 1947 adoption of the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine – which planned to divide Palestine into an Arab state, a Jewish state, and the Special International Regime encompassing the cities of Jerusalem and Bethlehem

-On 15 May 1948, the civil war transformed into a conflict between Israel and the Arab states following the Israeli Declaration of Independence the previous day. Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, and expeditionary forces from Iraq entered Palestine.[18][19][20][21] The invading forces took control of the Arab areas and immediately attacked Israeli forces and several Jewish settlements.[22][23][24] The 10 months of fighting took place mostly on the territory of the British Mandate and in the Sinai Peninsula and southern Lebanon, interrupted by several truce periods.[25]

-As a result of the war, the State of Israel controlled the area that the UN had proposed for the Jewish state, as well as almost 60% of the area proposed for the Arab state,[26] including the Jaffa, Lydda and Ramle area, Upper Galilee, some parts of the Negev and a wide strip along the Tel Aviv–Jerusalem road. Israel also took control of West Jerusalem, which was meant to be part of an international zone for Jerusalem and its environs. Transjordan took control of East Jerusalem and what became known as the West Bank, annexing it the following year, and the Egyptian military took control of the Gaza Strip. At the Jericho Conference on 1 December 1948, 2,000 Palestinian delegates called for unification of Palestine and Transjordan as a step toward full Arab unity.[27] The conflict triggered significant demographic change throughout the Middle East. Around 700,000 Palestinian Arabs fled or were expelled from their homes in the area that became Israel, and they became Palestinian refugees[28] in what they refer to as the Nakba ("the catastrophe"). A similar number of Jews moved to Israel during the three years following the war, including 260,000 from the surrounding Arab states.[29][30]

Arab forces

At the invasion: In addition to the local irregular Palestinian militia groups, the five Arab states that joined the war were Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq sending expeditionary forces of their regular armies. Additional contingents came from Saudi Arabia and Yemen. On the eve of the war, the available number of Arab troops likely to be committed to war was between 23,500 and 26,500 (10,000 Egyptians, 4,500 Jordanians, 3,000 Iraqis, 3,000–6,000 Syrians, 2,000 ALA volunteers, 1,000 Lebanese, and several hundred Saudis), in addition to the irregular Palestinians already present. Prior to the war, Arab forces had been trained by British and French instructors. This was particularly true of Jordan's Arab Legion under command of Lt Gen Sir John Glubb.[121]

Syria bought a quantity of small arms for the Arab Liberation Army from Czechoslovakia, but the shipment never arrived due to Haganah force intervention.[122]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Arab%E2%80%93Israeli_War

stats, church: Bethlaham, the biblical birthplace of Jesus, is located 777 meters above sea-level

censorship: jan5 read later: pizer corrupted logged and compiled by twitter user

investmentwatchblogdotcom/pfizer-twitter-user-puts-together-thread-chain-exposing-deep-levels-of-corruption/

censorship, tech, government: read later: apple breaking privacy rules again, apparently. too lazy to read it right now: "Apple Is Tracking You Even When Its Own Privacy Settings Say It’s Not, New Research Says"

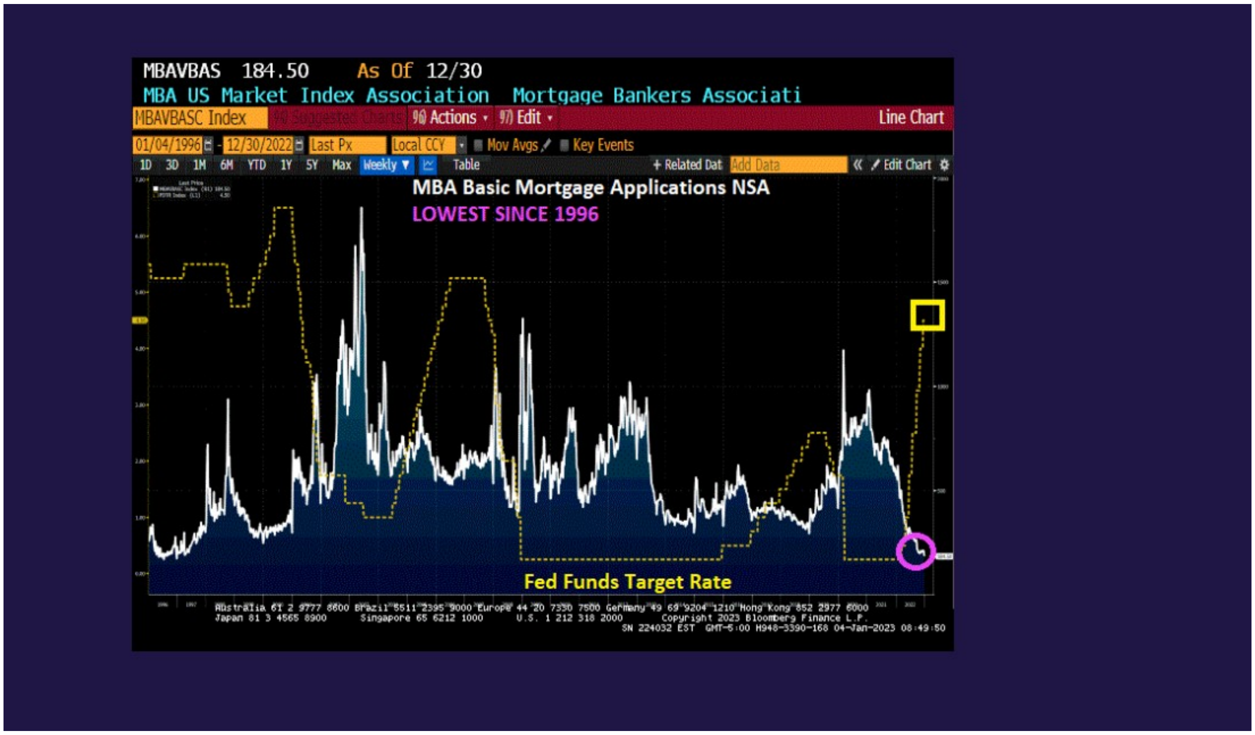
https://twitter.com/mysk_co/status/1588308341780262912?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1588308341780262912%7Ctwgr%5E4369c0cbf343e1f167598b910a48520dc2eb1020%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https

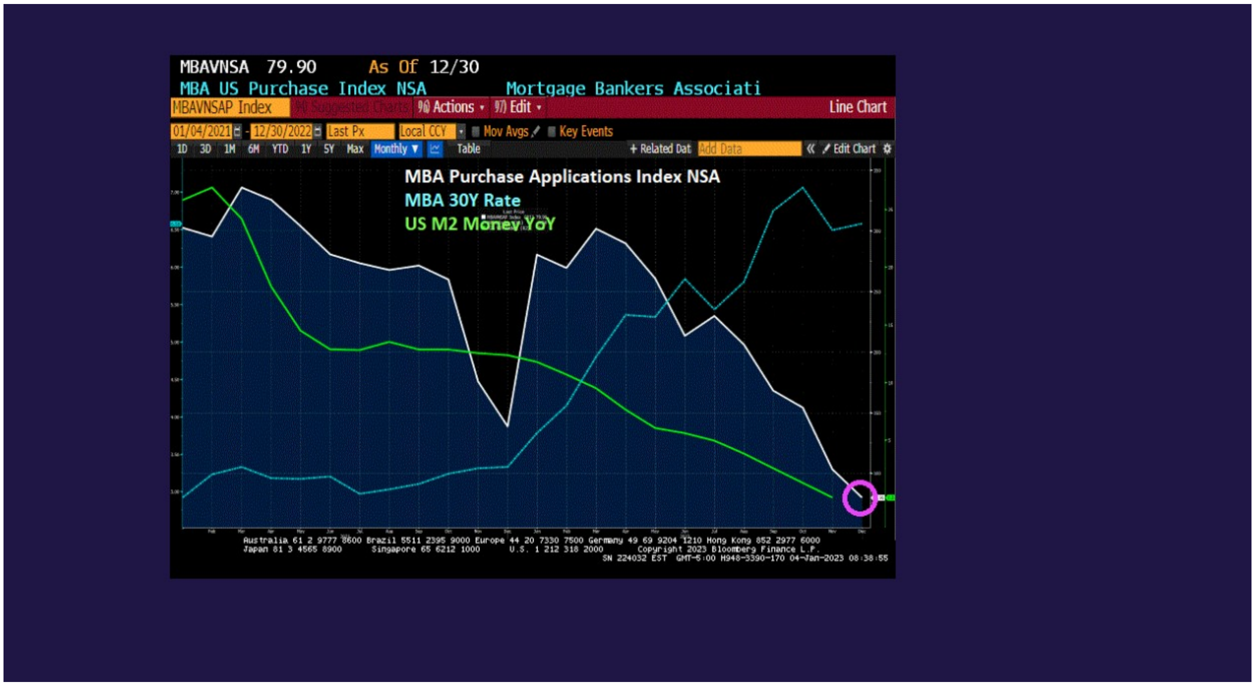
%3A%2F%2Fwww.globalresearch.ca%2Fapple-tracking-you-even-when-its-own-privacy-settings-say-its-not-new-research-says%2F5798653

https://gizmodo.com/apple-iphone-analytics-tracking-even-when-off-app-store-1849757558

stats, ads: jan5 Greenwashing also called "green sheen", is a form of advertising or marketing spin in which green PR and green marketing are deceptively used to persuade ...; 68% of U.S. execs admit their companies are guilty of greenwashing

inflation, housing, markets: jan5 Mortgage Applications Dropped To Lowest Since 1996 As Purchase Applications Drop -22.2% WoW, -38.5% 2WoW, -42% YoY (Refi Apps Down -87% YoY)





History, stats, rome, government The Annona (grain dole) was begun under the instigation of the popularis politician Gaius Sempronius Gracchus in 123 BCE; it remained an object of political contention until it was taken under the control of the autocratic Roman emperors.

Ancient Rome[edit]

Further information: Grain supply to the city of Rome and Populares

This phrase originates from Rome in *Satire X* of the Roman satirical poet Juvenal (c. 100 CE). In context, the Latin *panem et circenses* (bread and circuses) identifies the only remaining interest of a Roman populace that no longer cares for its historical birthright of political involvement. Here Juvenal displays his contempt for the declining heroism of contemporary Romans, using a range of different themes, including lust for power and desire for old age to illustrate his argument.[6] Roman politicians passed laws in 140 CE to keep the votes of poorer citizens by introducing a grain dole: giving out cheap food and entertainment, "bread and circuses", became the most effective way to rise to power.

[...] iam pridem, ex quo suffragia nulli / vendimus, effudit curas; nam qui dabat olim / imperium, fasces,	... Already long ago, from when we sold our vote to no man, the People have abdicated our duties; for the People who once upon a time handed out military

legiones, omnia, nunc se / continet atque duas tantum res anxius optat, / panem et circenses. [...]

command, high civil office, legions — everything, now restrains itself and anxiously hopes for just two things: bread and circuses.[7]

—Juvenal, Satire 10.77–81

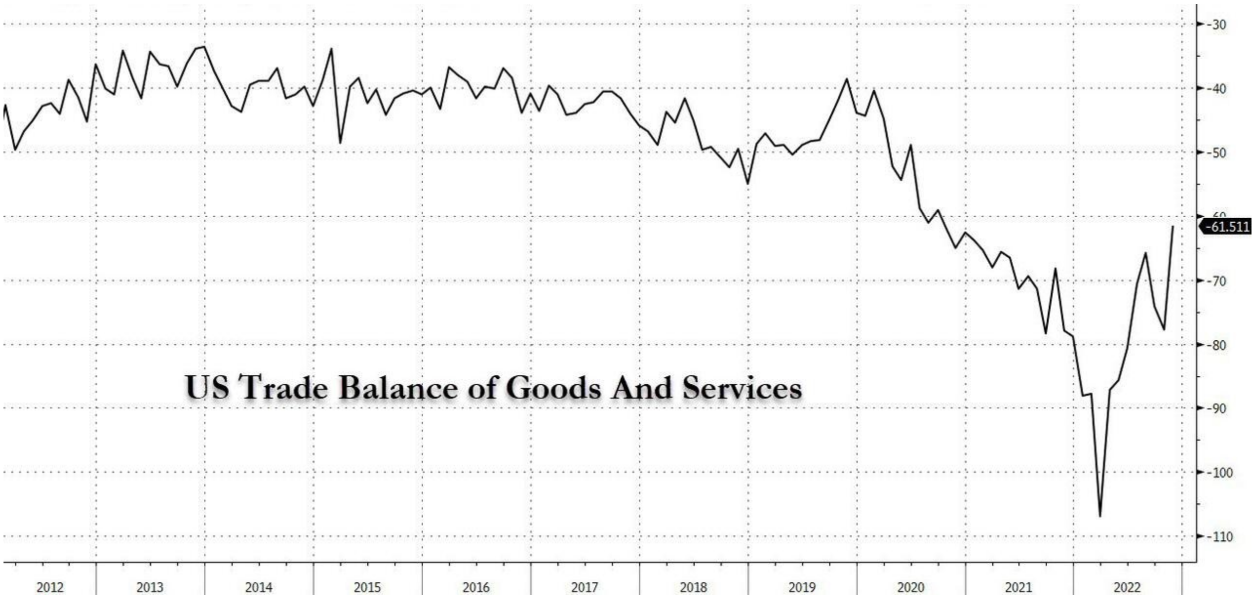
Juvenal here makes reference to the Roman practice of providing free wheat to Roman citizens as well as costly circus games and other forms of entertainment as a means of gaining political power. The *Annona* (grain dole) was begun under the instigation of the *popularis* politician Gaius Sempronius Gracchus in 123 BCE; it remained an object of political contention until it was taken under the control of the autocratic Roman emperors.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bread_and_circuses

government, Africa, vaccine: read later: PFIZER'S HISTORY OF FRAUD, CORRUPTION, AND USING NIGERIAN CHILDREN AS 'HUMAN GUINEA PIGS'

https://kanekoa.substack.com/p/pfizers-history-of-fraud-corruption

stats, markets, china: jan5 part of the feds unwind? "20% one-month decline in the deficit was the single biggest drop in the US trade deficit on a percentage basis going back to the global financial crisis"



And while it would have been welcome economic news if the drop in the deficit was the result of a surge in exports, **the plunge was driven not by rising exports but rather by shrinking imports - a telltale sign of economic slowdown -** with consumer goods, industrial supplies, capital goods and autos all contributing to the decline, the US Bureau of Economic Analysis said. To wit, while exports fell 2% in Nov. to $251.9BN from $257.0BN in Oct, imports fell a striking 6.4% in Nov. to $313.4BN from $334.8BN in Oct. Here are the detials:

expect a jump in Q4 GDP estimates due to a plunge in US imports due to the slowdown in US consumer demand for foreign goods and services serving to boost GDP due to the way net trade is imputed for GDP purposes (look into what that means)

censorship, tech, media: jan5 **200 million Twitter users' private information, including their email addresses, was put for sale after a breach exposed 400 million users' private information in the last week of December 2022**

tracing back to the hack, it seems the same vulnerability was used for another exploit in July 2022.

Stats, tech, government, censorship: jan5 isp user data retention broken down simply by expert

Usually, internet providers keep telecommunication data, tracking data, and website data. That is, your internet provider keeps a record of the websites you visit, their URLs, the duration of your visit, and the bandwidth used.

Some internet providers can even go ahead and keep a record of the details of the websites you visit. Generally, your internet providers can record all your online activities.

Legally, internet providers must delete your history after the stipulated period elapses.

However, this might not be the case. Even if they delete your data, you will have new data if you continue to use the service.

Also, some internet providers may keep your data longer depending on their storage and even the operational cost it covers, for instance, advertisements.

Summary

Due to the mandatory data retention laws enforced in many countries, internet service providers must keep your history for a specified time.

If you are a privacy-conscious individual, you can limit the information your internet provider gets from your history. This is by using a VPN anytime you surf the internet.

privacyaffairsdotcom/how-long-isp-keep-my-history/

Markets, energy, Germany, sanctions, war: Jan.3rd: The first regular shipment of liquefied natural gas from the United States has arrived in Germany

Vaccine, china, health: (April 10, 2022 7:00 am ET)Shanghai Has Recorded More Than 130,000 Covid Cases—and No Deaths

In a Covid-19 outbreak that has locked 25 million people at home, the city of Shanghai has reported more than 130,000 cases since March 1, but says there have been no deaths and currently only one patient with severe illness.

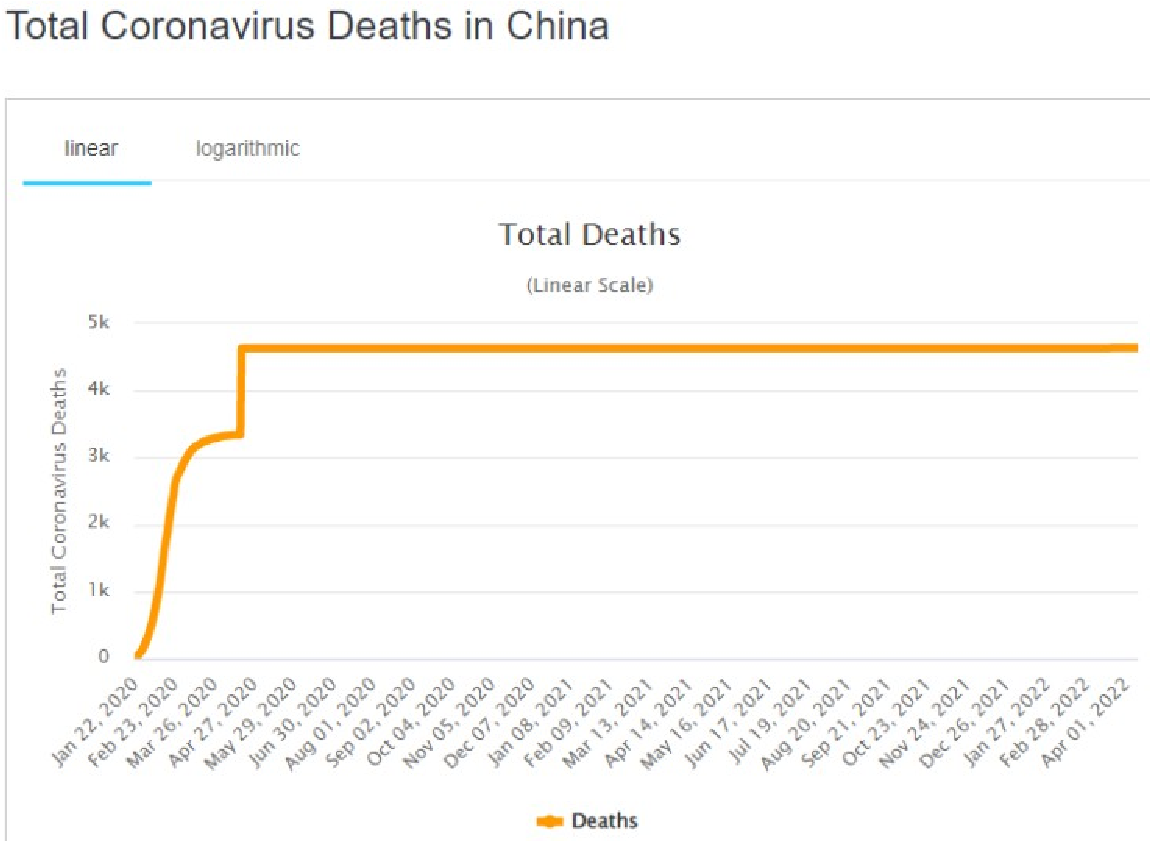
wsjdotcom/articles/shanghai-has-recorded-more-than-130-000-covid-casesand-no-deaths-11649588402

china, vaccine: good writer breaks down something I haven't been following: china's impossible to reckon covid death rate. He also wrote a bok that I'd love to read: "Snake Oil: How Xi Jinping Shut Down the World"

The Wall Street Journal published a piece titled "Shanghai Has Recorded More Than 130,000 Covid Cases—and No Deaths." Seeing the darkly comic headline, I was excited. Finally, after two years, the WSJ appeared to be calling out the data fraud that was the foundation for this whole sordid experiment in totalitarian virus mitigation, however belatedly.

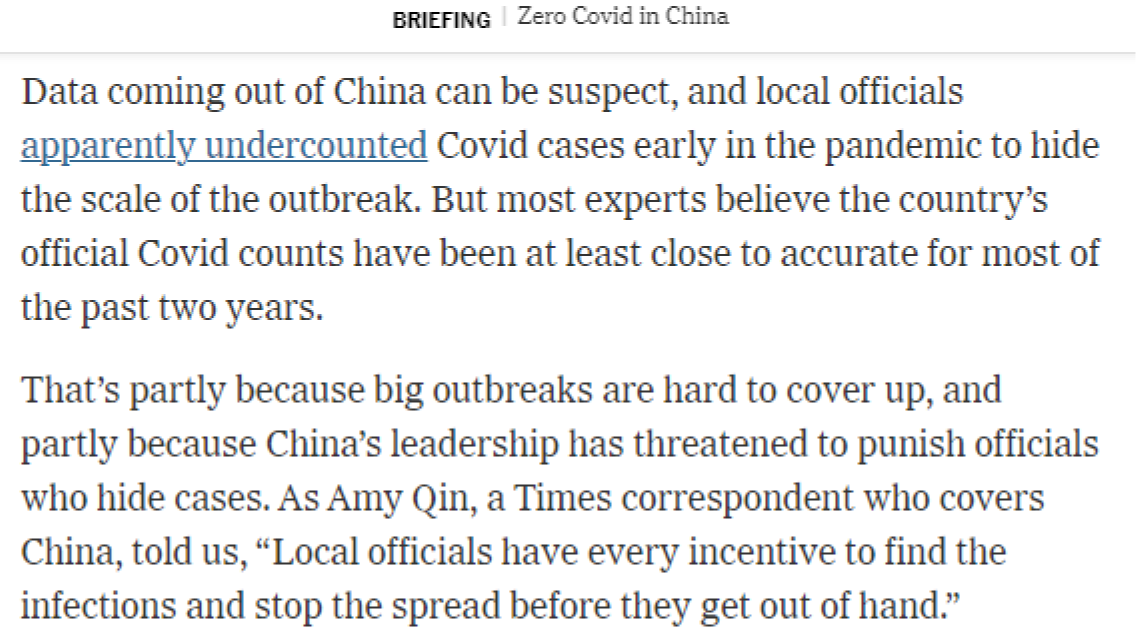
Alas, my excitement was premature. As it turns out, the authors of the article tie themselves into knots to explain China's data. They even trot out Ryan Tibshirani, co-leader of Carnegie Mellon's COVID-19 modeling team, to tell us that China's death rate "can also be affected by factors like the age distribution and racial makeup of its population, vaccination status, type of vaccine and average distance to a healthcare facility," the implication being that Prof. Tibshirani sees nothing wrong with China's data, thank you very much.

Apparently, China’s low vaccination rate among its elderly population means they can have 130,000 cases and zero deaths. Make it make sense. “Science!”


Total Coronavirus Deaths in China

I guess Mr. Tibshirani sees this as the more likely explanation than that the world’s most dishonest regime is simply lying. Unfortunately, he’s far from alone in his backhanded advocacy for the integrity of the Chinese Communist Party.

For two years, the elite journalists, scientists, politicians, and health officials who speak for our most prestigious institutions have been conspicuously and vehemently deferential to the integrity of China’s Covid data. Here’s what the New York Times’ David Leonhardt wrote just two months ago:



BRIEFING | Zero Covid in China

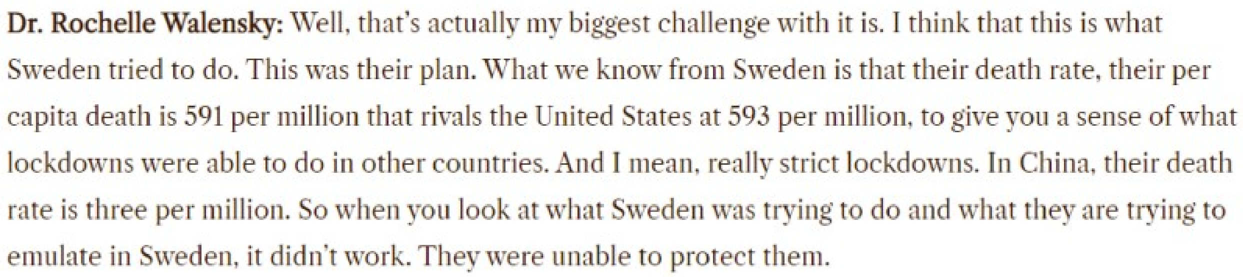
Data coming out of China can be suspect, and local officials apparently undercounted Covid cases early in the pandemic to hide the scale of the outbreak. But most experts believe the country’s official Covid counts have been at least close to accurate for most of the past two years.

That’s partly because big outbreaks are hard to cover up, and partly because China’s leadership has threatened to punish officials who hide cases. As Amy Qin, a Times correspondent who covers China, told us, “Local officials have every incentive to find the infections and stop the spread before they get out of hand.”

Well, now, in Shanghai, we have a “big outbreak” which the CCP has not covered up—but the death data coming out is still manifestly fraudulent. Would the *New York Times* care to revisit their conclusion that “the country’s official Covid counts have been at least close to accurate…because big outbreaks are hard to cover up”?

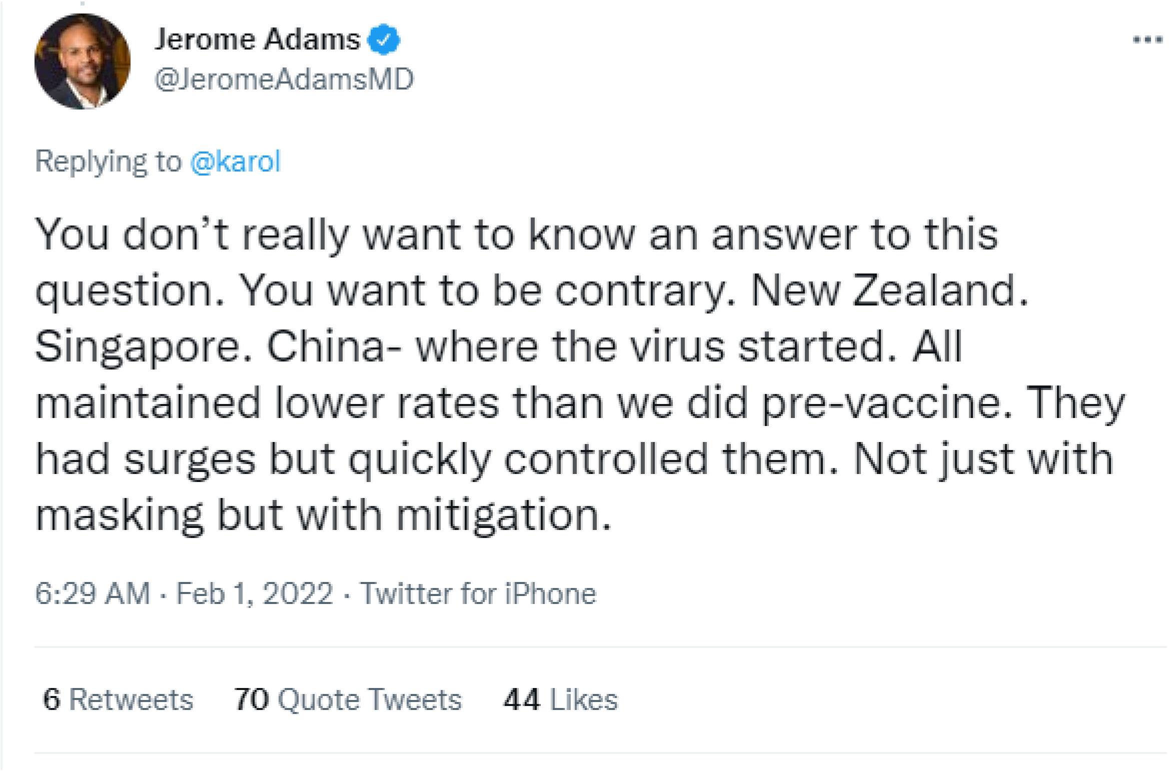
Perhaps it shouldn’t come as a surprise that these elites want, so badly, for China’s Covid data to be real, because for two years they’ve been imploring their citizens to emulate China, scoffing at our childish attachment to human rights and civil liberties.

Here’s Rochelle Walensky, shortly before assuming office as Director of the US CDC:



Dr. Rochelle Walensky: Well, that’s actually my biggest challenge with it is. I think that this is what Sweden tried to do. This was their plan. What we know from Sweden is that their death rate, their per capita death is 591 per million that rivals the United States at 593 per million, to give you a sense of what lockdowns were able to do in other countries. And I mean, really strict lockdowns. In China, their death rate is three per million. So when you look at what Sweden was trying to do and what they are trying to emulate in Sweden, it didn’t work. They were unable to protect them.

And here’s former Surgeon General Jerome Adams just two months ago:



Jerome Adams
@JeromeAdamsMD

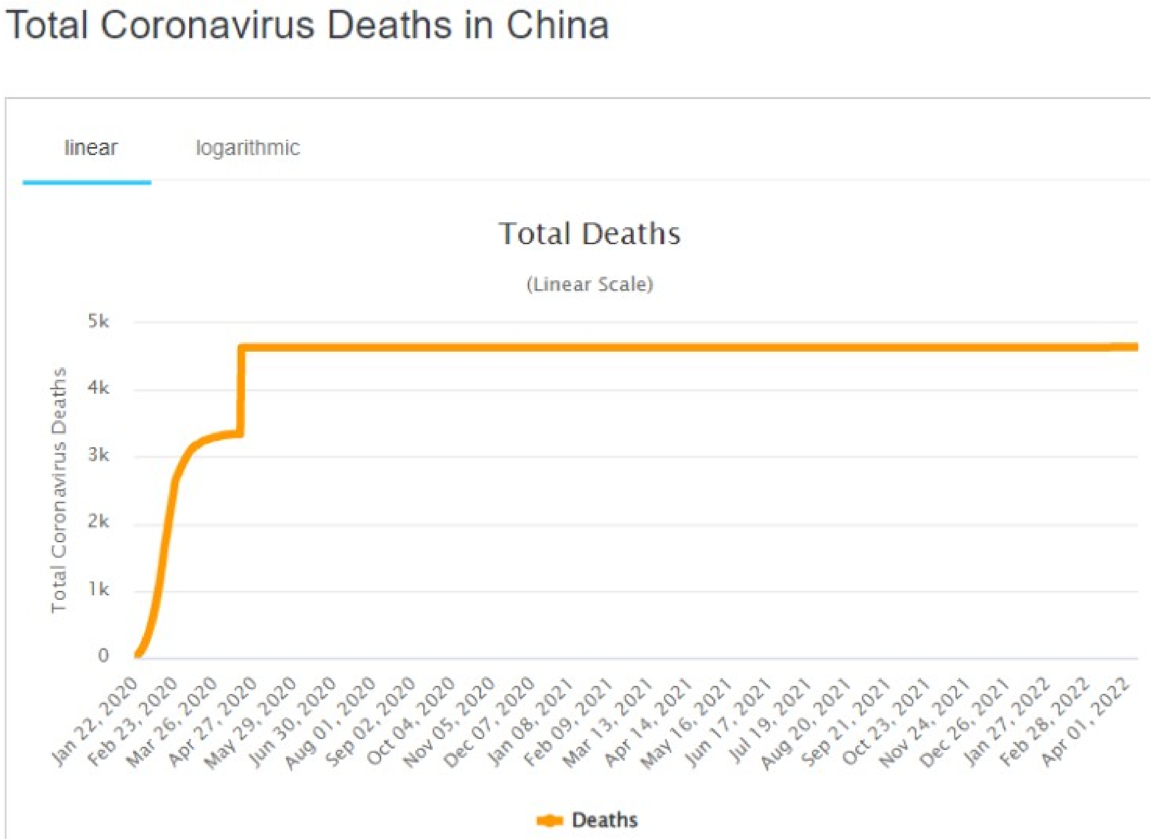
Replying to @karol

You don’t really want to know an answer to this question. You want to be contrary. New Zealand. Singapore. China- where the virus started. All maintained lower rates than we did pre-vaccine. They had surges but quickly controlled them. Not just with masking but with mitigation.

6:29 AM · Feb 1, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

6 Retweets 70 Quote Tweets 44 Likes

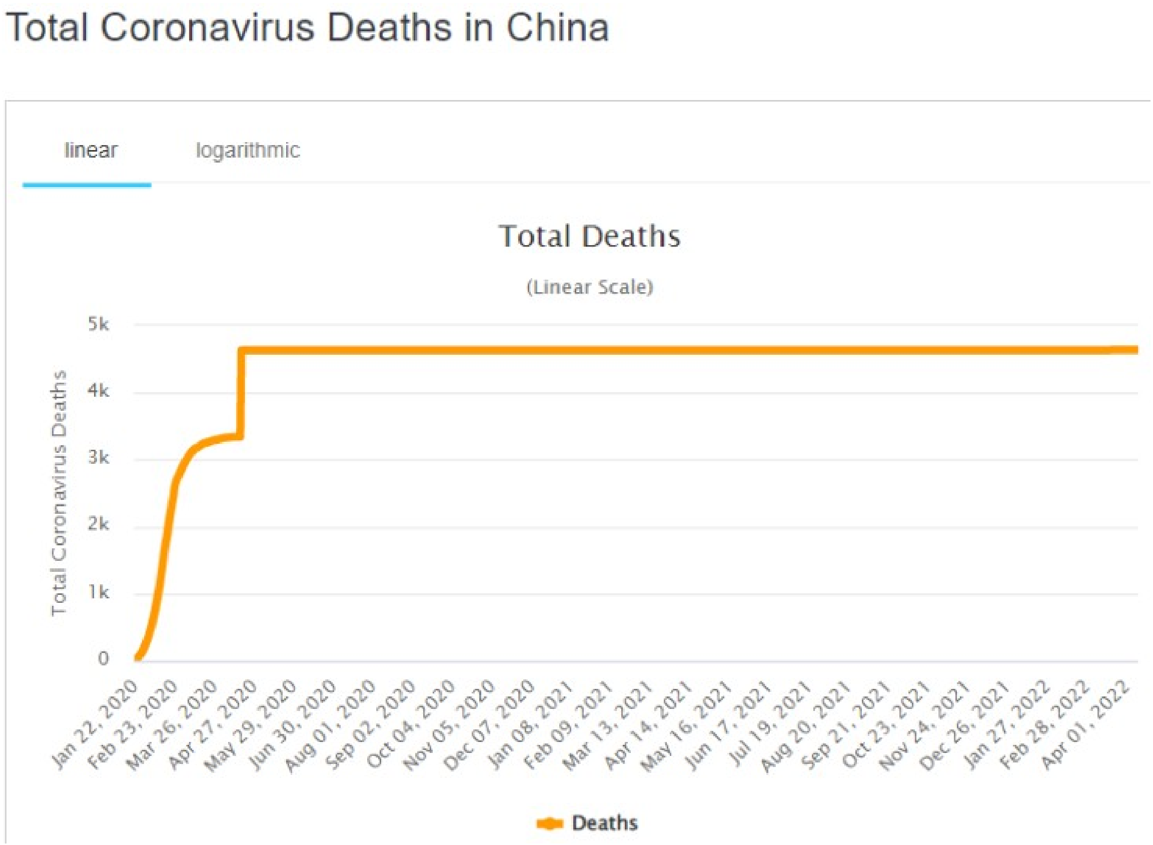
Something tells me these leaders might take a different view on the quality of China’s data if it was their own lives—or the lives of their own children—that depended on it. But they’ve shown no qualms in staking the lives of millions of their fellow citizens on the quality of this graph.



By demanding western elites conform to a false reality in which they had to pretend China’s data was real, the CCP forced them into a referendum as to whom they were truly loyal—China, or their own people. In the vast majority of cases, they chose China. And two years on, even amid the horrific spectacle of China’s lockdown of Shanghai, they remain too cowardly and morally vacuous to reconsider their choice.

Even among lockdown skeptics, many can't accept that public health officials could possibly be that incompetent. It all seems too dumb, too banal. But since March 2020, every single pandemic policy—from the strict lockdownsand masks to the tests, death coding, and vaccine passes—has been imported from China based on the idea that these "extreme social-control measures" had effectively allowed China to "control the virus."

In an Orwellian "war on COVID misinformation," those who pointed out that China's data was obviously fake were vilified by their own governments as alt-right racists, neo-Nazis, and anti-vaxxers—even if fully-vaccinated. They were censored, professionally ostracized, and, as I experienced firsthand, had their social media accounts purged. Hundreds of millions were thrown into poverty, millions of small businesses were bankrupted, an entire generation of children was forced to isolate and cover their faces, and billions of life years were lost, all in service to the collective fantasy encapsulated by this graph.



Reprinted from the author’s Substack

Stats: 94% of the global population is younger than 70 years and 86% is younger than 60 years

sciencedirectdotcom/science/article/pii/S001393512201982X

markets, government, stats: premium article that I'd like to red, saving to hopefully find later: "Here Are The Best And Worst Hedge Funds Of 2022"

zerohedgedotcom/markets/here-are-best-and-worst-performing-hedge-funds-2022

war: jan5 french send "first western tanks"; west has held back on sending either tanks or fighter jets to avoid a direct confrontation with russia; keep sending old equipment, though

While NATO allies have gradually increased the sophistication of weaponry shipped to Kiev, including longer range missiles and more recently Patriot systems approved by the US, they have stopped short of sending either tanks or fighter jets, largely on fears of Moscow expanding the war in response.

The AFP has described the French-made AMX-10 RC as an older light model tanks which the French infantry used in the 1980s, but has since been phased out.

Bloomberg was the first to report last week that "The US government is considering sending Bradley Fighting Vehicles to Ukraine as part of a further package of military support, according to people familiar with the matter."

Censorship, stats: Taibbi: Summaries Of All 'Twitter Files' To Date (they are telling us that we are censored and can't do anything about it THROUGH THE LEAKS. YES, THROUGH THE LEAK. They WANT us to know.

1. Twitter Files Part 1: December 2, 2022, by @mtaibbi

   TWITTER AND THE HUNTER BIDEN LAPTOP STORY

   Recounting the internal drama at Twitter surrounding the decision to block access to a *New York Post* exposé on Hunter Biden in October, 2020.

   Key revelations: Twitter blocked the story on the basis of its “hacked materials” policy, but executives internally knew the decision was problematic. “Can we truthfully claim that this is part of the policy?” is how comms official Brandon Borrman put it. Also: when a Twitter contractor polls members of Congress about the decision, they hear Democratic members want more moderation, not less, and “the First Amendment isn’t absolute.”

   1a. Twitter Files Supplemental, December 6, 2022, by @mtaibbi

   THE “EXITING” OF TWITTER DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL JIM BAKER

   A second round of Twitter Files releases was delayed, as new addition Bari Weiss discovers former FBI General Counsel and Twitter Deputy General Counsel Jim Baker was reviewing the first batches of Twitter Files documents, whose delivery to reporters had slowed.

2. Twitter Files Part 2, by @BariWeiss, December 8, 2022

   TWITTER’S SECRET BLACKLISTS

Bari Weiss gives a long-awaited answer to the question, “Was Twitter shadow-banning people?” It did, only the company calls it “visibility filtering.” Twitter also had a separate, higher council called SIP-PES that decided cases for high-visibility, controversial accounts.

Key revelations: Twitter had a huge toolbox for controlling the visibility of any user, including a “Search Blacklist” (for Dan Bongino), a “Trends Blacklist” for Stanford’s Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, and a “Do Not Amplify” setting for conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Weiss quotes a Twitter employee: “Think about visibility filtering as being a way for us to suppress what people see to different levels. It’s a very powerful tool.” With help from @abigailshrier, @shellenbergermd, @nelliebowles, and @isaacgrafstein.

3. Twitter Files, Part 3, by @mtaibbi, December 9, 2022

   THE REMOVAL OF DONALD TRUMP, October 2020 - January 6th, 2021

   First in a three-part series looking at how Twitter came to the decision to suspend Donald Trump. The idea behind the series is to show how all of Twitter’s “visibility filtering” tools were on display and deployed after January 6th, 2021. **Key Revelations**: Trust and Safety chief Yoel Roth not only met regularly with the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, but with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). Also, Twitter was aggressively applying “visibility filtering” tools to Trump well before the election.

4. Twitter Files Part 4, by @ShellenbergerMD, December 10, 2022

   THE REMOVAL OF DONALD TRUMP, January 7th, 2021

   This thread by Michael Shellenberger looks at the key day after the J6 riots and before Trump would ultimately be banned from Twitter on January 8th, showing how Twitter internally reconfigured its rules to make a Trump ban fit their policies.

   Key revelations: at least one Twitter employee worried about a “slippery slope” in which “an online platform CEO with a global presence… can gatekeep speech for the entire world,” only to be shot down. Also, chief censor Roth argues for a ban on congressman Matt Gaetz even though it “doesn’t quite fit anywhere (duh),” and Twitter changed its “public interest policy” to clear a path for Trump’s removal.

5. Twitter Files Part 5, by @BariWeiss, December 11, 2022

   THE REMOVAL OF DONALD TRUMP, January 8th, 2021

   As angry as many inside Twitter were with Donald Trump after the January 6th Capitol riots, staffers struggled to suspend his account, saying things like, “I think we’d have a hard time saying this is incitement.” As documented by Weiss, they found a way to pull the trigger anyway.

   Key revelations: there were dissenters in the company (“Maybe because I am from China,” said one employee, “I deeply understand how censorship can destroy the public conversation"), but are overruled by senior executives like Vijaya Gadde and Roth, who noted many on Twitter's staff were citing the "Banality of Evil," and comparing those who favored sticking to a strict legalistic interpretation of Twitter's rules — i.e. keep Trump, who had "no violation" — to "Nazis following orders."

6. Twitter Files Part 6, by @mtaibbi, December 16, 2022

   TWITTER, THE FBI SUBSIDIARY

   Twitter's contact with the FBI was "constant and pervasive," as FBI personnel, mainly in the San Francisco field office, regularly sent lists of "reports" to Twitter, often about Americans with low follower counts making joke tweets. Tweeters on both the left and the right were affected.

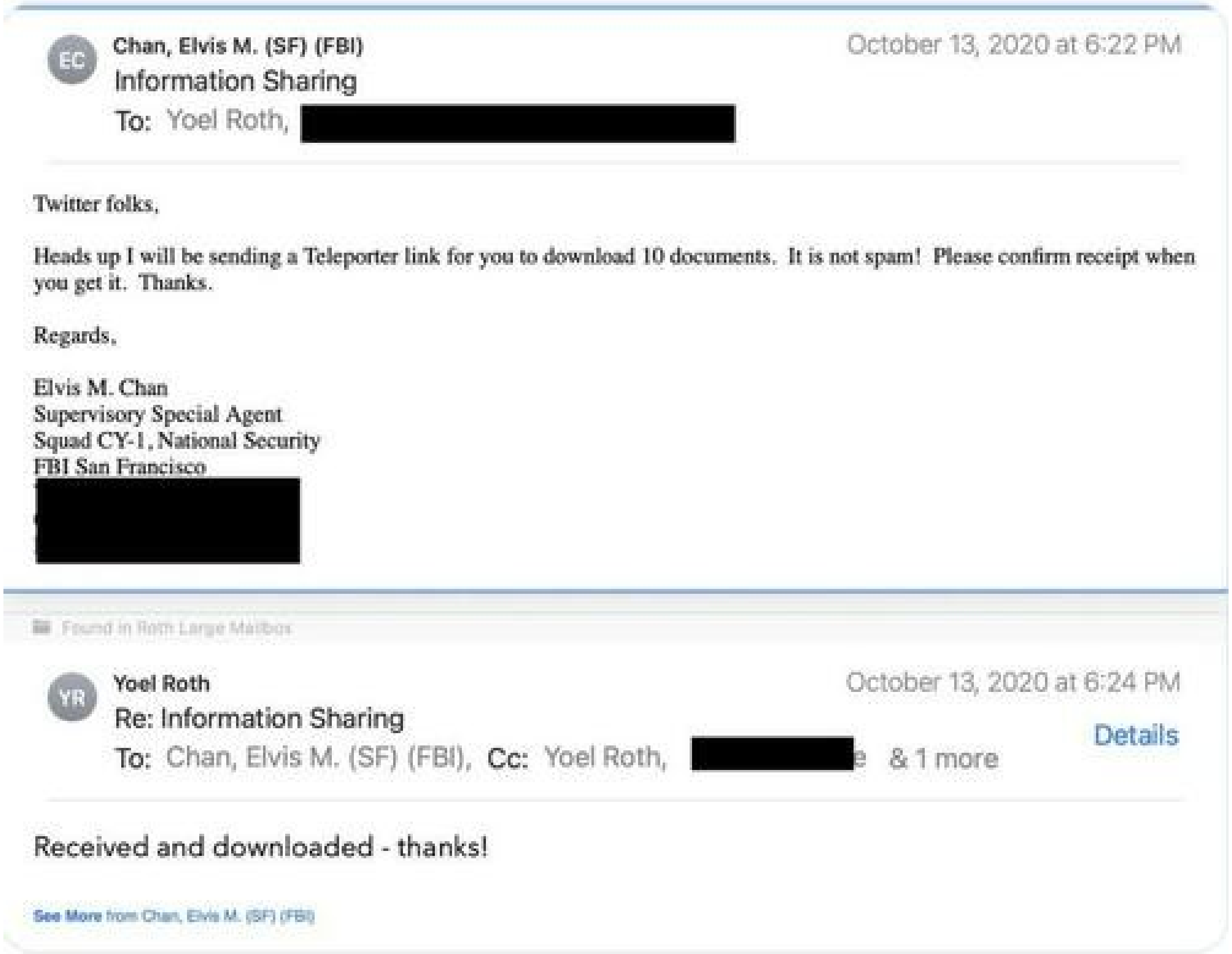
   Key revelations: A senior Twitter executive reports, "FBI was adamant no impediments to sharing" classified information exist. Twitter also agreed to "bounce" content on the recommendations of a wide array of governmental and quasi-governmental actors, from the FBI to the Homeland Security agency CISA to Stanford's Election Integrity Project to state governments. The company one day received so many moderation requests from the FBI, an executive congratulated staffers at the end for completing the "monumental undertaking."

7. Twitter Files Part 7, by @ShellenbergerMD, December 19, 2022

   THE FBI AND HUNTER BIDEN'S LAPTOP

   The Twitter Files story increases its focus on the company's relationship to federal law enforcement and intelligence, and shows intense communication between the FBI and Twitter just before the release of the *Post's* Hunter Biden story.

   Key Revelations: San Francisco agent Elvis Chan "sends 10 documents to Twitter's then-Head of Site Integrity, Yoel Roth, through Teleporter, a one-way communications channel from the FBI to Twitter," the evening before the release of the *Post* story. Also, Baker in an email explains Twitter was compensated for "processing requests" by the FBI, saying "I am happy to report we have collected $3,415,323 since October 2019!"



Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)
October 13, 2020 at 6:22 PM
Information Sharing
To: Yoel Roth, [redacted]

Twitter folks,

Heads up I will be sending a Teleporter link for you to download 10 documents. It is not spam! Please confirm receipt when you get it. Thanks.

Regards,

Elvis M. Chan
Supervisory Special Agent
Squad CY-1, National Security
FBI San Francisco
[redacted]

Found in Roth Large Mailbox

Yoel Roth
October 13, 2020 at 6:24 PM
Re: Information Sharing
To: Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI), Cc: Yoel Roth, [redacted] & 1 more
Details

Received and downloaded - thanks!

See More from Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)

8. Twitter Files Part 8, by @lhfang, December 20, 2022

   HOW TWITTER QUIETLY AIDED THE PENTAGON'S COVERT ONLINE PSYOP CAMPAIGN

   Lee Fang takes a fascinating detour, looking at how Twitter for years approved and supported Pentagon-backed covert operations. Noting the company explicitly testified to Congress that it didn't allow such behavior, the platform nonetheless was a clear partner in state-backed programs involving fake accounts.

   Key revelations: after the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) sent over a list of 52 Arab-language accounts "we use to amplify certain messages," Twitter agreed to "whitelist" them. Ultimately the program would be outed in the *Washington Post* in 2022 — two years after Twitter and other platforms stopped assisting — but contrary to what came out in those reports, Twitter knew about and/or assisted in these programs for at least three years, from 2017-2020.

   Lee wrote a companion piece for the *Intercept* here:

9. Twitter Files Part 9, by @mtaibbi, December 24th, 2022

   TWITTER AND “OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES”

   The Christmas Eve thread (I should have waited a few days to publish!) further details how the channels of communication between the federal government and Twitter operated, and reveals that Twitter directly or indirectly received lists of flagged content from “Other Government Agencies,” i.e. the CIA.

   Key revelations: CIA officials attended at least one conference with Twitter in the summer of 2020, and companies like Twitter and Facebook received “OGA briefings,” at their regular “industry” meetings held in conjunction with the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security. The FBI and the “Foreign Influence Task Force” met regularly “not just with Twitter, but with Yahoo!, Twitch, Cloudfare, LinkedIn, even Wikimedia.”

10. Twitter Files Part 10, by @DavidZweig, December 28, 2022

    HOW TWITTER RIGGED THE COVID DEBATE

    David Zweig drills down into how Twitter throttled down information about COVID that was true but perhaps inconvenient for public officials, “discrediting doctors and other experts who disagreed.”

    Key Revelations: Zweig found memos from Twitter personnel who’d liaised with Biden administration officials who were “very angry” that Twitter had not deplatformed more accounts. White House officials for instance wanted attention on reporter Alex Berenson. Zweig also found “countless” instances of Twitter banning or labeling “misleading” accounts that were true or merely controversial. A Rhode Island physician named Andrew Bostom, for instance, was suspended for, among other things, referring to the results of a peer-reviewed study on mRNA vaccines.

11. *and*

12. Twitter Files Parts 11 and 12, by @mtaibbi, January 3, 2023

    HOW TWITTER LET THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN

    and

    TWITTER AND THE FBI “BELLY BUTTON”

    These two threads focus respectively on the second half of 2017, and a period stretching roughly from summer of 2020 through the present. The first describes how Twitter fell under pressure from Congress and the media to produce “material” showing a conspiracy of Russian accounts on their platform, and the second shows how Twitter tried to resist fulfilling moderation requests for the State Department, but ultimately agreed to let State and other agencies send requests through the FBI, which agent Chan calls “the belly button of the USG.” **Revelations**: at the close of 2017, Twitter makes a key internal decision. Outwardly, the company would claim independence and promise that content would only be removed at “our sole discretion.” The internal guidance says, in writing, that Twitter will remove accounts “identified by the U.S. intelligence community” as “identified by the U.S.. intelligence community as a state-sponsored entity conducting cyber-operations.”

The second thread shows how Twitter took in requests from everyone — Treasury, HHS, NSA, FBI, DHS, etc. — and also received personal requests from politicians like Democratic congressman Adam Schiff, who asked to have journalist Paul Sperry suspended.

GLOSSARY OF “TWITTER FILES” TERMS

1. ***Government Agencies and NGOs***

CISA: The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, an agency within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

CENTCOM: Central Command of the Armed Forces

ODNI: Office of the Director of National Intelligence

FITF: Foreign Influence Task Force, a cyber-regulatory agency comprised of members of the FBI, DHS, and ODNI

“OGA”: Other Government Agency, colloquially — CIA

GEC: Global Engagement Center, an analytical division of the U.S. State Department

USIC: United States intelligence community

HSIN: Homeland Security Information Network, a portal through which states and other official bodies can send “flagged” accounts

EIP: Election Integrity Project, a cyber-laboratory based at Stanford University that sends many reports to Twitter

DFR: Digital Forensic Research lab, an outlet that performs a similar function to the EIP, only is funded by the Atlantic Council

IRA: Internet Research Agency, the infamous Russian “troll farm” headed by “Putin’s chef,” Yevgheny Prigozhin

2. ***Twitter or Industry-specific terms***

PII: Can have two meanings. “Personally identifiable information” is self-explanatory, while a “Public Interest Interstitial” is a warning placed over a tweet, so that it cannot be seen. Twitter personnel even use “interstitial” as a verb, as in, “Can we interstitial that?”

JIRA: Twitter’s internal ticketing system, through which complaints rise and are decided

PV2: The system used at Twitter to view the profile of any user, to check easily if it has flags like “Trends Blacklist”

SIP-PES Site Integrity Policy — Policy Escalation Support. SIP-PES is like Twitter’s version of a moderation Supreme Court, dealing with the most high-profile, controversial rulings

SI: Site integrity. Key term that you’ll see repeately in Twitter email traffic, especially with “escalations,” i.e. tweets or content that have been reported for moderation review

CHA: Coordinated Harmful Activity

SRT: Strategic Response Team

GET: Global Escalation Team

VF: Visibility Filtering

GUANO: Tool in Twitter’s internal system that keeps a chronological record of all actions taken on an account

VIT: Very Important Tweeter. Really.

GoV: Glorificaiton of Violence

BOT: In the moderation content, an individualized heuristic attached to an account that moderates certain behavior automatically

BME: Bulk Media Exploitation

EP Abuse: Episodic abuse

PCF: Parity, commentary and fan accounts. “PCF” sometimes appears as a reason an account has escaped an automated moderation process, under a limited exception

FLC: Forced Login Challenge. Also called a “phone challenge,” it’s a way Twitter attempts to verify if an account is real or automated. “Phone challenges” are seen repeatedly in discussions about verification of suspected “Russia-linked” accounts

IO: Information Operations, as in *The GEC’s mandate for offensive IO to promote American interests.*

Crypto, government: jan5 You Can Now Live In Lugano Switzerland Solely On Bitcoin

The Plan ₿ foundation recently took to Twitter to announce a new map which showcases the hundreds of merchants across the city that accept bitcoin. “Now you can live in Lugano just using Bitcoin!,” the tweet read. “Find out all you need to enjoy your stay in Lugano through the map with all Lugano’s Plan ₿ merchants.”

https://bitcoinmagazine.com/culture/live-in-swiss-city-solely-on-bitcoin

vaccine, health, censorship: Wearing Masks When Ill "Not Compulsory", UK Government Says

The UK government has stressed that it is “not compulsory” to wear a mask while ill, though it has been “longstanding advice” from health authorities.

It comes after Professor Susan Hopkins, chief medical adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), issued advice on Jan. 2 saying adults should “wear a face covering” if they have to leave the house while feeling unwell.

The UKHSA handed out the advice this week in a bid to counter high levels of flu, COVID-19, and invasive Strep A disease.

Transport Secretary Mark Harper also said it would be “sensible” to do so if travelling.

Transport Secretary Mark Harper arrives for a government COBRA emergency committee meeting at the Cabinet Office in London, on Dec. 14, 2022. (Victoria Jones/PA Media)

Asked for the government’s opinion on the UKHSA’s guidance, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s spokesman said on Jan. 3: “Obviously that’s advice they put out. I think that is pretty longstanding advice.

*“**It remains health advice to the public—it is not mandatory.** People need their judgment. Certainly people will continue to use their good sense, having spent a long time dealing … with these kinds of infectious illnesses.”*

Questioned whether it was really “longstanding” advice for people to wear face coverings if they are battling a cold, the spokesman replied: “That’s not what the advice says. What you’ll see is, as has often been the case, if people are ill, they are advised to stay at home.

“Obviously people can choose to wear a mask if they wish to. It is not compulsory. This is advice from UKHSA rather than government ministers telling

people what to do, as we saw during the height of the pandemic before the emergence of vaccines.”

Notes from underground

Three accounts of the oil industry will make you think the next time you fill the tank

SOCAR Oil Fields #3 Baku,Azerbaijan, 2006, Edward Burtynsky, courtesy of Flowers, London and Metivier Gallery, Toronto; from ‘Oil’ by Edward Burtynsky (Steidl)

- Notes from underground on twitter (opens in a new window)
- Notes from underground on facebook (opens in a new window)
- Notes from underground on linkedin (opens in a new window)
-

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Ed Crooks

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The Oil Road: Journeys from the Caspian Sea to the City of London, by James Marriott and Mika Minio-Paluello, *Verso, RRP£16.99/$26.95, 376 pages*

Fuel on the Fire: Oil and Politics in Occupied Iraq, by Greg Muttitt, *The New Press, RRP$28.95/Vintage, RRP£9.99, 432 pages*

The Big Flatline: Oil and the No-Growth Economy, by Jeff Rubin, *Palgrave Macmillan, RRP$27 (October)/£16.99 (November), 272 pages*

In his introduction to *Naked Lunch*, William Burroughs explained the title as “a frozen moment when everyone sees what is on the end of every fork”. If you have spent any time looking at the oil business, you will know exactly what he meant.

So much in modern life, from plastic cups to Boeing 787s, is made from or with oil that discovering the facts of how it is extracted, processed and distributed is like peeling back the surface of the everyday world to reveal the hidden structure beneath. When BP’s Macondo well ruptured in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, many people were confronted for the first time by some of those realities – including the awe-inspiring difficulties of working in the deep waters where oil companies venture now that the more accessible areas have been sucked dry, and the catastrophic consequences of failure. The video feed from the sea bed a mile down, showing oil and gas pouring unstoppably from the well into the waters of the gulf, brought home to American consumers the ugly side of a business that they had habitually ignored.

The three books under review, in contrasting styles, achieve a similar effect: shining a light on the industry to expose the consequences of our dependence on oil. At the very least, they will make you think the next time you fill the tank.

The Oil Road is an unusual work: an elegantly written travel book about a pipeline. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline,, known as BTC, carries crude from oilfields in the Caspian Sea to a tanker port in the Mediterranean, providing a secure route for the booming energy exports of the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan. Filled to capacity, it can carry more than 1 per cent of the world’s oil supply, making it a strategically critical piece of infrastructure for the world.

Exploring the political, social and environmental impact of the pipeline as they travel its 1,100-mile length and beyond, James Marriott and Mika Minio-Paluello spin an unexpectedly engaging tale. Both men are members of Platform, a curious hybrid of protest group and arts collective that makes its points through exhibitions and performances, rather than demonstrations and speeches, and their book is a similarly distinctive blend of travelogue, reportage and history.

Not many books about oil include references to Rainer Maria Rilke and Filippo Marinetti, or cite Robert Fagles' translation of *The Odyssey* in their bibliographies alongside the 2008 annual report of the state oil fund of Azerbaijan. Marriott and Minio-Paluello have points to make about the corrosive effect of oil money, and about the damage done by oil to the environment. Getting BTC built was an important diplomatic objective for the US and Europe, as well as a commercial priority for BP, which owns much of the oil that flows through it. As the authors point out, the interests of people living along the route were never the principal focus.

But the book is more a series of reflections than a polemic or manifesto. Rather than John Pilger or Naomi Klein, the presiding spirit is that of Iain Sinclair, who uses rambling excursions in and around London to uncover hidden aspects of the city's past and present.

Following the route taken by the oil, from the offshore platforms in the Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli oilfield in the Caspian to refineries in Germany, Marriott and Minio-Paluello intersperse the story of their journey with historical anecdotes, often showing how oil has shaped the regions they pass through from Baku to Bavaria. It is an illuminating technique, pointing up how much continuity there is in the nexus of money, power and oil.

Not that the pair are slouches as reporters. They deliver some sharp observations about the suppression of free speech in Azerbaijan and the danger of leaks, and uncover a genuine scoop in pinning down stories that Russia had bombed BTC during the war with Georgia in August 2008. In fact, a different nearby pipeline was attacked, apparently deliberately, but was not hit.

Around the same time that oil was beginning to flow through BTC, in the summer of 2006, the US was enlisting the help of the UN to revive a less successful attempt to add to global oil supplies: the effort to raise Iraq's production after the US-led invasion of 2003. The story of how that proved so difficult is told in Greg Muttitt's *Fuel on the Fire*, a history of Iraq's oil industry from before the war to the arrival "en masse" of western oil companies at the end of the decade.

Muttitt is a former colleague of Marriott and Minio-Paluello at Platform, and has a walk-on part in *The Oil Road*, but his own book is very different, if equally impressive. A painstaking piece of investigative reporting with 48 pages of footnotes, based on documents released under freedom of information legislation and interviews with Iraqis, it gives the best account yet of a hitherto under-reported story.

After nine years, a financial cost of about $1tn, and more than 100,000 dead (according to the Iraq Body Count project), we still do not have a fully convincing explanation of why the US was so committed to invading Iraq. The absence of any connection between Saddam Hussein and the 9/11 attacks, the likelihood that he had no effective weapons of mass destruction, and the potential for sustained chaos and bloodshed after he was toppled, were all understood by people who knew Iraq well before the invasion, yet the US administration was determined to push ahead nevertheless.

Muttitt suggests an explanation that was always one of the allegations thrown by critics of the US, but has received little serious attention: that it was, at least in part, a war for oil. That is not in the simplistic sense that the US and British governments were trying to grab Iraq’s resources for the benefit of ExxonMobil and BP, although those interests were a factor in post-war planning.

Rather, it is that the US saw a need to bring on new sources of oil production to meet growing global demand. Iraq, with the world’s fifth-largest oil reserves, was an obvious source of increased supply, but for as long as Saddam remained in power its exports were constrained by sanctions.

From that perspective Saddam needed to be removed, Muttitt argues, but thereafter it did not matter who produced the oil. “What the major powers need is a continuous flow to consumers through purchase, not theft, over many years,” he writes. Exxon, BP and other western groups were important only because they had the technology and skills that were most likely to maximise production.

Muttitt does not claim that oil was the single motive for the war, and accepts that the US administration may have made a genuine mistake in over-estimating Iraq’s capacity to produce weapons of mass destruction. But the weight of the evidence that he sets out suggests that the maximisation of Iraq's oil production was an important objective both before and after the war. In that sense, after years of slow progress, the invasion appears to be showing results. In July, for the first time since the 1980s, Iraq's oil production surpassed that of Iran, which has been constrained by international sanctions. The International Energy Agency, which monitors oil markets on behalf of developed countries, forecast last year that Iraq would make the largest contribution to increased oil supplies of any country in the world over the coming decade.

The impact of political instability in the Middle East on future oil production is one of the issues considered by Jeff Rubin in *The Big Flatline*, a brisk introduction to a world of constrained energy supplies. His previous take on the issue, *Why Your World Is About to Get a Whole Lot Smaller* (2009), put a more positive spin on the retreat of globalisation caused by increased fuel costs. *The Big Flatline* is gloomier, possibly reflecting the fact that Rubin has in the interim resigned from his comfortable job as chief economist at CIBC World Markets, the Canadian bank. It is also less successful than its predecessor, with more irrelevant digressions and fewer original ideas, but it is nonetheless important.

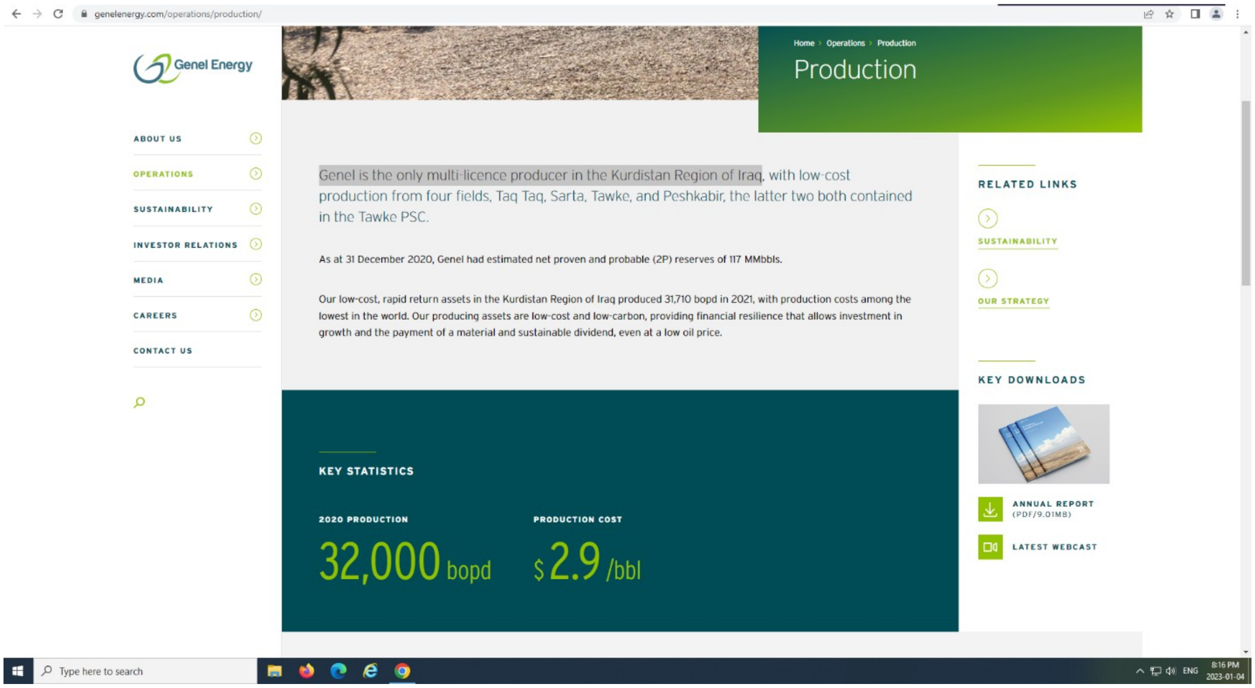
Although the flow of oil will not stop, Rubin argues, the new sources of crude, in deep water and tar sands and shale rocks, will be more expensive than the production we have relied on in the past, and that increased cost will be a significant constraint on economic growth.

The book does not fully refute the opposing position, that thanks to the techniques of shale production pioneered in North America, we are in fact entering an era of energy abundance, with ample supplies of oil and gas. But the warning that constraints on energy use will set limits to growth is worth taking seriously nevertheless. *The Big Flatline* should be read in conjunction with "Is US Economic Growth Over?", a much talked-about recent paper by Northwestern University economist Robert Gordon. He suggests six reasons to believe it might be, including the need to curb energy consumption to fight the threat of global warming.

The good news about energy scarcity, Rubin argues, could be that "we'll buy fewer things, but we'll also have more time to enjoy our lives". For many people, however, especially in emerging economies, that may seem like an unattractive prospect. If energy supplies do become tighter, we can expect intensified efforts to grab hold of what is left.

Ed Crooks is the FT's US industry and energy editor

Energy, middle east, stats: region produces oil for under 3 dollars per day in kurdish iraq: "Genel is the only multi-licence producer in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq"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Production

Genel is the only multi-licence producer in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, with low-cost production from four fields, Taq Taq, Sarta, Tawke, and Peshkabir, the latter two both contained in the Tawke PSC.

As at 31 December 2020, Genel had estimated net proven and probable (2P) reserves of 117 MMbbls.

Our low-cost, rapid return assets in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq produced 31,710 bopd in 2021, with production costs among the lowest in the world. Our producing assets are low-cost and low-carbon, providing financial resilience that allows investment in growth and the payment of a material and sustainable dividend, even at a low oil price.

KEY STATISTICS

2020 PRODUCTION
32,000 bopd

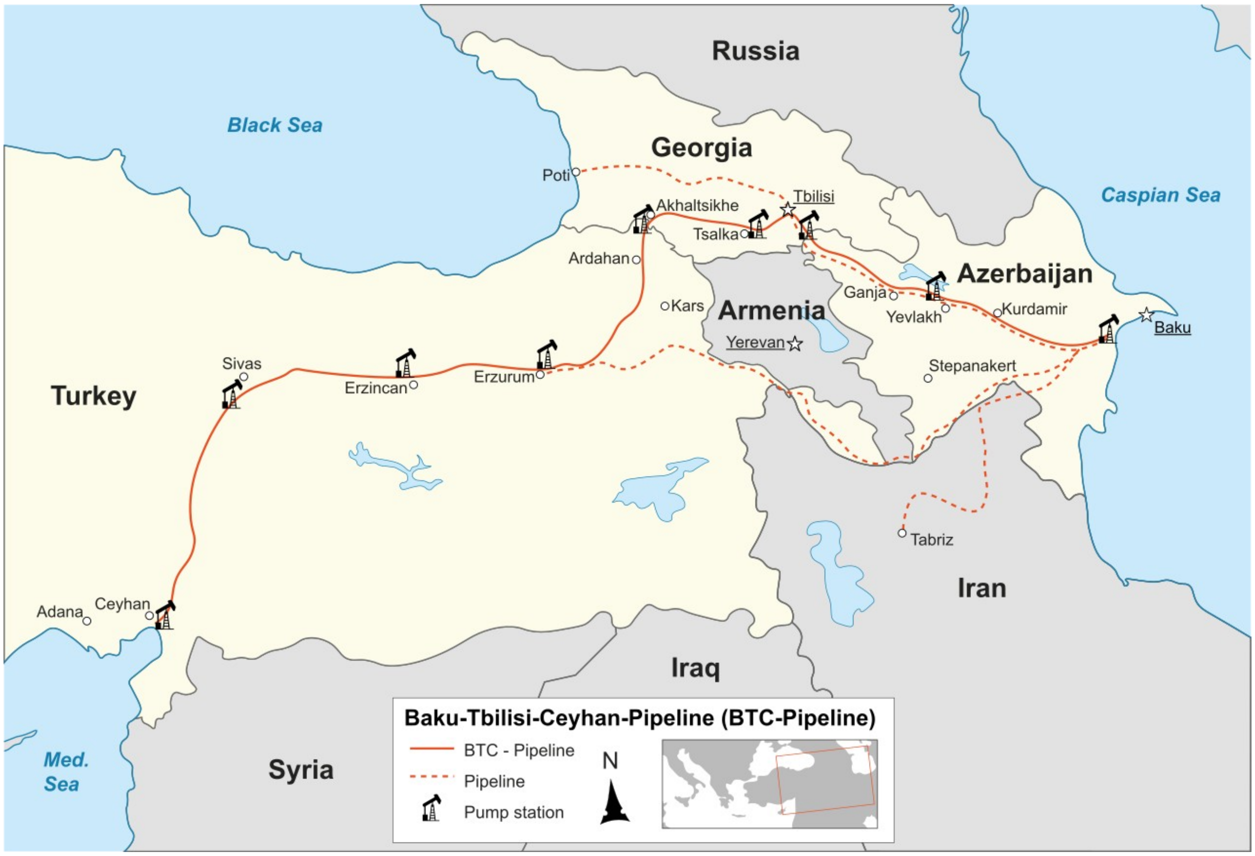
PRODUCTION COST
$2.9 /bbl

Energy, stats, middle east, markets: read later: Kurdistan Oil Pipeline

https://www.gem.wiki/Kurdistan_Oil_Pipeline#cite_note-krg-8

stats, energy, Russia, history: The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water, often described as the world's largest lake or a full-fledged sea, and lies above one of the world's largest collections of oil and gas fields. As the

sea is landlocked, transporting oil to Western markets is complicated


Russia
Black Sea
Georgia
Caspian Sea
Poti
Akhaltsikhe
Tbilisi
Tsalka
Ardahan
Azerbaijan
Ganja
Kars
Armenia
Yevlakh
Kurdamir
Baku
Yerevan
Sivas
Stepanakert
Turkey
Erzincan
Erzurum
Tabriz
Iran
Adana
Ceyhan
Iraq
Med. Sea
Syria
Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan-Pipeline (BTC-Pipeline)
BTC - Pipeline
Pipeline
Pump station
N

During Soviet times, all transportation routes from the Caspian region were through Russia. The collapse of the Soviet Union inspired a search for new routes. Russia first insisted that the new pipeline should pass through its territory, then declined to participate.[2][3]

In the spring of 1992, the Turkish Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel proposed to Central Asian countries including Azerbaijan that the pipeline run through Turkey. The first document on the construction of the Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan pipeline was signed between Azerbaijan and Turkey on 9 March 1993 in Ankara.[4] The Turkish route meant a pipeline from Azerbaijan would run through Georgia or Armenia, but the route through Armenia was politically impossible due to the unresolved war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. This left the circuitous Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey route, longer and more expensive to build than the other option.[5]

The project gained momentum following the Ankara Declaration, adopted on 29 October 1998 by President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, President of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of

Turkey Süleyman Demirel, and President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov. The declaration was witnessed by the United States Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson, who expressed strong support for the pipeline. The intergovernmental agreement in support of the pipeline was signed by Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey on 18 November 1999, during a meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Istanbul, Turkey.[5]

Construction[edit]

The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline Company (BTC Co.) was established in London on 1 August 2002.[6] The ceremony launching construction of the pipeline was held on 18 September 2002.[7] Construction began in April 2003 and was completed in 2005. The Azerbaijan section was constructed by Consolidated Contractors International of Greece, and Georgia's section was constructed by a joint venture of France's Spie Capag and UK Petrofac International. The Turkish section was constructed by BOTAŞ Petroleum Pipeline Corporation. Bechtel was the main contractor for engineering, procurement and construction.[6] Detailed design and engineering contractor was ILF Consulting Engineers for the Turkish section of pipeline, which is approximately over 1000km [8]

Inauguration[edit]

On 25 May 2005, the pipeline was inaugurated at the Sangachal Terminal by President Ilham Aliyev of the Azerbaijan Republic, President Mikhail Saakashvili of Georgia and President Ahmet Sezer of Turkey, joined by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and United States Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman.[9][10] The inauguration of the Georgian section was hosted by President Mikheil Saakashvili at the pumping station near Gardabani on 12 October 2005.[11] The inauguration ceremony at Ceyhan terminal was held on 13 July 2006.[1][12]

Stats, energy, Russia: petroleum pipelines through europe

Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.
North Sea
Baltic Sea
DENMARK
SWEDEN
LATVIA
LITHUANIA
RUSSIA
Moscow
RUSSIA
Ufa
Samara
Saratov
NETH.
Rostock
Gdansk
BEL.
LUX.
GERMANY
Berlin
Leipzig
Plock
Warsaw
Minsk
BELARUS
POLAND
Friendship
Friendship (Druzhba)
FRANCE
Karlsruhe
Ingolstadt
Prague
CZECH REPUBLIC
Trans-Alpine (TAL)
Brody
Friendship (Druzhba) II
Kiev
UKRAINE
KAZAKHSTAN
SWITZ.
Vienna
AUSTRIA
Bratislava
SLOVAKIA
Budapest
HUNGARY
Friendship II
SLOVENIA
Ljubljana
Trieste
Zagreb
Omisalj
Adria
CROATIA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
Belgrade
MOLDOVA
Yuzhnyy
Odesa
Kherson
ROMANIA
Sea of Azov
Caspian Pipeline Consortium project
Atyrau
Tengiz
Aral Sea
UZBEKISTAN
ITALY
Rome
Adriatic Sea
YUGOSLAVIA
Bucharest
Constanta
Novorossiysk
Tuapse
Northern Early Oil
Caspian Sea
Aqtau
Makhachkala
Sofia
BULGARIA
Burgas
Black Sea
GEORGIA
Tbilisi
Sup'sa
Bat'umi
ALBANIA
Tirana
Skopje
F.Y.R.O.M.*
Vlore
Tyrrhenian Sea
Thessaloniki
Alexandroupolis
Saros
Kiyikoy
Istanbul
Bosporus
Kocaeli (Izmit)
Dardanelles
Aegean Sea
Samsun
ARMENIA
Western Early Oil
AZERBAIJAN
Baku
TURKMENISTAN
Turkmenbasy
Ionian Sea
GREECE
Athens
Aliaga
Ankara
TURKEY
Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline (BTC)
Erzurum
Tabriz
Neka port
Batman
Tehran
IRAN
Mediterranean Sea
SYRIA
IRAQ
Ceyhan
*The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Existing pipeline
Existing bypass pipeline
Planned pipeline
Proposed bypass pipeline
Tanker route
Selected refinery
Selected tanker terminal
0 100 200 Kilometers
0 100 200 Miles
Pipeline alignments are approximate.

Energy, stats, middle east: Kirkuk–Baniyas crude oil pipeline transports 300 bpd from the Kirkuk oil field in Iraq to the Syrian port of Baniyas and was constructed in 23 April 1952 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirkuk%E2%80%93Baniyas_pipeline

stats, energy, middles east: Iraq's largest crude oil export line is The Kirkuk–Ceyhan Oil Pipeline, also known as the Iraq–Turkey Crude Oil Pipeline, is a 600-mile-long (970 km) pipeline that runs from Kirkuk in Iraq to Ceyhan in Turkey.

Sanctions, war, energy: (october.13th, 2021) US sanctions under the Caesar Act against Syria specifically target the energy and construction

sectors to impede the country’s ability to rebuild after 10 brutal years of war. The sanctions can target any person regardless of nationality, discouraging Syria’s neighbors from helping in the reconstruction.

Stats, war, middle east, energy: jan4 World Food Programme: 60% of syrian close to staring, feb 2021, Syrians have been grappling with a rise in the price of basic items over the past year as the national currency, the Syrian Pound, has plummeted in value.

“The situation has never been worse. After 10 years of conflict, Syrian families have exhausted their savings as they face a spiralling economic crisis,” said Sean O’Brien, WFP Representative and Country Director in Syria.

Meanwhile, the cost of basic foods to feed a family for a month – such as bread, rice, lentils, oil and sugar – far exceeds average salaries.

“It is alarming that a simple meal is beyond the reach of families across Syria, and this new data shows humanitarian assistance is the difference between putting a meal on the table and going to bed hungry. Lifesaving support has never been so crucial,” said Mr. O’Brien.

Erdogan, war: Syria and Turkey’s defense ministers recently met for the first time since 2011.

Energy, middle east, war, sanctions: As part of its occupation of Syria, the US and Kurdish allies control most of the country’s oil and gas resources.

Energy middle east, war, sanctions: Jordan opened its border with Syria in September, October 13, 2021, antiwar

Stats, war: low intensity warfare: "involves the state's use of military forces applied selectively and with restraint to enforce compliance with its policies or objectives."

Low-intensity conflict is defined by the US Army as:

... a political-military confrontation between contending states or groups below conventional war and above the routine, peaceful competition among states. It frequently involves protracted struggles of competing principles and ideologies. Low-intensity conflict ranges from subversion to the use of the armed forces. It is waged by a combination of means, employing political, economic, informational, and military instruments. Low-intensity conflicts are often localized, generally in the Third World, but contain regional and global security implications.[3]

History, war: the story of Vichy France, the government that ruled from June 1940 till August 1944. Despite heavy pressure, the French government at Vichy never joined the Axis powers and even remained formally at war with Germany

The terms of the armistice presented certain advantages, such as keeping the French Navy and French colonial empire under French control and avoiding full occupation of the country by Germany, which maintained a degree of French independence and neutrality
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vichy_France

On November 8, 1942, in the thick of World War II, thousands of American soldiers landed on the Atlantic coast of Morocco, while others amassed in Algeria, only to take immediate gunfire from the French. Needless to say, it marked the end of U.S. diplomatic relations with the Vichy government installed in France during WWII.

Most nations recognized the Vichy government as legitimate; the U.S. sent William Leahy as an ambassador,

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/vichy-government-france-world-war-ii-willingly-collaborated-nazis-180967160/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collaboration_with_the_Axis_powers

China, war, history: Karen insurgent groups, led primarily by the Karen National Union (KNU), have waged war against the Burmese government since early 1949. They have a population of 5 million people, and account for 7% of the Burmese (Myanmar population). The original aim of the KNU was to create an independent Karen homeland called Kawthoolei.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karen_people

Yangon, the largest city in Berma suffers from deeply inadequate infrastructure, especially compared to other major cities in Southeast Asia, such as Jakarta, Bangkok or Hanoi

history: The British captured Yangon and all of Lower Burma in the Second Anglo-Burmese War of 1852, and subsequently transformed Yangon into the commercial and political hub of British Burma

stats, war: HUMINT: Human intelligence (abbreviated HUMINT and pronounced as hyoo-mint) is intelligence gathered by means of interpersonal contact. A typical HUMINT activity consists of interrogations and

conversations with persons having access to information.

Human intelligence (abbreviated **HUMINT** and pronounced as *hyoo-mint*) is intelligence gathered by means of interpersonal contact, as opposed to the more technical intelligence gathering disciplines such as signals intelligence (SIGINT), imagery intelligence (IMINT) and measurement and signature intelligence (MASINT).[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_intelligence_(intelligence_gathering)

censorship, journal: themarkup, a website that I had saved in my favourites, completely lies to their readers by saying tech firms don't listen to their users audio, something easily proven false with a simple google search.

Dear Julia: Is my cellphone listening to me? I often get ads related to things that I talked about but didn't look up online, and it makes me think that my phone is sending data about my conversations to advertisers.

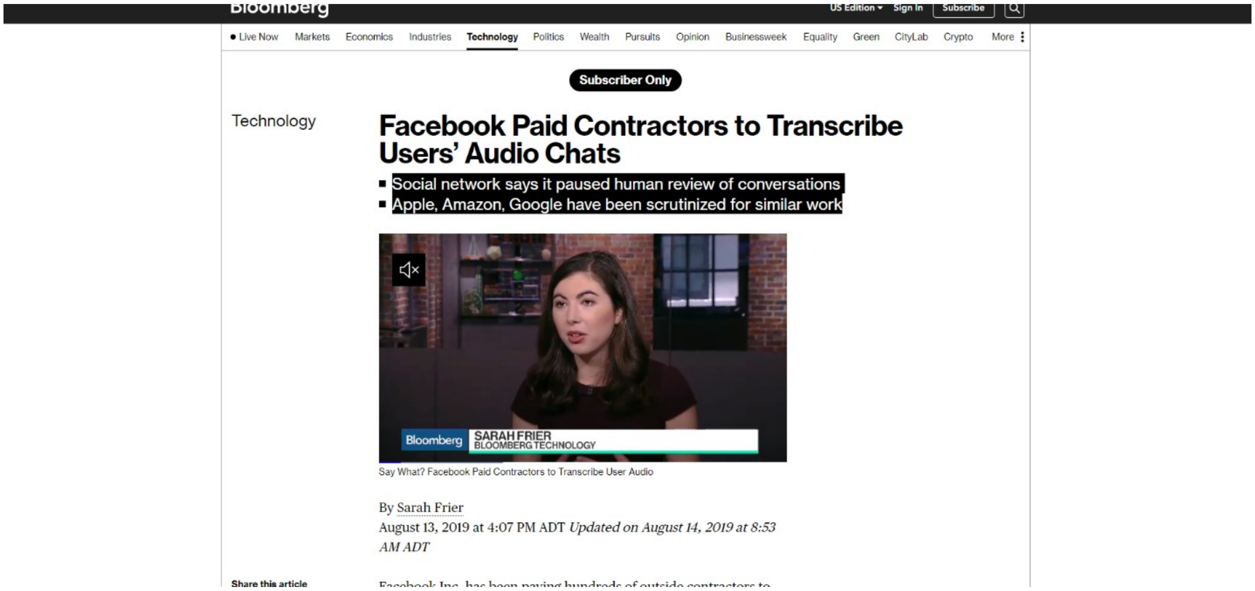
Dear Reader: I get this question all the time because it's such a common experience. And yet there is no compelling evidence that marketers are using your audio to tailor their advertisements.

There have been many experiments over the years testing this hypothesis, and all of them have come up dry. The most comprehensive test—a study by Northeastern University researchers published in 2018—analyzed 17,260 Android apps and found that "no apps appeared to exfiltrate audio in our tests."

themarkupdotorg/newsletter/hello-world/ask-julia-is-my-phone-listening-to-me

As you can see, tech firms actually do listen to their users audio, even going so far as to hire independent contractors

to do the job for them, and without anybody knowing, something that was reported by Bloomberg in 2019..


Bloomberg
US Edition
Sign In
Subscribe
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Markets
Economics
Industries
Technology
Politics
Wealth
Pursuits
Opinion
Businessweek
Equality
Green
CityLab
Crypto
More
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Bloomberg
SARAH FRIER
BLOOMBERG TECHNOLOGY
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Technology

Facebook Paid Contractors to Transcribe Users' Audio Chats

- Social network says it paused human review of conversations
- Apple, Amazon, Google have been scrutinized for similar work

Say What? Facebook Paid Contractors to Transcribe User Audio

By Sarah Frier
August 13, 2019 at 4:07 PM ADT *Updated on August 14, 2019 at 8:53 AM ADT*

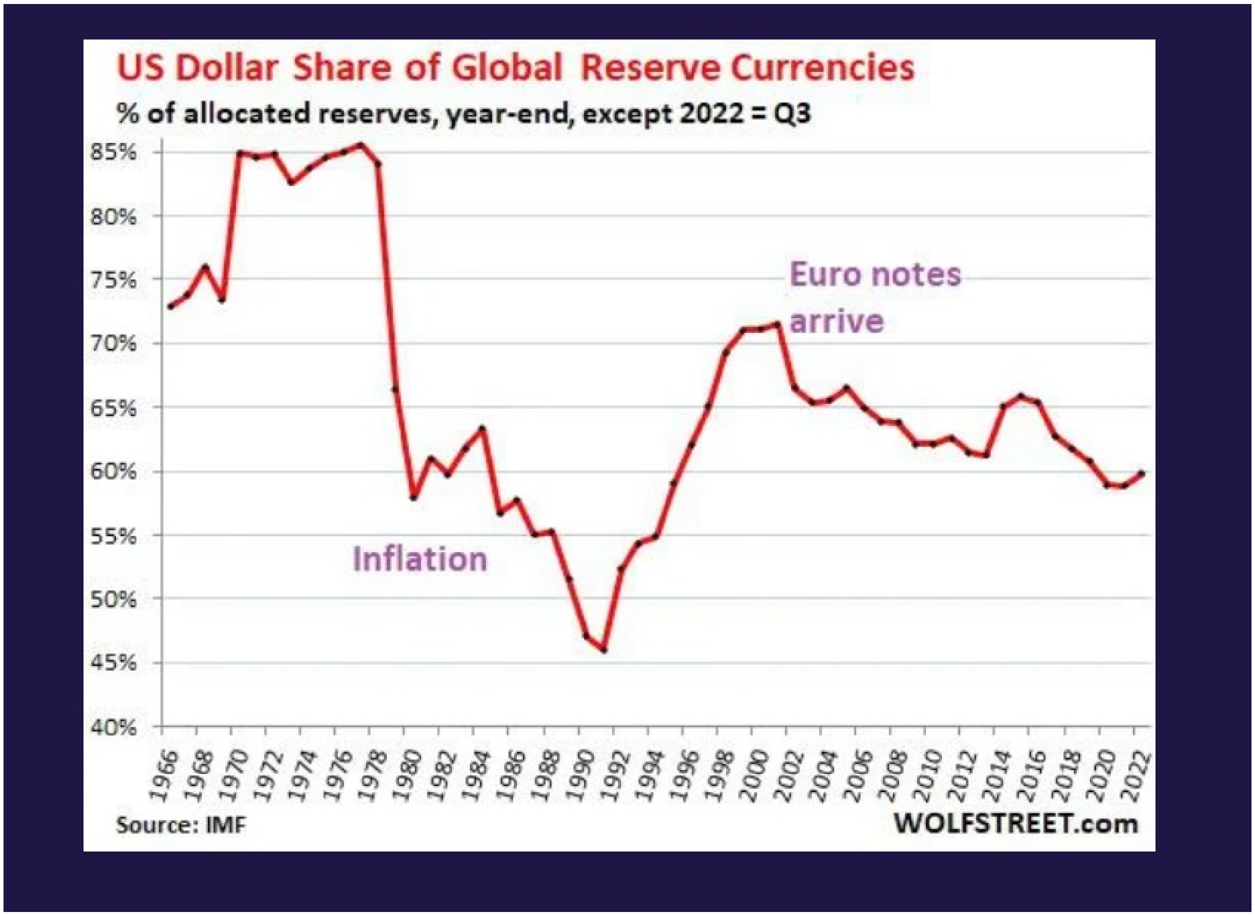
Facebook Inc. has been paying hundreds of outside contractors to

Facebook confirmed that it had been transcribing users' audio and said it will no longer do so, following scrutiny into other companies. “Much like Apple and Google, we paused human review of audio more than a week ago,” the company said Tuesday. The company said the users who were affected chose the option in Facebook's Messenger app to have their voice chats transcribed. The contractors were checking whether Facebook's artificial intelligence correctly interpreted the messages, which were anonymized.

webcachedotgoogleusercontentdotcom/search?q=cache:kMH6qm-WsGcJ:https://www.bloomberg.com/

news/articles/2019-08-13/facebook-paid-hundreds-of-contractors-to-transcribe-users-audio&cd=4&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=ca

stats, markets, war, sanctions, china: The dollar had a share of 85% of global exchange reserves in the early 1970s. But over the next 15 years, the share plunged by nearly half, driven by an explosion of inflation that scared the wits out of holders of USD-denominated assets


US Dollar Share of Global Reserve Currencies

% of allocated reserves, year-end, except 2022 = Q3

Source: IMF

Media, stats: millionaire socialite executive who killed autistic son in $2300 per night hotel ends up dead after being denied bail

The socialite from Belgium allegedly admitted to using a syringe to plunge a lethal cocktail of painkillers, tranquilizers and sleeping pills mixed with alcohol and orange juice down the boy’s throat inside their $2,300-a-night suite at the luxury Peninsula Hotel in Manhattan in February 2010…

prosecutors argued that as her autistic son was dying, she used her laptop to pull $125,000 from his trust fund, New York Daily News reported.

Jordan was sentenced to 18 years in prison on the manslaughter charge, but a Manhattan federal judge in 2020 granted bail amid her ongoing appeals for a new trial.

Her appeals focused on 15 minutes during which the courtroom was briefly closed to the public during her trial.

Citing unnamed officials, WNBC reported that Jordan was found dead in a bathtub, with a note nearby, just five minutes after midnight Friday morning inside a Brooklyn residence she was renting. Not immediately ruled a suicide, a medical examiner will determine the official cause of death.

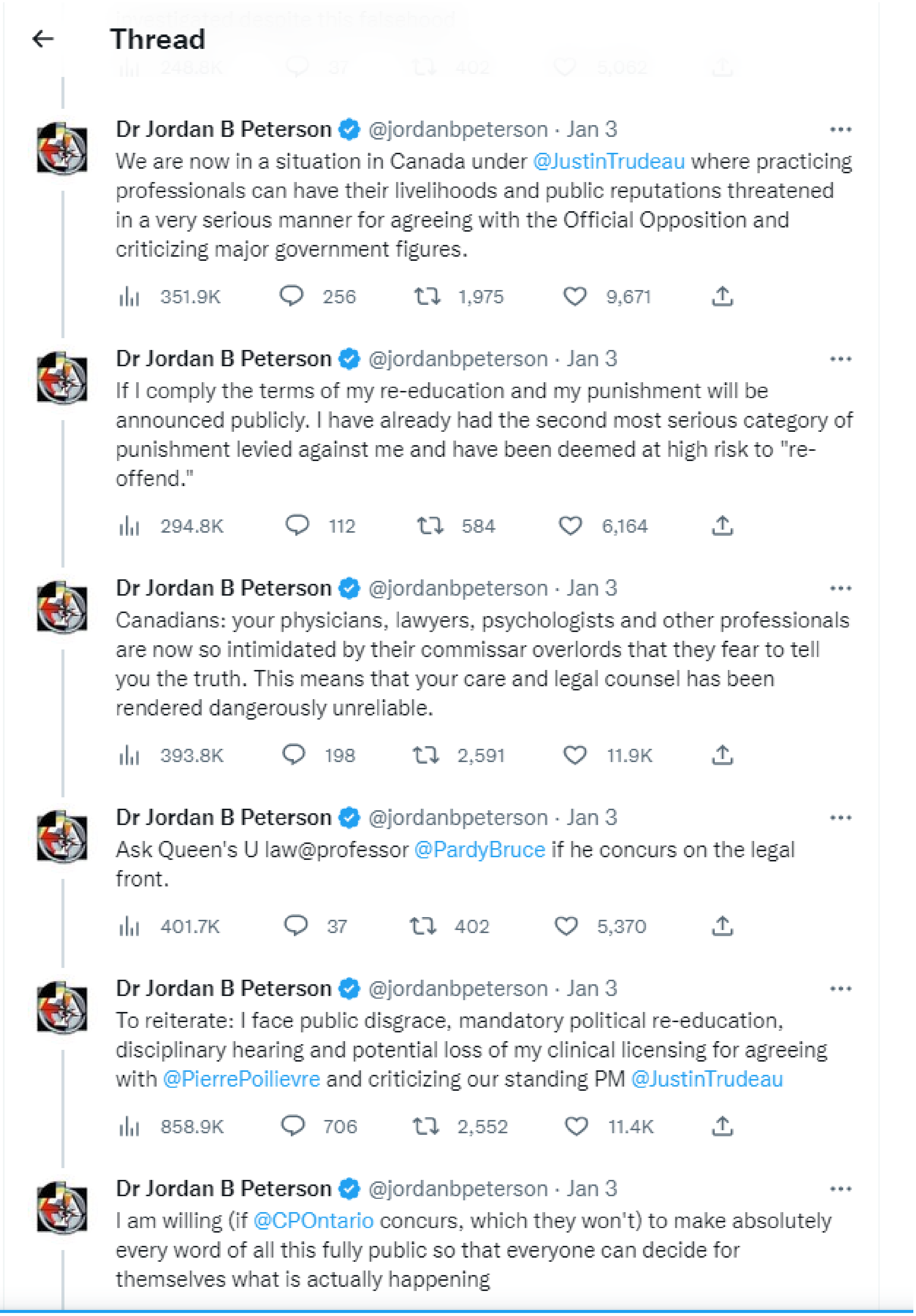
https://www.yahoo.com/news/nyc-millionaire-pharma-executive-convicted-130107224.html

censorship: (Re: (rebel media breaks it down better) Reeducation camps: agreeing with the Official Opposition and criticizing major government figures can result in having professional license revoked according ot jordan peterson, jan.3rd

Jordan Peterson, an Ontario licensed clinical psychologist and staunch free-speech advocate, is having his speech compelled by his governing body, the **College of Psychologists of Ontario** (CPO).

He is being compelled to take a course to correct his thought crimes, which allegedly involved re-tweeting Conservative Party of Canada Leader Pierre Poilievre and being skeptical of the Justin Trudeau Liberals.

rebelnewsdotcom/
the_thought_police_come_for_jordan_peterson



investigated despite this falsehood

248.8K 37 402 5,062

Thread

Dr Jordan B Peterson @jordanbpeterson · Jan 3

We are now in a situation in Canada under @JustinTrudeau where practicing professionals can have their livelihoods and public reputations threatened in a very serious manner for agreeing with the Official Opposition and criticizing major government figures.

351.9K 256 1,975 9,671

Dr Jordan B Peterson @jordanbpeterson · Jan 3

If I comply the terms of my re-education and my punishment will be announced publicly. I have already had the second most serious category of punishment levied against me and have been deemed at high risk to "re-offend."

294.8K 112 584 6,164

Dr Jordan B Peterson @jordanbpeterson · Jan 3

Canadians: your physicians, lawyers, psychologists and other professionals are now so intimidated by their commissar overlords that they fear to tell you the truth. This means that your care and legal counsel has been rendered dangerously unreliable.

393.8K 198 2,591 11.9K

Dr Jordan B Peterson @jordanbpeterson · Jan 3

Ask Queen's U law@professor @PardyBruce if he concurs on the legal front.

401.7K 37 402 5,370

Dr Jordan B Peterson @jordanbpeterson · Jan 3

To reiterate: I face public disgrace, mandatory political re-education, disciplinary hearing and potential loss of my clinical licensing for agreeing with @PierrePoilievre and criticizing our standing PM @JustinTrudeau

858.9K 706 2,552 11.4K

Dr Jordan B Peterson @jordanbpeterson · Jan 3

I am willing (if @CPOntario concurs, which they won't) to make absolutely every word of all this fully public so that everyone can decide for themselves what is actually happening

Sanctions, Russia, energy, war: jan4 'Electric Shocked' - 88% Of New Cars Sold In Norway Are EVs

https://www.statista.com/chartoftheday/

energy, sanctions, censorship: this is an embarrassment to not just this proivince, but this entire country: "2 stalled LNG projects in Nova Scotia may be on the brink of revival"

cbcdotca/news/canada/nova-scotia/2-lng-proposals-could-move-forward-bear-head-goldboro-1.6447671

stats, media: jan4 England Sees 39% Rise In Children Needing Help For Serious Mental Health Problems

Figures show more than a million children need treatment for serious mental health problems, including eating disorders, in the time since lockdowns were imposed in England.

NHS data analysed by the PA news agency show a 39 percent rise in a year in referrals for NHS mental health treatment for under-18s, to 1,169,515 in 2021 to 2022.

This compares with the previous year of 2020 to 2021, when the figure was 839,570. In 2019 to 2020 there were 850,741 referrals.

From 2020 to early 2022 the UK government imposed multiple COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

The England-wide data include children who are suicidal, self-harming, suffering serious depression or anxiety, and those with eating disorders.

Hospital admissions for eating disorders were also found to be increasing among under-18s.

There were 7,719 admissions in 2021/22, up from 6,079 the previous year, and 4,232 in 2019/20, an 82 percent rise across two years.

'Heightened Sense of Anxiety and Loss of Control'

Elaine Lockhart, chairwoman of the child and adolescent psychiatry faculty at the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said the rise in referrals for children and young people reflects a “whole range” of illnesses including psychosis, suicidal thoughts, and severe anxiety disorder.

Lockhart said children and young people’s mental health had been getting worse before the pandemic.

“When the lockdowns and pandemic struck, that really had such a negative effect on a lot of children,” she added.

“Those who had been doing well became vulnerable and those were vulnerable became unwell,” she said.

“And part of that was about children themselves feeling very untethered from the day-to-day life that supports them, but also seeing their own parents struggle, and then that collective heightened sense of anxiety and loss of control we all had really affected children,” said Lockhart.

The data show that anorexia is the most common eating disorder leading to hospital admission among all ages, with 10,808 admissions in 2021/22.

Bulimia is the next most common, with 5,563, while other eating disorders accounted for 12,893 admissions.

Exacerbated

Gary Sidley, a retired clinical psychologist and HART member, has warned of the increase in emotional distress of the British people throughout the pandemic via COVID-19 restrictions.

HART was set up by medical and health professionals to share concerns about policy and guidance recommendations relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The people who are prone to eating disorders, it is a common theme that they have this kind of inflated desire to try and get control over their life and their environment because they kind of sense that everything is out of control,” Sidley told The Epoch Times.

“And therefore what happens is that they focus on their one narrow aspect, eating, and try and control that. That’s often a key thing underpinning eating disorders,” he said.

“The restrictions generally including lockdowns and the unpredictability of them and the nonsensical nature of them, would have exacerbated that kind of concern about being out of control,” *he added.*

In 2021 and in September 2022, HART wrote that mounting evidence of harms to children over the past two years suggests that the government response “placed too much weight on the need to protect vulnerable adults at the expense of the less immediately obvious (but more long-term) damage to the well-being and futures of our children and young people.”

“With children confined to their homes and isolated from community life, statutory and third-party services pared back or online, and many strategies used to ameliorate mental health difficulties banned or restricted (eg sport, family connection, school engagement, socialising), many children and young people were left to cope with deteriorating mental health without adequate support,” the group wrote.

“Again, the most disadvantaged children suffered the most,” *HART added.*

‘The Trends Have Been Going Up’

Agnes Ayton, study lead and chair of the Eating Disorders Faculty at the Royal College of Psychiatrists said that a number of factors can affect a child’s chance of developing an eating disorder.

This can include genetics, social media, anxiety, and weight-loss advertising.

“The numbers, the trends, are going up. There definitely has been an impact of the pandemic but the trends have been going up since way before then,” she said.

“There is no indication that the figures will go down without a strategy that includes prevention, improved treatment, better access to effective inpatient treatment, and better research facilities,” *she added.*

A Department of Health and Social Care spokesman said: “Improving eating disorders services is a key priority and we’re investing £53 million per year in children and young people’s community eating disorder services to increase capacity in 70 community teams across the country.

“We are already investing £2.3 billion a year into mental health services, meaning an additional 345,000 children and young people will be able to access support by 2024—and we’re aiming to grow the mental health workforce by 27,000 more staff by this time too.”

War, Germany, Russia: jan4 Poland Furious After Germany Rejects Government's €1.3 Trillion WWII Reparations Claim

“To dismiss that with just one sentence means that all assurances about excellent German-Polish relations are false,” said Mularczyk.

War, Russia: jan4 Russian Military Faces Rare Outrage At Home After Devastating Barracks Attack

The weekend strike on a Russian conscript barracks in Makiivka in Donetsk region which left possibly hundreds killed has sparked rare backlash and fury inside Russia, with even hardcore nationalists demanding answers and accountability of the military and government.

Russia had initially given an official death toll from the attack, which was allegedly conducted with US-supplied HIMARS rocket launchers, of 63 soldiers killed while Ukraine claims that it was actually up to 400. Later on Tuesday, the defense ministry **upgraded the death toll to 89**.

Some Russian military bloggers agree that it was likely more in the hundreds range, and have **condemned military commanders for garrisoning troops in what's being widely described as an unprotected building easily exposed to strikes**, which also may have had an ammunition depot positioned dangerously next to it.

"And no, not Ukrainian," Sukonkin wrote on Telegram. "The Armed Forces of Ukraine are acting as they should — they are trying to kill our soldiers. ***But their real killer is the scoundrel who positioned the fighters in such a way that it was easy for the enemy to shoot them****."*

While Putin long ago warned that the Ukraine special operation, which only at the end of last year he called a "war" for the first time, would be a long haul mission, many hawks in Russia believe the military is holding back too much, and that a larger-scale operation should be ordered.

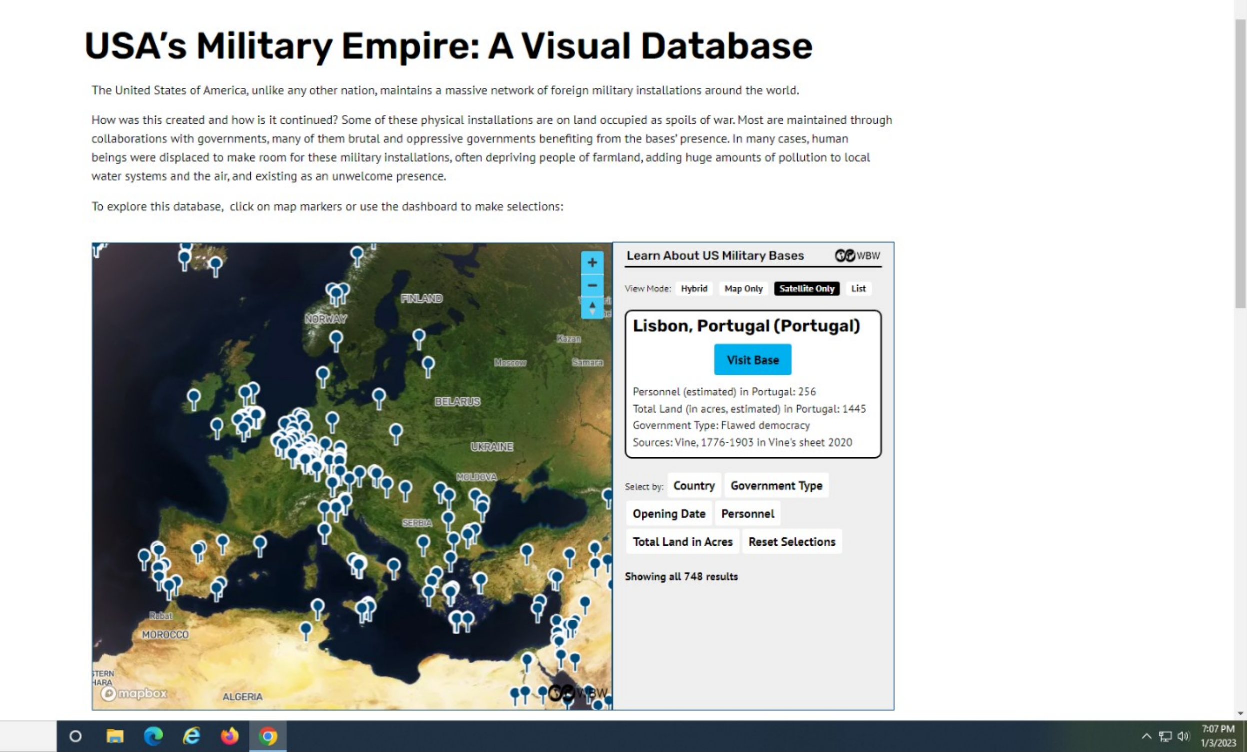
With the Russian invasion stalemated, and huge losses such as suffered at Makiivka in the New Year attack, are we about to witness a full formal declaration of war by Putin?

Stats, war, energy, sanctions: CBC, 1200 comments for halifax warm weather article: "Saturday will break the record for the latest date into winter without having at least two centimetres of snow on the ground at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport"

"While the rest of the country is getting walloped by snow and ice, Nova Scotia is an outlier."

cbcdotca/news/canada/nova-scotia/halifax-is-about-to-set-record-for-lack-of-snow-1.6700292

war, Germany, stats, sanctions: **just noticed that there's no bases in france....hmm...**



USA’s Military Empire: A Visual Database

The United States of America, unlike any other nation, maintains a massive network of foreign military installations around the world.

How was this created and how is it continued? Some of these physical installations are on land occupied as spoils of war. Most are maintained through collaborations with governments, many of them brutal and oppressive governments benefiting from the bases’ presence. In many cases, human beings were displaced to make room for these military installations, often depriving people of farmland, adding huge amounts of pollution to local water systems and the air, and existing as an unwelcome presence.

To explore this database, click on map markers or use the dashboard to make selections:

Learn About US Military Bases

View Mode: Hybrid Map Only **Satellite Only** List

Lisbon, Portugal (Portugal)

Visit Base

Personnel (estimated) in Portugal: 256
Total Land (in acres, estimated) in Portugal: 1445
Government Type: Flawed democracy
Sources: Vine, 1776-1903 in Vine's sheet 2020

Select by: Country Government Type Opening Date Personnel Total Land in Acres Reset Selections

Showing all 748 results

Censorship, stats, media: 1 in 6 women are raped at one point in their lives in the united states (seriously..) https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence

markets, war, inflation, government: Wipeout! Global Bonds And Stocks Suffer $18 Trillion Wipeout In 2022 (MSCI All Country World Index Down >20% In 2022)

tech, markets, government: Amazon loses half of its value, plunging 51%, the worst drop off since the tech bubble burst in 2000

tumbled 51% in 2022, marking the biggest decline since 2000, when it plunged 80%

censorship, vaccine, health: AB 2098 California law now in effect – doctors – misinformation or disinformation related to COVID-19

“Assembly Bill 2098 provides that the dissemination of misinformation or disinformation related to COVID-19 by physicians and surgeons to a patient under their direct care constitutes unprofessional conduct,” Newsom said in a statement.

Newsom specified that AB 2098 only applies to “discussions directly related to COVID-19 treatment within a direct physician-patient relationship.”

“The spread of misinformation and disinformation about COVID-19 vaccines has weakened public confidence and placed lives at serious risk. Major news outlets have reported that some of the most dangerous propagators of inaccurate information regarding the COVID-19 vaccines are licensed health care professionals.”

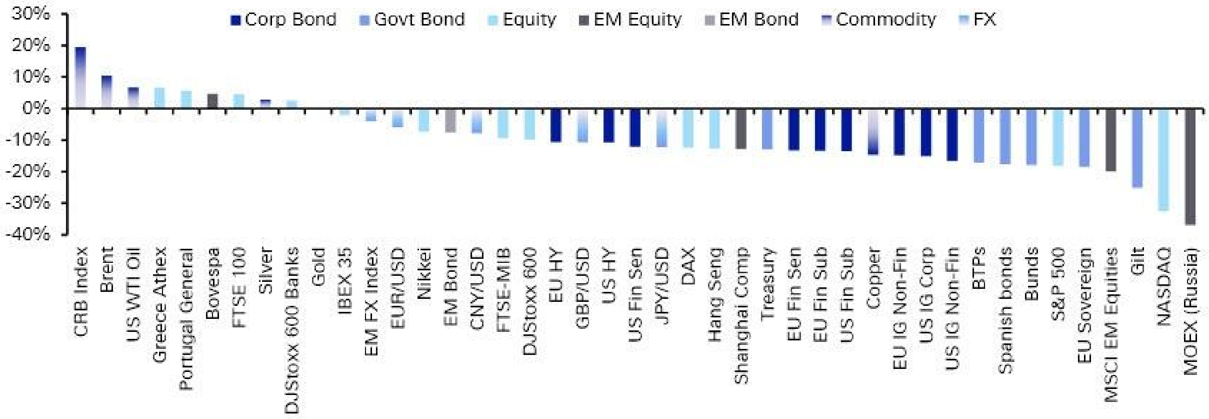
Vaccine, media: Athletes who Died/Collapsed Suddenly in last 12 months

investmentwatchblogdotcom/athletes-who-died-collapsed-suddenly-in-last-12-months/

markets, government, inflation: jan3

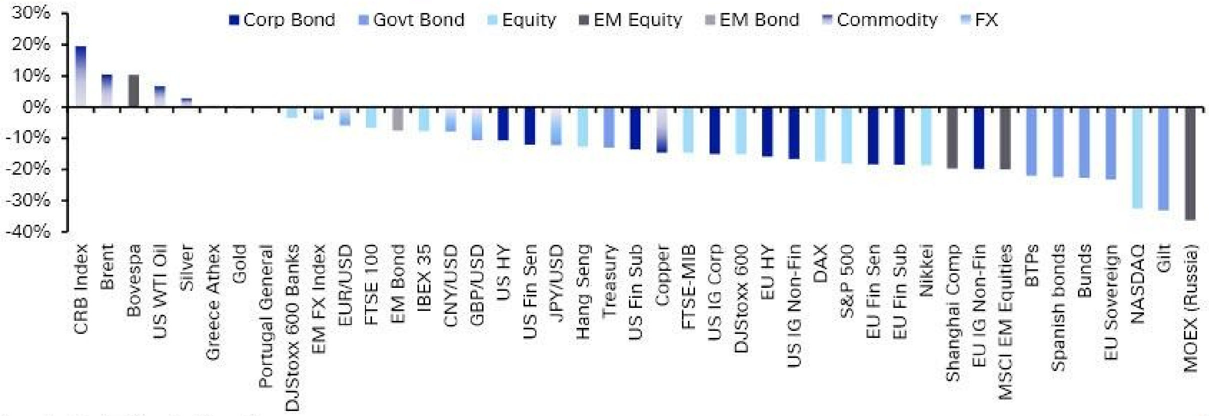
2022 market in review: S&P 500 saw its worst annual performance since 2008, global bonds fall into a bear market for the 1st time in 70 years (worst year for 10yr Treasuries on a total return basis since 1788); inflation key driver in market turmoil and central bank tightening; Bitcoin down -64.3%, Ethereum down -67.5%; Brent crude surpasses $100/bbl for the first time since 2014

Figure 5: Total Return Performance of Major Global Financial Assets in 2022 (in Local Currency)



Source : Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

Figure 6: Total Return Performance of Major Global Financial Assets in 2022 (in USD)



Source : Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

The biggest driver of this was much stronger-than-expected inflation, which hit multi-decade highs and led central banks to embark on their most aggressive tightening cycle in a generation. In the meantime, investors also had to grapple with geopolitical turmoil, since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine led to massive spikes in energy and food prices that particularly hit emerging market economies. That meant commodities were among the few assets that ended the year in positive territory. **But elsewhere, the picture was far less rosy, and just 9 of the 38 non-currency assets in DB's sample made gains over 2022 as a whole, whilst in USD terms it was just 6 out of 38.**

The start of the year contained much of the themes that continued over the rest of 2022, with January seeing central banks pivot in a hawkish direction in response to continued and persistent inflation. For instance, investors initially expected the Fed to hike by just 74bps over 2022 as a whole, which was roughly in line with the FOMC dot plot from December 2021 that pointed to three 25bp hikes. But by the end of January, futures were pricing 123bps of hikes by year-end, with an initial rate hike widely expected for March.

That trend continued into early February, with growing speculation that the Fed might start the hiking cycle with a larger-than-usual 50bp hike. But by mid-February there were growing warnings that Russia was about to invade Ukraine, which then occurred on February 24. That led commodity prices to surge, with **Brent crude surpassing $100/bbl for the first time since 2014, before peaking at an intraday high for the year at $139/bbl on March 7**. Other commodities also spiked, including European natural gas, and various agricultural goods such as wheat.

This rise in commodity prices created a fresh dilemma for central banks. On the one hand, they were unable to directly deal with the supply shock, but its consequences were being seen through higher inflation, creating the risk that inflation would become increasingly entrenched over time. With inflation concerns dominating the growth worries, the Fed began its hiking cycle in March with a 25bps move. **However, on March 29 the US 2s10s yield curve inverted for the first time of this cycle, which was a concerning sign given that it had inverted prior to all of the last 10 US recessions.**

By the end of Q1, markets had put in a pretty poor performance, but in Q2 it was even worse. Once again, the catalyst for this was stubbornly persistent inflation, and there was a massive slump in mid-June after the US CPI release for May came out. That showed inflation surprising to the upside yet again, which in turn prompted the Fed to ratchet up the pace of rate hikes to 75bps for the first time since the 1990s as they sought to get inflation back to target. **The prospect of 75bp hikes triggered sizeable losses, with the S&P 500 falling by more than -10% in the space of a week, which was the first time that had happened since the pandemic turmoil of March 2020.** At the same time, yields on 10yr Treasuries rose to 3.50%, their highest intraday level in over a decade.

Following the awful H1 performance, there were growing hopes by the summer that the Fed might soon begin pivoting in a dovish direction. Falling energy prices helped to boost that narrative, and the US CPI report for July showed the first monthly decline in prices since May 2020. **But any hopes of that were firmly stamped out by a hawkish speech from Fed Chair Powell at Jackson Hole, where he said that getting back to price stability would "likely require maintaining a restrictive policy stance for some time."** The ECB also hiked rates for the first time in over a decade, opening with a 50bps move in July and following up with a 75bps move in September.

Another feature of Q3 was growing fears about a potential recession, particularly after the Nord Stream gas pipeline from Russia was suspended. At their peak, **European natural gas futures rose above €300 per megawatt-hour, which ledEuropean governments to step in to protect consumers and businesses from the impact of higher energy prices.** Later in the quarter, there was then a fresh bout of turmoil centred on the UK, after the government unveiled the biggest package of tax cuts in half a century. Sterling hit an all-time intraday low against the dollar and there was a large spike in gilt yields that prompted a Bank of England intervention. The turmoil did subside after the government U-turned on the bulk of the announcements, with Liz Truss succeeded as PM by Rishi Sunak. But even with the stabilization in Q4, gilts were still down -25.0% over 2022 as a whole.

This backdrop meant that Q4 started on a rough note, with the S&P 500 hitting its closing low for the year shortly afterwards on October 12. **However, markets were more resilient after that as both the October and November CPI readings from the US surprised on the downside, leading to growing hopes that we might have finally seen "peak inflation".** That was echoed in the Euro Area too, where inflation fell from a peak of +10.6% in October to +10.1% in November. With inflation falling back, both the Fed and the ECB stepped down to 50bp hikes in December, but they remained hawkish in both cases, signalling further rate hikes ahead in 2023. The Bank of Japan also joined in the action right at the end of the year, announcing in a surprise move on December 20 that they were adjusting their yield curve control policy, with the 10yr yield now able to rise to 0.5%, having been limited to 0.25% before. **However, even with the hawkish moves in December, Q4 still marked the only quarter of the year where markets had a broadly positive performance, with each of the S&P 500, the STOXX 600 and US Treasuries seeing a positive quarterly performance for the first time this year**.

Which assets saw the biggest gains of 2022?

- **Commodities:** In a rough year more broadly, commodities were one of the few asset classes to post consistent gains in 2022. A big factor in that was Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which led to a major spike in energy and food prices in Q1, which then unwound somewhat as the year went on. Nevertheless, Brent Crude (+10.5%) and WTI (+6.7%) still posted gains for the year, as did corn (+14.4%) and wheat (+2.8%) prices. For metals there was a more mixed performance

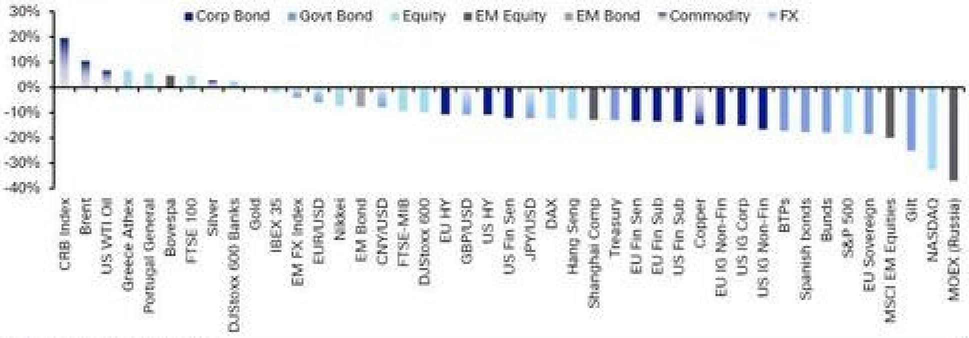
however. Some such as platinum (+10.9%) performed very strongly, but gold (-0.3%) saw little movement and copper (-14.6%) posted its first annual decline since 2018.
- **US Dollar:** With the Fed hiking rates and moving faster than other central banks, the US Dollar was a major outperformer in 2022. The dollar index (+8.2%) posted its biggest annual advance since 2015, and the dollar itself strengthened against every other G10 currency over the year.

Which assets saw the biggest losses of 2022?

- **Equities**: An aggressive campaign of rate hikes and growing fears of a recession meant it was a rough year for equities. The S&P 500 (-18.1%) saw its biggest annual decline in total return terms since 2008, despite a +7.5% gain in Q4. Over in Europe, the STOXX 600 fell -9.9% over the year, and there was little respite in emerging markets either, with the MSCI EM index down -19.9%.
- **Sovereign Bonds:** After a multi-decade bull run, 2022 was an incredibly bad year for sovereign bonds. For instance, Bloomberg's index of US Treasuries (-12.5%) posted its worst annual performance since data begins in 1973, and the iBoxx series was also down -12.9%. Longer-term data showed that **it was the worst year for 10yr Treasuries on a total return basis since 1788.** Euro sovereign bonds saw even larger declines, with a -18.4% decline thanks to losses in every single quarter, whilst gilts fell -25.0% amidst the turmoil in the UK.
- **Credit:** It was a very bad year for credit, with losses across all of the USD, EUR and GBP indices we follow. GBP credit saw some of the biggest declines, with GBP IG non-fin down -20.4%. However, high-yield credit was a relative outperformer across different regions, with EUR HY only down -10.6%, and US HY only down -10.7%.
- **Cryptocurrencies**: The risk-off moves more broadly proved bad news for cryptocurrencies, with Bitcoin down -64.3% to close the year at $16,540, having started the year at $46,334. This pattern was echoed among other cryptocurrencies, with Ethereum down -67.5%, Litecoin down -52.0%, and XRP down -58.7%.

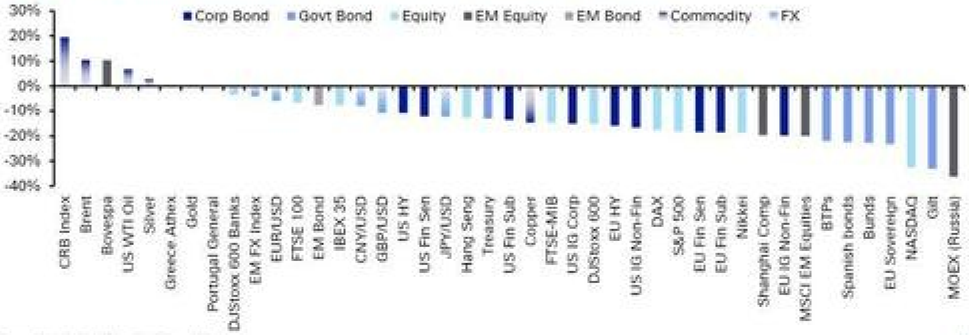
Best and worst performing assets in December (local currency and USD)

Figure 5: Total Return Performance of Major Global Financial Assets in 2022 (in Local Currency)



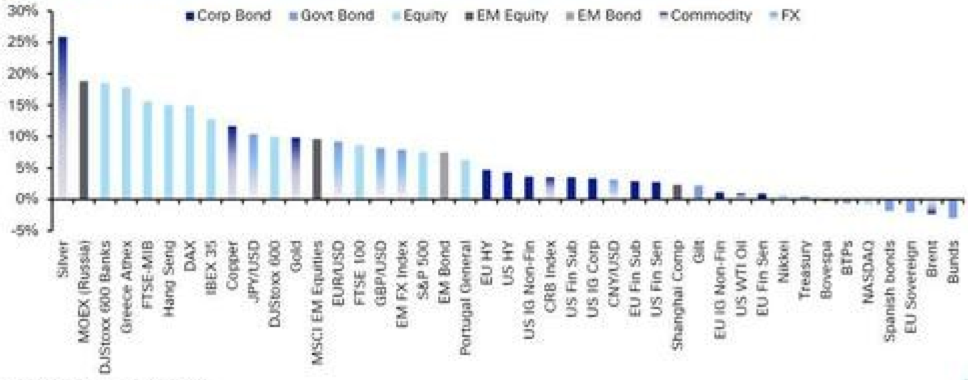
Source : Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

Figure 6: Total Return Performance of Major Global Financial Assets in 2022 (in USD)



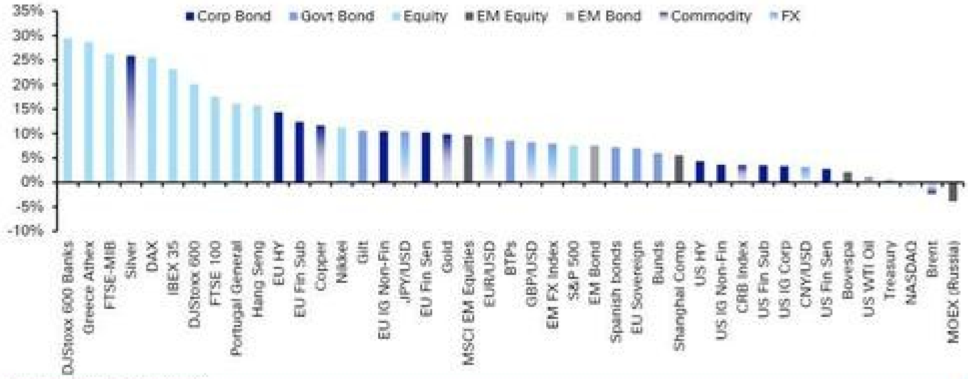
Source : Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

Figure 3: Total Return Performance of Major Global Financial Assets in Q4 (in Local Currency)



Source : Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

Figure 4: Total Return Performance of Major Global Financial Assets in Q4 (in USD)



Source : Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

Best and worst performing assets in 2022 (local currency and USD)

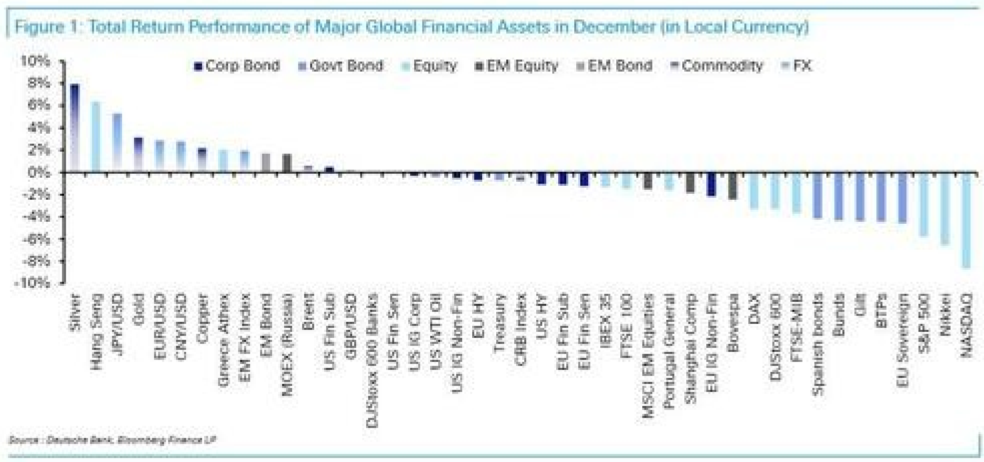


Figure 1: Total Return Performance of Major Global Financial Assets in December (in Local Currency)

Source : Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

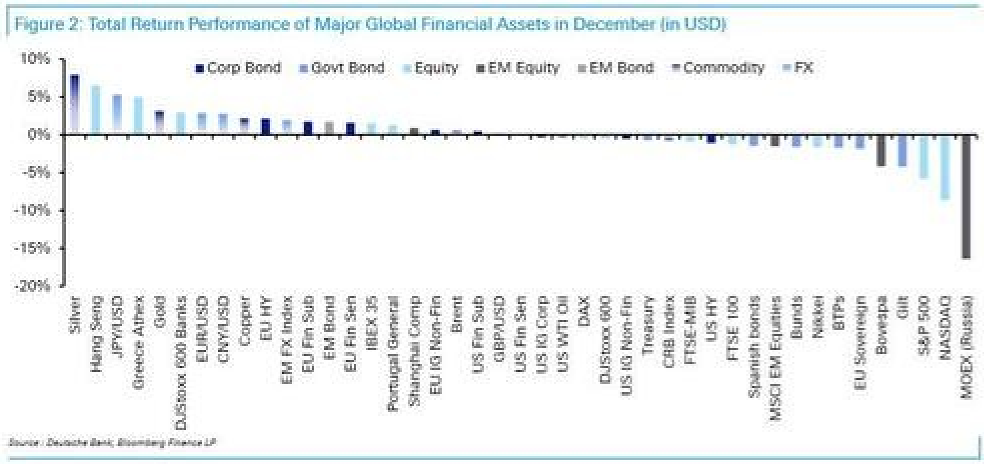


Figure 2: Total Return Performance of Major Global Financial Assets in December (in USD)

Source : Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

Germany, Russia, sanctions, war, energy: jan3 Germany Stops Importing Oil From Russia Via Pipeline

Last month, Germany and Poland reached an agreement that would see Poland supply enough crude to the Schwedt refinery to run at a capacity of 70% from January, meaning it will no longer need Russian crude.

Europe will find it difficult to replace Russian crude oil and product supply once the full effect of the EU embargoes on Russian petroleum products is felt, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said last week.

Markets, inflation, government: read later: Money-Supply Growth Turns Negative For First Time In 33 Years

During the thirteen months between April 2020 and April 2021, money supply growth in the United States often climbed above 35 percent year over year, well above even the "high" levels experienced from 2009 to 2013.

https://mises.org/wire/money-supply-growth-turns-negative-first-time-33-years

censorship, media, government, stats: The GayBCs: a real-life childrens book

investmentwatchblogdotcom/theyre-not-coming-for-your-kids-thats-a-conspiracy-theory/

vaccine, government, censorship: Kamala Harris is demanding a negative COVID test if newly-elected senators want a photo taken with her

dailymaildotcodotuk/news/article-11592451/Kamala-Harris-demanding-negative-COVID-test-new-senators-want-photos-ceremony.html

planet, government, energy: nciue climate change article

Discredited 'Population Bomb' Author Predicts "End Of The Civilization We're Used To" On 60 Minutes

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, JAN 03, 2023 - 12:05 PM

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News,

Author Paul Ehrlich, whose 1968 book 'The Population Bomb' predicted environmental catastrophes that never happened, appeared on 60 Minutes to warn of "the end of the kind of civilization we'

Ehrlich's conversation with CBS host Scott Pelley centered around the narrative that human population growth will be too much for the Earth to sustain, despite the fact that it is set to peak at 9 billion people before rapidly declining.

“Too many people, too much consumption and growth mania” is killing the planet and devastating wildlife according to Ehrlich.

“Humanity is not sustainable. To maintain our lifestyle (yours and mine, basically) for the entire planet, you’d need five more Earths. Not clear where they’re gonna come from,” he claimed.

Despite charges of alarmism, the author defiantly asserted, “I was alarmed. I am still alarmed. All of my colleagues are alarmed” (seemingly unaware that the definition of alarmism is to grossly exaggerate something that isn’t true).

“I know there’s no political will to do any of the things that I’m concerned with, which is exactly why I and the vast majority of my colleagues think we’ve had it; that the next few decades will be the end of the kind of civilization we’re used to,” Ehrlich absurdly claimed.

“The five mass extinctions of the ancient past were caused by natural calamities—volcanoes, and an asteroid. Today, if the science is right, humanity may have to survive a sixth mass extinction in a world of its own making,” he added.

Enrivonmental author Michael Shellenberger responded to the segment by documenting how Ehrlich’s claims were “totally & utterly false” and accusing CBS of pushing “apocalyptic pseudoscience.”

Elon Musk, who has warned about the dangers of population decline, agreed, tweeting, “Absolutely.”

Ehrlich is still treated as a credible voice by the legacy media despite his previous predictions proving to be completely laughable.

In his 1968 book The Population Bomb, Ehrlich ludicrously claimed “hundreds of millions of people are going to starve to death” by the 1980’s because of overpopulation.

It never happened.

Similarly, in 2004, climate change “experts” claimed that by 2020, “major European cities will be sunk beneath rising seas as Britain is plunged into a ‘Siberian’ climate by 2020”.

It never happened.

In 2013, Al Gore claimed that the Arctic would have “ice free” summers by 2013.

It never happened, in fact measurements taken by the EU’s Earth observation programme last year showed that Arctic sea ice was just 3 per cent below its 30 year average.

None of it ever happens, but that doesn’t stop people like Ehrlich continually spewing doomsday rhetoric in order to advance the narrative that living standards must be drastically reduced in the name of saving the planet.

They should have all been dismissed as wild cranks years ago, but the legacy media is still treating them like they have a shred of credibility left when they clearly don’t.

Sanctions, war, markets, Russia: jan3 "The risk of extreme market tightness that people were worried about before the winter started seems low now.", BloombergNEF's Abhishek Rohatgi wrote

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china, war: Japan's government embraces counter-strike strategy for first time since 1945

The guidelines, fervently backed by the U.S. government and the DC think tanks representing the military industrial complex, are the last nails in the coffin of Japan’s Peace

Constitution, which only allows Japan to take military action in self-defense. That document was imposed by U.S. Occupation forces after the war and has been in the cross-hairs of both the Pentagon and Kishida's ruling Liberal Democratic Party since the 1970s.

First, it declares that China is now Japan's number one threat and poses "the greatest strategic challenges ever seen" in Tokyo. North Korea, which has traditionally been mentioned first as a hostile state, now represents a "severe and imminent threat."

"With the security environment surrounding Japan becoming unstable amid threats from China, North Korea and Russia, Tokyo, which has rejected warfare for the past 77 years, will be able to directly attack another country's territory in case of an emergency," *Kyodo News* explained.

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stats: found the perfect website for military, blog run by some guy who just lays it all out

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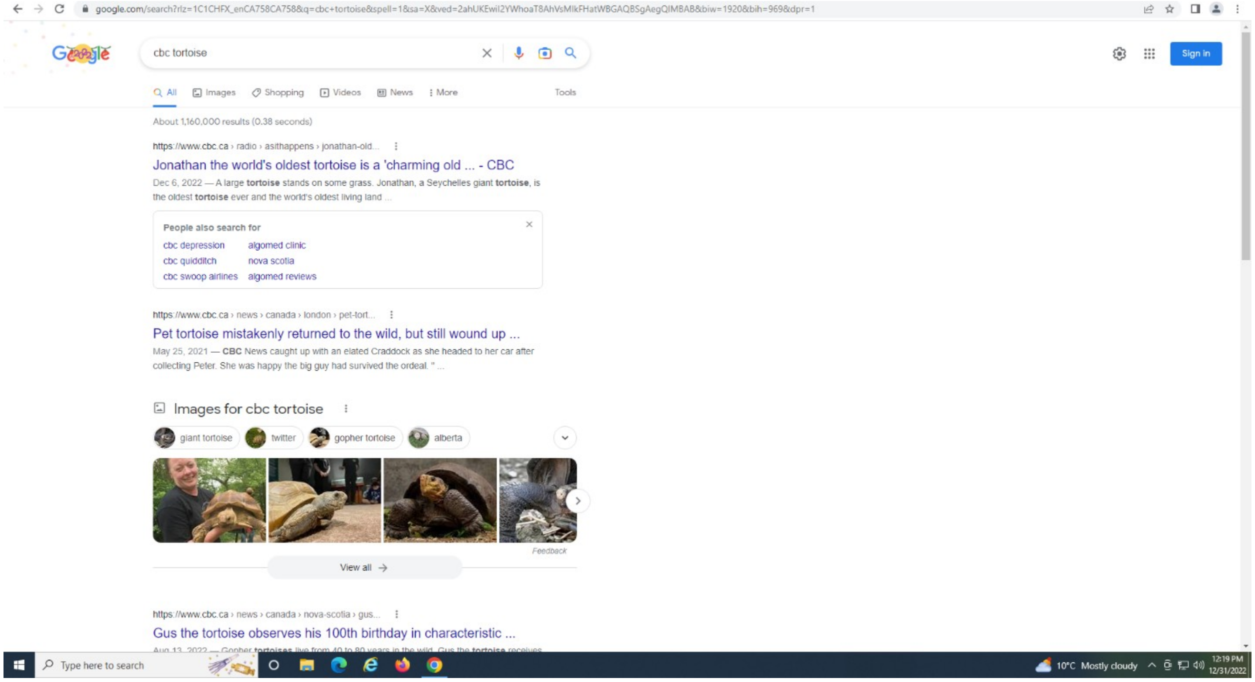
stats, war, history, censorship, vaccine: "spy agencies began outsourcing their core analytic and operational work in the late 1990s." shorrock

bulk of the contracted work goes to a handful of companies: Leidos, Booz Allen Hamilton, General Dynamics/CSRA, SAIC, and CACI International. This concentration of "pure plays"—a Wall Street term for companies that makes one product for a single market

—marks a fundamental shift in an industry that was once a highly diverse mix of large military contractors, small and medium technology companies, and tiny "Beltway Bandits" surrounding Washington, D.C.

stats, censorship: **"The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth." – George Orwell, 1984**

"Great is truth, but still greater, from a practical point of view, is silence about truth." — Aldous Huxley, Brave New World



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The humorous phrase uttered by George Costanza on a sitcom twenty-seven years ago captures a significant kernel of truth about the mindset of the vast majority of non-critical thinking drones roaming the aisles of Wal-Marts and waiting in the drive-thru at McDonalds across our dystopian states of America. The lies run so deep you need hip-boots to wade through them on a daily basis. The reason our leaders lie is because we let them lie. The majority prefer comforting lies to unpleasant truths, because accepting unpleasant truths would require them to act and they prefer being distracted by trivialities like sports, reality TV, social media likes and otherwise being addicted to their technological gadgets.

Jim Quinn: It's Not A Lie If You Believe It

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, DEC 30, 2022 - 05:25 PM

Authored by Jim Quinn via The Burning Platform blog,

“The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth.” – **George Orwell, 1984**

“Great is truth, but still greater, from a practical point of view, is silence about truth.” **— Aldous Huxley, Brave New World**

I wish I could go through a day without having to reference Orwell and Huxley when observing how the ruling class is able to manipulate, subjugate, and propagandize the willfully ignorant masses through lies, deceptions, disinformation, and fear. But here we are, living through a dystopian nightmare blending the worst aspects of Orwell’s 1984 and Huxley’s Brave New World.

It’s as if O’Brien and Mustapha Mond are running the show, using behavioral conditioning, restricting freedom of speech, adhering to a strict caste system, surveilling everything we say or do, using our fears to control us, utilizing propaganda to produce false narratives, and ultimately threatening to stomp a boot on our faces forever if we do not obey and conform. Virtually everything we are told by politicians, government bureaucrats, military brass, “esteemed” journalists, medical “experts”, bankers, and corporate executives is lies. They do not believe their lies, but they know it benefits themselves financially to lie, and as long as they work together, they know the ignorant masses will believe them.

George tells Jerry “It’s not a lie if you believe it” as he is going to take a lie detector test. I wonder how Fauci, Biden, Hillary, Obama, Comey, Wray, Pelosi, and the slew of other Deep State coup conspirators would fare on a lie detector test about Russiagate, Covidgate, J6 Insurrectiongate, and Vaccinegate. Based on the titanic volume of lies they have spewed over the last several years, I’m sure the machine would overheat and explode if hooked up to any of this traitorous vile scum.

The humorous phrase uttered by George Costanza on a sitcom twenty-seven years ago captures a significant kernel of truth about the mindset of the vast majority of non-critical thinking drones roaming the aisles of Wal-Marts and waiting in the drive-thru at McDonalds across our dystopian states of America. The lies run so deep you need hip-boots to wade through them on a daily basis. The reason our leaders lie is because we let them lie. The majority prefer comforting lies to unpleasant truths, because accepting unpleasant truths would require them to act and they prefer being distracted by trivialities like sports, reality TV, social media likes and otherwise being addicted to their technological gadgets.

“The process of mass-media deception has to be conscious, or it would not be carried out with sufficient precision, but it also has to be unconscious, or it

would bring with it a feeling of falsity and hence of guilt…. To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient, and then, when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just so long as it is needed, to deny the existence of objective reality and all the while to take account of the reality which one denies all this is indispensably necessary.” **– George Orwell**

Orwell’s explanation of mass-media deception is a brilliant assessment of how the ruling class changes the narrative to suit their needs, and without blinking an eye are able to deny what they have said and done. Orwell saw this manipulation of the truth before TV, the internet, social media, or professionally created government propaganda existed. In his day only newspapers, radio, and speeches existed to push deception upon the public.

The proliferation of technologically enhanced mass-media deception has accomplished everything the ruling class/oligarchs/Big Brother surveillance state could hope for. Lies and deception are nothing more than a means to their ends of control, wealth, and power. Right and wrong; good and evil; justice and injustice; truth and falsity; humanity and inhumanity; are meaningless concepts to the corrupt, greedy, power hungry, immoral, deviant, evil overlords who wield their wealth to maintain and expand their control over the ignorant masses, unwilling and unable to resist because their indoctrination runs deep, and the unceasing propaganda keeps them confused and angry at phantom enemies.

The perfect example of Orwell’s mass media deception in practice has been this entire Covid hoax, which has been built on a foundation of lies from the very beginning. At the outset Fauci scoffed at the concept of masks providing any protection from a microscopic virus while being interviewed on 60 Minutes. He wasn’t lying. Numerous scientific studies documented by the CDC proved beyond a doubt, masks are absolutely useless in preventing the spread of viruses. But a few weeks later the covid controllers realized the usefulness of masks as the perfect fear inducing symbol of a fake pandemic and the first step in demanding compliance and obedience by the masses.

Suddenly Fauci and his Big Pharma bought medical “expert” lackeys discarded the inconvenient facts that masks do not work, and piously preached that everyone must mask or mass death would occur. Any dissenting voice speaking the truth about masks was the enemy and needed to be silenced, scorned, ridiculed, and destroyed. The deception was aided and abetted by Twitter, Facebook, Google and the feckless MSM doing the bidding of the ruling elite, while being paid off by Big Pharma.

This was only the beginning of a worldwide conspiracy of lies. The videos from China of bodies in the streets were fake. Evidently to provoke fear among the global community. The purported origin of the virus being bats in a wet market in Wuhan was a lie concocted by Fauci, Daszik, and their Chinese co-conspirators to cover-up their illegal weaponization of viruses in the Wuhan Bio-weapon lab. **This cover-up was maintained by the dying legacy media, Twitter, Facebook, and Google through the censorship and banning of anyone (ZeroHedge) who dared question the government approved narrative.**

The demand for national lockdowns was built on the lies of Neil Ferguson, a 3rd rate academic, and his fear mongering Imperial College model of deaths if the world didn’t shut down. His ludicrous outcomes, based on false assumptions, were the basis for the disastrous decisions made by corrupt politicians across the world. The results in Sweden, which did not lockdown, have proven his model to be worthless, and responsible for the destruction of the lives of millions across the globe.

They lied about social distancing, based on a 3rd grade girl's school paper. They used a PCR test improperly to falsely produce “positive” cases in order to terrify the masses into a mass formation psychosis. A case was not a sickness. They drastically overestimated the fatality rate and attributed the deaths of extremely old sick people to covid when they died from their existing malady. Only 6% of covid deaths can be attributed to strictly covid. The overall survival rate if you contracted covid is 99.7%, with anyone under 70 years old 99.9%. Virtually no one under 21 years old died from covid. It was less lethal than the annual flu to young people.

The overlords and their bevy of apparatchik whores in the government, media, and academia needed to ramp up the fear through rising cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in order to get rich off this plandemic, while planting the seeds of their Great Reset scheme to turn the world into a compliant surveillance state. The coup de grace of lies was to be the miraculous “Operation Warpspeed vaccine” which would rid the world of this perilous pestilence. Supposedly brilliant virologists developed amnesia over the concept of herd immunity, which has been known for centuries.

This War on Covid has gone as well as the War on Poverty and the War on Drugs, meaning it has been a complete and utter failure in defeating its supposed foe, but has been hugely successful in enriching politicians, corporations, and the multitude of toadies in the media, academia, and the bureaucracy who perpetuate the lies and disinformation they are paid handsomely to disgorge. **The lies engulfing the supposed vaccine run deep and wide.**

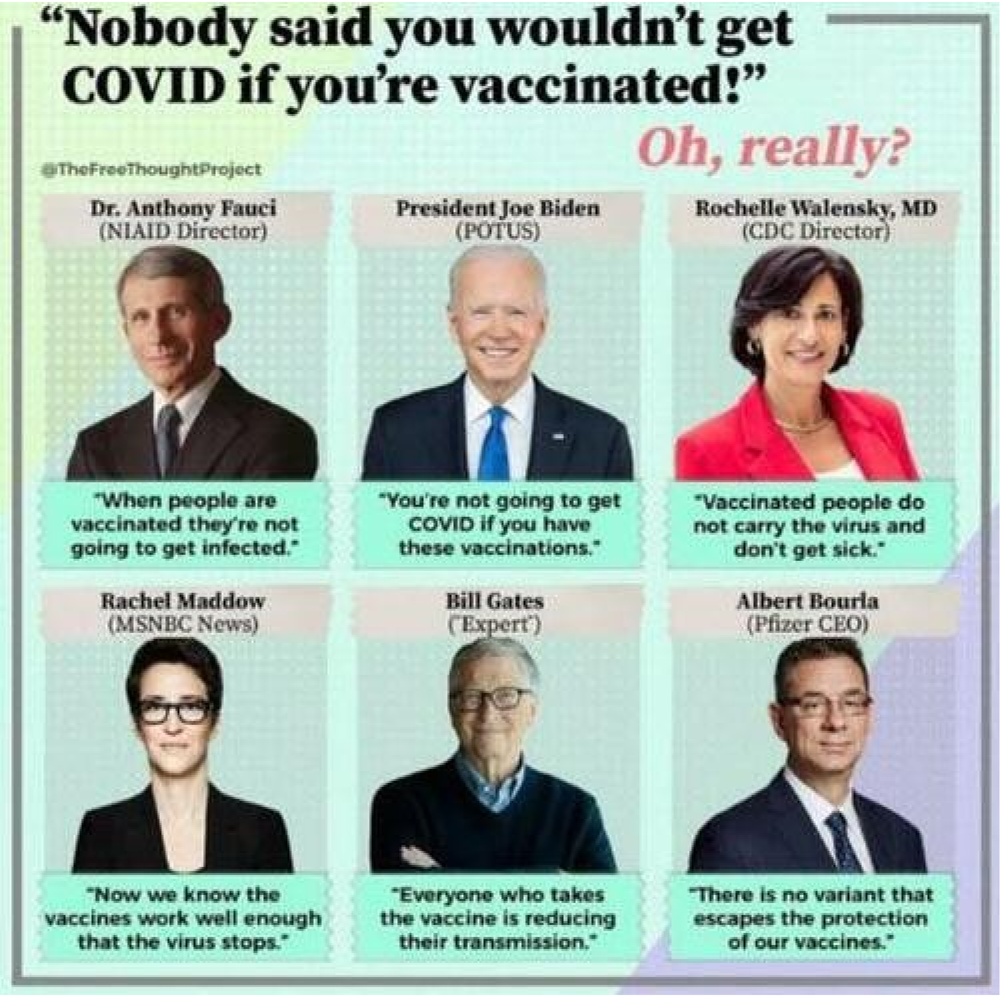
The entire vaccine scheme is built on an altar of lies, mistruths, misinformation, deception, and censorship. mRNA gene therapies have existed for decades and had consistently failed in application as every animal tested using these concoctions died. Pfizer faked their trial data, lied about adverse reactions, lied about long-term safety, lied about effects on pregnant women, and tried to keep these results hidden for seventy-five years. The tripe about these “vaccines” being safe effective has been and continues to be the Big Lie.

The emergency use authorization for these experimental jabs could only be given if there were no existing medications which were an effective treatment for the illness. There were dozens of scientific studies and world-renowned physicians acknowledging the effectiveness of both hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin in treating covid and alleviating its symptoms safely and effectively – and cheaply. That was the real problem. The hundreds of billions in profits to be made by Big Pharma, and then divvied up to politicians, legacy media companies, the FBI, and social media censorship arms of the ruling class, would be impossible if the truth about hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin was allowed to be acknowledged.

Therefore, Fauci and his sycophants claimed they were dangerous, horse de-wormer medicine, and ineffective. Twitter, Facebook, and Google censored and banned doctors who posted anything positive about either treatment. Meanwhile, Fauci sentenced tens of thousands to death by pushing Remdesivir, a treatment he financially benefitted from, and recommending ventilators for those with covid. Fauci sentenced tens of thousands to death by not allowing these treatments to be used. He deserves the same fate for his treacherous actions but is treated like a saint by the left-wing media and the Biden minions.

The biggest Orwellian mass-media deception of them all was what the “experts” unequivocally declared about their glorious vaccines. Just as every vaccine in history was supposed to keep you from contracting the illness you were vaccinated against, Fauci, Biden, Walensky, Gates, the Pfizer CEO, and a myriad of other paid “experts” told the global population they would not contract or spread covid once they were vaxxed. They are on video and in print declaring this to be true.

But when it was proven to be not true, they just denied they had ever said so. As long as the masses could be convinced the lie had become the truth, then the lie was the truth, according to the Party and its journalistic narrative guardians. Controlling the narrative through suppressing and censoring the truth is how they continue to maintain control. The release of the Twitter files by Musk confirms every “conspiracy theory” put into the public domain by the naysayers, critical thinkers, and a few honest journalists. They have lied about everything.



"Nobody said you wouldn't get COVID if you're vaccinated!"

Oh, really?

@TheFreeThoughtProject

Dr. Anthony Fauci
(NIAID Director)

"When people are vaccinated they're not going to get infected."

President Joe Biden
(POTUS)

"You're not going to get COVID if you have these vaccinations."

Rochelle Walensky, MD
(CDC Director)

"Vaccinated people do not carry the virus and don't get sick."

Rachel Maddow
(MSNBC News)

"Now we know the vaccines work well enough that the virus stops."

Bill Gates
('Expert')

"Everyone who takes the vaccine is reducing their transmission."

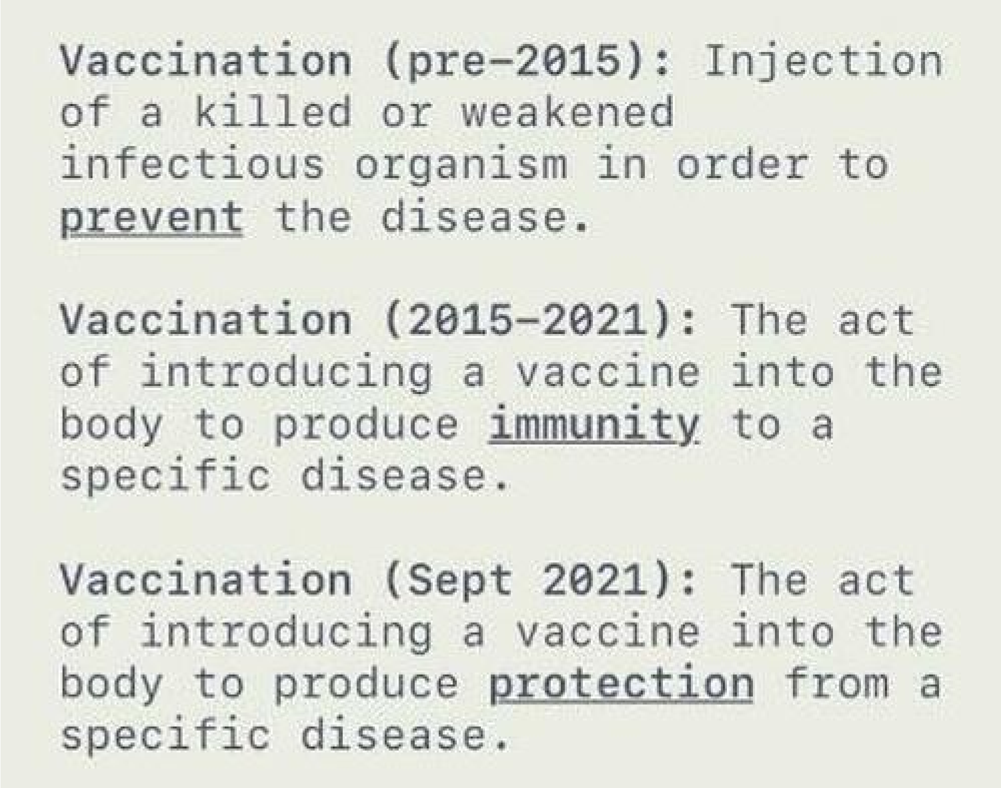
Albert Bourla
(Pfizer CEO)

"There is no variant that escapes the protection of our vaccines."

"And if all others accepted the lie which the Party imposed—if all records told the same tale—then the lie passed into history and became truth. 'Who controls the past' ran the Party slogan, 'controls the future: who controls the present controls the past." **– Orwell**

When confronted by the reality these experimental, toxic, gene altering, spike protein generating brews do not prevent anyone from contracting the virus, being hospitalized by the virus, or dying from the virus, **the powers that be just changed the definition of a vaccine and attempted to alter the narrative and pretend they had never said what they said.** How Orwellian of our Big Brother overlords. The past is alterable in a totalitarian regime.

"The past was alterable. The past never had been altered. Oceania was at war with Eastasia. Oceania had always been at war with Eastasia." **— George Orwell, 1984**



Vaccination (pre-2015): Injection of a killed or weakened infectious organism in order to prevent the disease.

Vaccination (2015-2021): The act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease.

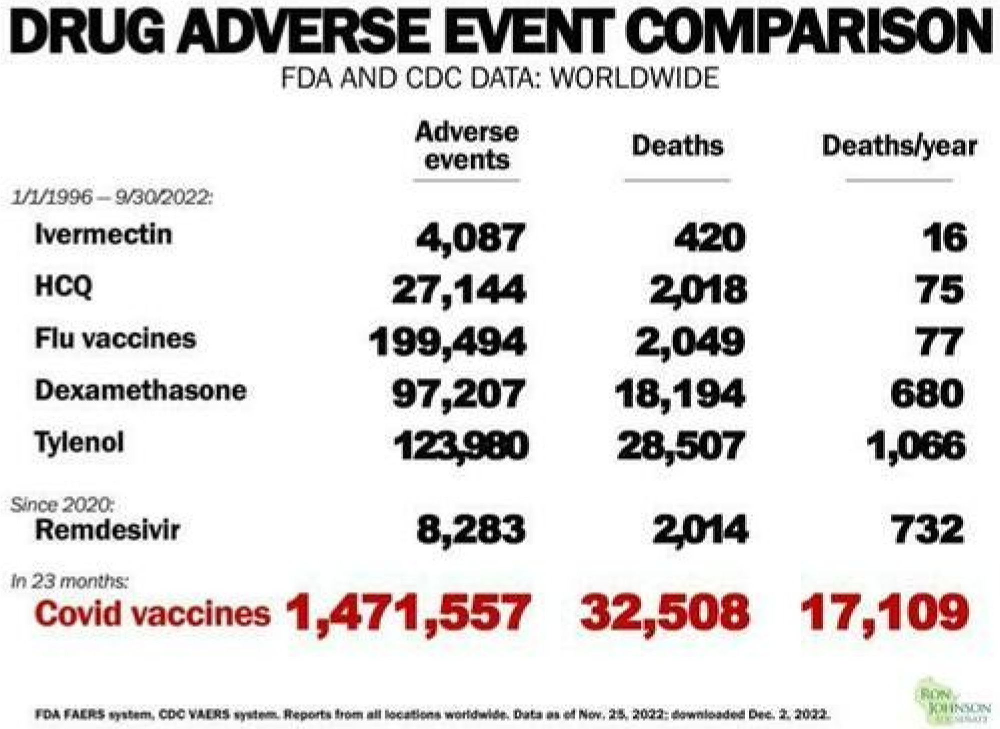
Vaccination (Sept 2021): The act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce protection from a specific disease.

Even the current definition of vaccination is a lie. Not only does it not protect you from the virus, but the Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE), warned about by highly regarded doctors like Robert Malone, Peter McCullough, and Pierre Kory over a year ago, is now happening to the vaxxed and boosted victims. Biden’s lie about this being a pandemic of the unvaccinated has transformed to the truth we are experiencing a pandemic of the vaccinated. The vaccinated are now 4x as likely to contract covid as an unvaxxed person who has recovered from covid. Natural immunity, which has protected humanity for centuries, is real and far superior to these Big Pharma jabs.

The cognitive dissonance of the vaxxed runs deep. They are too embarrassed and ashamed to admit they were duped and lied to. How many more young people need to “die suddenly” before they turn on Fauci, Biden, Big Pharma CEOs, media talking heads, politicians, and the sickcare industrial complex, and hold them accountable? Is the mass formation psychosis too ingrained in their psyche to ever revolt?

The lies about the covid vaccines being safe and effective, promulgated through a multi-billion-dollar advertising campaign running non-stop for the last two years, paying famous athletes, Hollywood stars, social media influencers, and unethical doctors, are proving to be the most diabolical and fatal falsehoods ever perpetrated on global humanity. The “effective” nonsense was put to bed last year when covid spread faster after more than half the country was berated and threatened into getting the jab, then a 2nd jab, then a 3rd jab, and then a booster, because the previous three failed.

And still half the country refuses to accept the truth because they don't want to question the narrative or abandon their fellow vaccine cultists. The "safe" garbage narrative is collapsing on a daily basis as factual data about sudden deaths, real scientific studies proving the extreme dangers of these vaxxes, fertility data, excess mortality data, a constant stream of reports about young people contracting myocarditis, having heart attacks, and developing blood clots, has swamped Fauci and his ship of lying fools – with the ultimate result of breaking the mass formation psychosis of the masses.



DRUG ADVERSE EVENT COMPARISON

FDA AND CDC DATA: WORLDWIDE

	Adverse events	Deaths	Deaths/year
1/1/1996 – 9/30/2022:			
Ivermectin	4,087	420	16
HCQ	27,144	2,018	75
Flu vaccines	199,494	2,049	77
Dexamethasone	97,207	18,194	680
Tylenol	123,980	28,507	1,066
Since 2020:			
Remdesivir	8,283	2,014	732
In 23 months:			
Covid vaccines	1,471,557	32,508	17,109

FDA FAERS system, CDC VAERS system. Reports from all locations worldwide. Data as of Nov. 25, 2022; downloaded Dec. 2, 2022.

RON JOHNSON

Essentially, these vaccines are creating a slow-motion mass casualty event, and everyone involved in their premature use in human beings should stand trial for murder, but they won't. That is because the totalitarian Deep State has grown too powerful, too arrogant, and too filled with contempt for those they rule over. They feel invincible, as they blatantly steal elections, keep peaceful protestors in dungeons, assassinate those who might implicate them in child trafficking conspiracies, use the mechanisms of the surveillance state to crush all opposition, and collude with mass media networks and the Silicon Valley mafia media to suppress the truth and censor those who dare question the Deep State sanctioned narrative. The Twitter files confirm the deceit and treason at the highest levels of government, media, and military. Hannah Arendt describes how totalitarian regimes depend on fabrications to maintain their power.

“Before mass leaders seize the power to fit reality to their lies, their propaganda is marked by its extreme contempt for facts as such, for in their opinion fact depends entirely on the power of man who can fabricate it.” **— Hannah Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism**

At this point in history virtually everything uttered by the president, any politician, government bureaucrat, media personality, corporate executive, medical “expert”, and faux journalist is a fabrication, exaggeration, disinformation or outright lie. The list of lies is never ending, and has been going on since Adam and Eve, but the quantity and audaciousness of the lies in recent times has accelerated to a point where the totalitarians no longer fear revelations about their lies. They are comfortable knowing the masses will believe absurdities as long as they confirm their ideologies, biases, and beliefs.

The masses do not mind being lied to because they are entranced by narratives created to keep them under control and focused on whichever enemy they are propagandized to hate, whether it be Trump, lockdown and mask dissenters, anti-vaxxers, phantom white supremacists, J6 “insurrectionists”, the Russians, or “election deniers”. Provenly bold faced liars like Biden and Fauci are admired and celebrated for their dedication to the narrative, despite its falseness. It happened in Nazi Germany, Stalinist Soviet Union, Mao’s Communist China, and today as we plunge towards a new world order totalitarianism of unknown outcomes and atrocities.

“Mass propaganda discovered that its audience was ready at all times to believe the worst, no matter how absurd, and did not particularly object to being

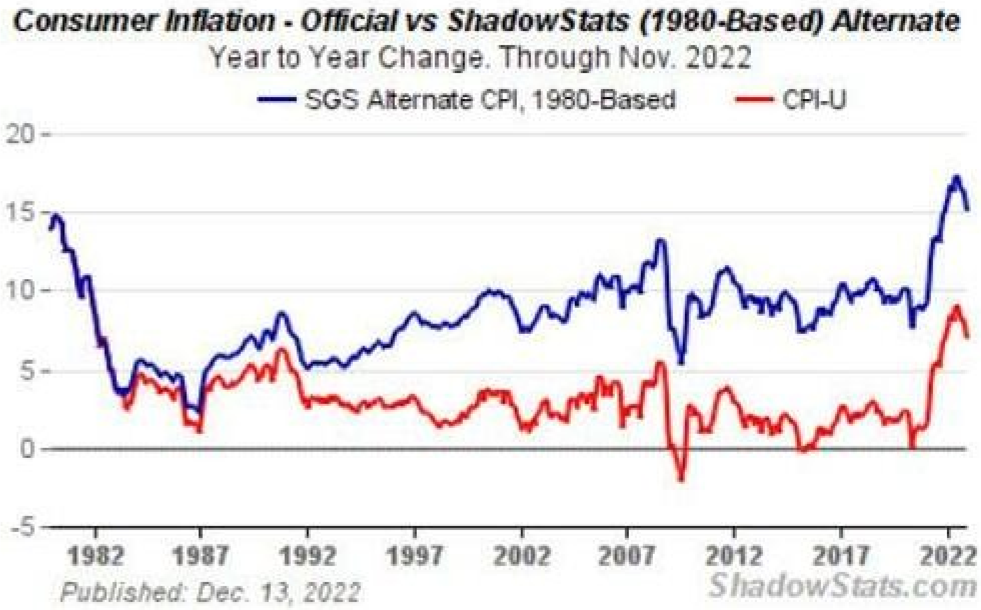
deceived because it held every statement to be a lie anyhow. The totalitarian mass leaders based their propaganda on the correct psychological assumption that, under such conditions, one could make people believe the most fantastic statements one day, and trust that if the next day they were given irrefutable proof of their falsehood, they would take refuge in cynicism; instead of deserting the leaders who had lied to them, they would protest that they had known all along that the statement was a lie and would admire the leaders for their superior tactical cleverness." — **Hannah Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism**

I think a list of big lies is sufficient to prove we are ruled by totalitarian ideologues who don't care their lies are destroying our country, culture, and societal norms. During my lifetime: they lied about JFK's assassination; they lied about the Gulf of Tonkin to get us into the Vietnam War; they lied about 9/11; they lied about WMD in Iraq; they lied about the 2008 financial collapse; they lied about the 2014 CIA coup in the Ukraine creating the havoc we have today; they lied about global warming and had to switch to climate change when the original lie was revealed; they lied about Russiagate and their coup against Trump, they lied about the "peaceful" BLM protests; they lied about the cause of George Floyd's death (fentanyl overdose); they lie about child trafficking and grooming; they lie about butchering children in the name of gender identity; they lied about Hunter Biden's computer and the Biden family crime syndicate; they lied about rigging the 2020 election; they lied about Epstein's "suicide"; they lied about the FBI and Pelosi staging the January 6 "insurrection"; they lied about colluding with Twitter, Facebook, and Google to influence elections and create a fake pandemic; they are lying about our border being safe and secure; they are lying that Biden isn't a dementia ridden puppet controlled by Obama, Soros, and Gates; they are lying that Sam Bankman-Fried and his FTX money laundering operation wasn't an arm of the Democrat party, using ill-gotten funds and funneling it to Democrat candidates; and they are lying about their intentions to destroy our society through suicidal economic, social, and legal policies in order to usher in a totalitarian Great Reset New World Order run by wealthy elites and their detestable acolytes. Our dystopian nightmare is on-par with Orwell's.

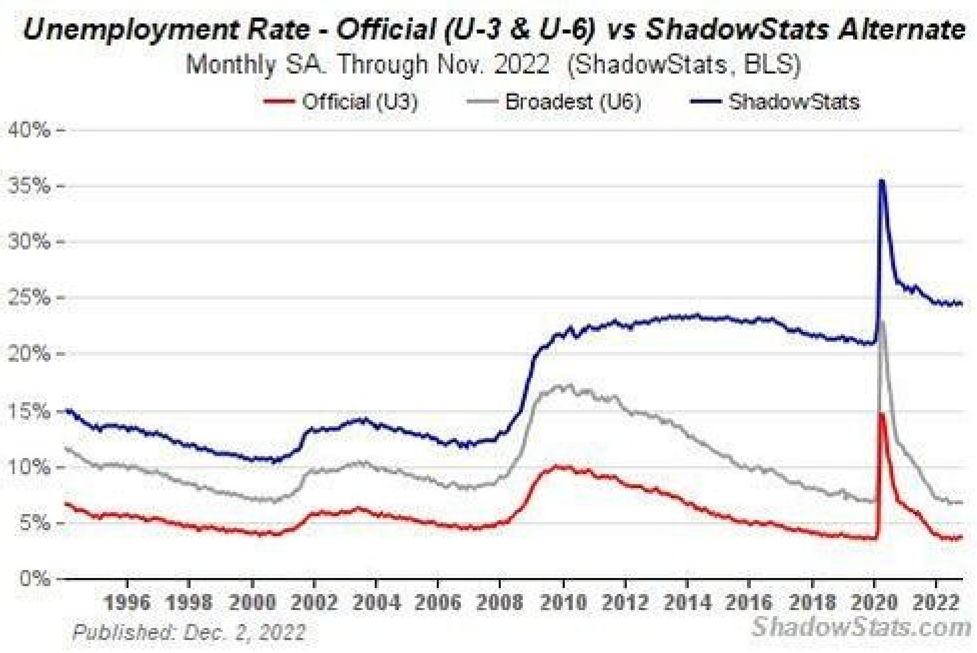
“The atom bombs are piling up in the factories, the police are prowling through the cities, the lies are streaming from the loudspeakers, but the earth is still going round the sun.” **– George Orwell**

Totalitarian regimes have tremendous success using fake data and fake charts to give the appearance of truth to a populace too willfully ignorant to investigate whether the data and charts are a truthful and accurate reflection of reality. It is so much easier to believe supposed experts than it is to think critically and question the narrative, especially when they are telling you what you want to hear. Even though the average person knows their financial situation has steadily deteriorated over the last two decades, along with the financial situation of the country, they still believe the fake data vomited on a daily basis by the government and Wall Street banking cabal.

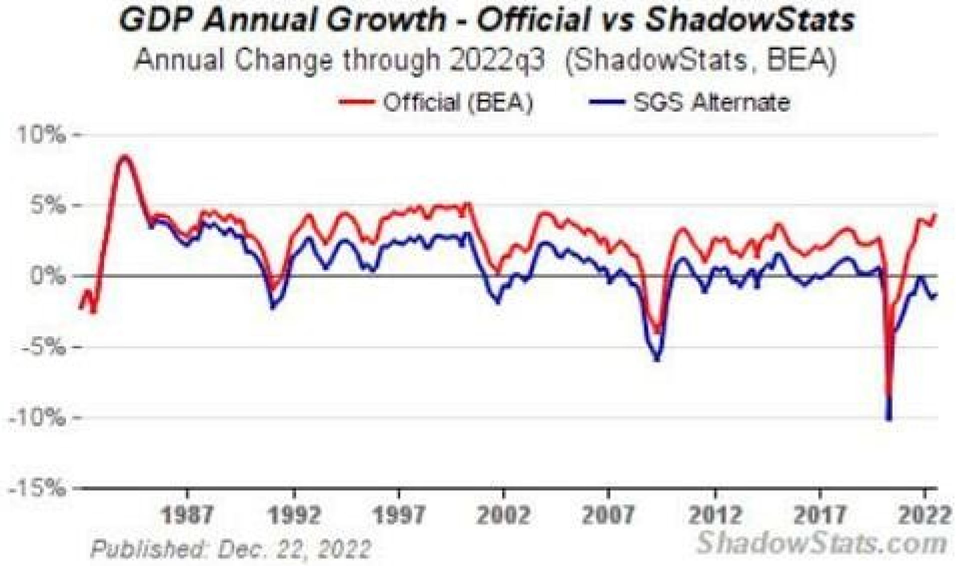
They are lying about the inflation rate being 7%. It is more than double the government reported figure, based upon the calculation from 1980 when Volker needed to raise the Fed Funds Rate to 18%.



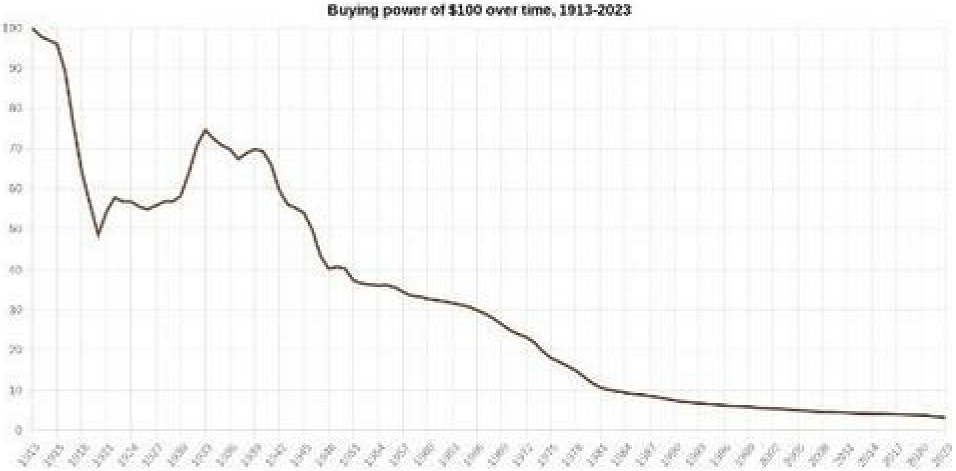
They are lying about the 3.7% unemployment rate. The total working age population is 265 million, up from 212 million in 2000. There are 158 million employed today, versus 137 million in 2000. The unemployment rate in 2000 of 4% is virtually the same as the rate reported today. How could that be if the working age population went up by 53 million, but employment only went up by 21 million? Quite a conundrum. It’s easy if you lie. According to the government 100 million working age Americans choose not to work, therefore they aren’t unemployed. That number was 70 million in 2000. Fully 40% of our working age citizens are not working today, but the government tells you our unemployment rate is 3.7%. This might be the biggest lie ever told.



The government has reported positive real GDP growth for most of the past two decades, with short-term dips in 2008/2009 and due to covid in 2020. Those figures are lies. Using a truthful inflation figure shows GDP has barely stayed flat for the last 20 years. The great American economy hasn’t grown in 20 years. We are a dying lying empire of debt. Our national debt grew from $5.7 trillion in 2000 to $31.5 trillion today. The debt to GDP ratio has gone from 55% in 2000 to 122% today. Throughout history, when this ratio exceeds 90%, economic disaster follows.



The biggest lie has been perpetrated by the Wall Street controlled Federal Reserve, whose mandates are a stable currency and low unemployment. With a straight face these jokers declare they have succeeded, while the USD has lost 97% of its purchasing power since the deceitful inception of the Federal Reserve in 1913, and the real unemployment rate is north of 20%. Losing the last 3% of purchasing power guarantees to be the most painful.



After documenting the outrageous multitude of lies being told by those controlling the levers of society, I'm torn regarding whether I trust enough people can be awakened from their self-induced stupor of belief in authority to mount a counter-offensive of truth. I guess I wouldn't be writing articles about these subjects unless I thought there was a kernel of hope I could plant with my reasoning. But I find myself drawn more towards the conclusion reached by Alexandre Koyré over fifty years ago about mobs and the ease with which totalitarian authority figures can manipulate them:

“The mob believes everything it is told, provided only that it be repeated over and over. Provided too that its passions, hatreds, fears are catered to. Nor need one try to stay within the limits of plausibility: on the contrary, the grosser, the bigger, the cruder the lie, the more readily is it believed and followed. Nor is there any need to avoid contradictions: the mob never notices; needless to pretend to correlate what is said to some with what is said to others: each person or group believes only what he is told, not what anyone else is told; needless to strive for coherence: the mob has no memory; needless to pretend to any truth: the mob is radically incapable of perceiving it: the mob can never comprehend that its own interests are what is at stake.” ― **Alexandre Koyré, Réflexions sur le mensonge**

When the mob has been essentially hypnotized by totalitarian authority figures, unbound from the law through illegally invoking “emergency” powers to ensure the safety of the masses, it takes massive bloodshed and enormous upheaval before the mob will come to their senses and realize their dreadful misplacement of trust in tyrants. Personally, I hope I am wrong about what lies ahead, but I don’t see a pathway towards a peaceful, reasoned resolution of what plagues our country and the world.

Fools, knaves, and low IQ ideologues control the narrative, the political power, the media messaging, the banks, and the minds of the mob. We can attempt to distance ourselves from the onslaught, but there really is no way to escape the impact of a Fourth Turning, whether it be global conflict, civil chaos, financial Armageddon, or the wrath of the mob for being right about the vaccines, politicians, or the financial markets. I am not surprised or upset about the lies told to me by those running the show. Neitzsche and Carlin, two brilliant thinkers, pretty much sum up my feelings.

“I’m not upset that you lied to me, I’m upset that from now on I can’t believe you.” ― **Friedrich Nietzsche**

“My first rule: I don’t believe anything the government tells me. Nothing. Zero.” – **George Carlin**

Very few people who need to awaken from their propaganda induced stupor of believing absurdities will read this article. Those who are already awake and can see what is happening clearly have few or no options to impact the course we are traveling. Too few see the iceberg dead ahead as the U.S. Titanic accelerates towards its rendezvous with destiny. We can shout and wave our hands, but there is nothing we can do to alter the course of an empire run by idiot ideologues, hellbent on the destruction of our ship of state. As Bradbury presciently noted in his masterpiece of societal self-immolation, I can’t make people listen to a message they don’t want to hear.

“But you can’t make people listen. They have to come round in their own time, wondering what happened and why the world blew up around them. It can’t last.” ― **Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451**

At this point I’m torn between the darkness of Orwell’s vision and the stoic attitude put forth by Tolkien. We are living in a time of universal deceit and telling the truth feels like a revolutionary act when the mob is under the spell of mass formation psychosis. It is an interesting dichotomy that this article will only be read by a small audience of people who already agree with most of my arguments. If it ever reached a wider audience, I would be attacked by the mob, censored, threatened, and doxed in an attempt to destroy my life. So be it.

I will do what I can do with my limited resources, protect my loved ones, strengthen relationships with like-minded hobbits, disconnect from this warped and deviant society as much as possible, distance myself from the government, prepare for an uncertain future, and try my best to navigate the perils ahead. We only have a limited time on this earth to make a difference. We each must decide what we do with the time given us. God help us.

"I wish it need not have happened in my time," said Frodo. "So do I," said Gandalf, "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." **— J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring**

"The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater." **— J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring**

* * *

It is Jim's sincere desire to provide readers of his site with the best unbiased information available, and a forum where it can be discussed openly, as our Founders intended. But it is not easy nor inexpensive to do so, especially when those who wish to prevent us from making the truth known, attack us without mercy on all fronts on a daily basis. Please consider contributing an amount commensurate to the value that you receive from this site and community, or even by becoming a sustaining supporter through periodic contributions.

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Censorship December.31 what twitter did..

1. History changed because of this:

- Hunter Biden’s alleged corruption censored
- Covid 19 lockdown debate stifled
- Trump silenced

You may agree with each decision. But there is no denying that halting information flow and free debate had real consequences.

2. Many things called conspiracy theories were true:

- FBI was working w Twitter and paid TW $ millions
- Blacklists & shadow bans were real
- US intel lobbied to censor accounts
- Covid-19 convo heavily manipulated
- Twitter rules changed & enforced by whim

3. Censorship is being cloaked in the language of safety:

- ‘Safety, harm, violence’ redefined to apply to ideas
- Opinions & info deemed ‘unsafe’ subject to silencing
- Jokes, memes, questions about origin of covid off limits

4. The government is policing opinion:

- FBI has 80 staff monitoring speech
- Small accounts on left and right flagged
- FBI held frequent meetings w TW
- Facebook, Youtube, and Instagram = similar?
- Private censors & police control what you say to whom.

5. Social media executives lie freely:

- Twitter execs repeatedly and publicly denied shadow bans
- In reality, bans were in place as “visibility filtering”
- Ultimately, no accountability to public

6. Free speech is controlled by a small group:

- Biggest decisions in Twitter Files made by 3-4 individuals
- Despite misgivings and doubts, once made, decisions stuck
- Now it’s Musk.

One difference: his embrace of public polls to set policy.

7. The slippery slope is real:

- Staff rebellion led to Trump ban
- Staff called for more covid-19 censorship
- 2021-22 saw increase of bans and ‘one-offs’

This is how you get Billy Baldwin in the crosshairs.

Once you silence a president, who has a right to speak?

8. Musk has made enemies:

- Leaking to indy media
- Expressing opinions on Fauci
- Suspending journalist accounts

I expect his businesses will see counterattacks. Now is a good time to refocus—and let the users decide how to uphold free speech.

TLDR

1. History changed
2. Conspiracy theories true
3. ‘Safety’ = censorship
4. Government policed ideas
5. Executives lied
6. Speech controlled by small group
7. Slippery slope is real
8. Musk must watch out

Government, censorship, tech, stats: $1.7 TRILLION SPENDING BILL REQUIRES PLATFORMS TO VERIFY ID OF THOSE EARNING $5,000 REVENUE PER YEAR

Holy roman empire, history, stats, church: the practice of usury can be traced back approximately four thousand years

Despite its Judaic roots, the critique of usury was most ferverently taken up as a cause by the institutions of the Christian Church where the debate prevailed with great intensity for well over a thousand years[v]. The Old Testament decrees were resurrected and a New Testament reference to usury added to fuel the case[vi]. Building on the authority of these texts, the Roman Catholic Church had by the fourth century AD prohibited the taking of interest by the clergy; a rule which they extended in the fifth century to the laity. In the eighth century under Charlemagne, they pressed further and declared usury to be a general criminal offence. This anti-usury movement continued to gain momentum during the early Middle Ages and perhaps reached its zenith in 1311 when Pope Clement V made the ban on usury absolute and declared all secular legislation in its favour, null and void (Birnie, 1952).

Ai, tech: iRobot was founded in 1990 by MIT's Artificial Intelligence Lab (the AI project was founded in 1959)

The AI Lab was founded as the AI project in 1959

War, stats: Asymmetric warfare:describes what is also called guerrilla warfare, insurgency, counterinsurgency, rebellion, terrorism, and counter-terrorism

Asymmetric warfare is **a form of irregular warfare – conflicts in which enemy combatants are not regular military forces of nation-states**. The term is frequently used to describe what is also called guerrilla warfare, insurgency, counterinsurgency, rebellion, terrorism, and counter-terrorism.

Stats, health: medicial error third leading cause of death accoridng to muli[ple studies over a period of 50 years

Death by medical error or accident is the nation’s leading cause of accidental death, exceeding all other causes of accidental death combined. Medical error and accidents kill approximately as many people each month in the U.S. as Covid-19 did before vaccines became available.

Yet there’s no Operation Warp Speed for preventing medical errors, no national investment of billions of dollars to develop solutions, and no national urgency about solving the problem.

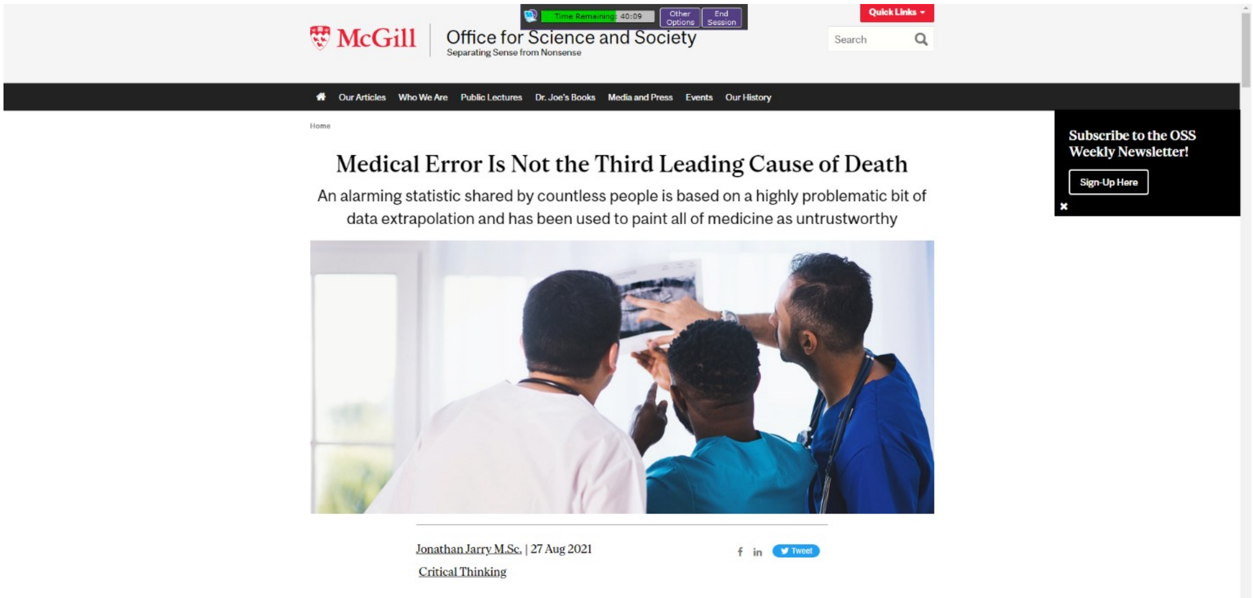
That’s more than enough to make medical care gone awry the number three cause of death in the U.S., after heart disease and cancer.

The Institute for Health care Improvement created a technique known as the Global Trigger, which scours medical records for subtle indications that a patient suffered unexpected harm. A 2013 meta-analysis of Global Trigger studies found 10 times as many adverse events as found by conventional records reviews, with deaths numbering as many as 440,000 per year. Other studies, using on-scene observers, have found comparable numbers of incidents.

https://www.statnews.com/2021/08/04/medical-errors-accidents-ongoing-preventable-health-threat/

"Meta-analytic results are considered the most trustworthy source of evidence by the evidence-based medicine literature."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meta-analysis


Time Remaining: 40:09
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Medical Error Is Not the Third Leading Cause of Death

An alarming statistic shared by countless people is based on a highly problematic bit of data extrapolation and has been used to paint all of medicine as untrustworthy

Jonathan Jarry M.Sc. | 27 Aug 2021

Critical Thinking

https://www.mcgill.ca/oss/article/critical-thinking-health/medical-error-not-third-leading-cause-death

vaccine, censorship: Top Doctor Acusses Twitter of Killing People Through Their Censorship of Legitimate Science

"Censorship of the correct science and medical information, during this pandemic, absolutely killed people. It prevented people from making intelligent decisions. It prevented people from making the appropriate use of caution," Atlas alleged of Twitter censoring doctors such as himself.

zerohedgedotcom/covid-19/twitters-covid-19-censorship-led-loss-life-says-former-white-house-adviser-dr-scott-atlas

vaccine, censorship: COVID testing company contracted by Canadian govt led by defense minister's husband

"Minister of Defence Anita Anand failed to acknowledge any potential conflict of interest despite millions in federal contracts being awarded to a company that had not previously done much business with the government.

Before the COVID crisis hit, according to Blacklock's Reporter, LifeLabs received few federal contracts. **In 2019, it only received $134,413 from the feds.**

....

As for Anand, she was elected an MP and then appointed Public Works Ministers in the fall of 2019.

LifeLabs was recently awarded $111 million for testing services in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon."

lifesitenewsdotcom/news/covid-testing-company-contracted-by-canadian-govt-lead-by-defense-ministers-husband/

tech, ai, government: Klaus Schwab: "If I had to define Industry 4.0 in one sentence I would say that this is an integration of physical, biological and technological experience"

https://en.ktu.edu/news/professor-klaus-schwab-there-is-a-lack-of-skills-not-jobs/

tech, stats, censorship, government: 10 years ago, scientists did a study of movement data from 1.5 million people, and concluded that just 4 points in space and time were enough to identify 95% of people

"Way back in 2013, a group of scientists studied 15 months of human mobility movement data collected from 1.5 million people. They concluded that just four points in space and time were enough to identify 95 percent of those people."

Tech, government, censorship, stats: internet of things (IoT) devices are easy to hack into

Tech, china, government: China has more than 50 percent of all surveillance cameras installed in the world, with almost 34 cameras per 1,000 people.

Africa, war, history: famines in somalia

Sadly, the worst part of the war has been the weather. Drought came in 2010–2012 and again in 2015–2017. Crops failed across the whole Horn of Africa, but Somalia was hit the hardest because they were at war. The farmers had not had a chance to sow their crops or to harvest them. They had no transportation, so whatever crops could be grown could not reach the market, which was closed anyway because no one had any money. The entire system of food distribution and services in Somalia completely broke down. People were lying down and dying in refugee camps on the sides of the highways. A quarter of a million of them had starved to death by the beginning of 2013. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), a U.S. and UK-backed non-governmental organization (NGO) that keeps track of global famines, said that more than half of the 250,000 who had died were children under five years old. The elderly were also among those hit hardest by the mass starvation. A million people had been driven from their homes.

America helped to reduce Somalia to the most desperate state. Then in 2011, President Obama sent President Bill Clinton’s old friend and national security adviser, Anthony Lake, to take charge of distributing international food relief. These efforts fell far short. The food relief did not get to the starving people out in the countryside. The warlords seized it all to feed their soldiers and sell the rest. Also in 2011, the Kenyan invasion disrupted the distribution of food aid. This has been one of the worst humanitarian crises of this century, inflicted by the most powerful nation in history against one of the weakest – people who have done nothing to us. In 2017, FEWSNET reported that mortality and under-five mortality rates remained at emergency levels. In 2020, the Cost of War Project estimated that 46 percent of Somalia’s population have been displaced since the U.S. began its latest intervention at the dawn of the War on Terrorism.

By mid-2007, 50,000 Ethiopian troops invaded Somalia in late 2006

But one of the released WikiLeaks cables suggests a different picture, one that implicates Frazer in pressing Ethiopia’s President Meles Zenawi to invade his neighbor. The content of the cable is being widely discussed in the African media. It exposes a secret deal cut between the United States and Ethiopia to invade Somalia.

Vaccine, censorship: dec9 Duke University Hospital Denies Life Saving Kidney Transplant to Dying 14-Year-Old Girl for Being Unvaccinated

Duke University Hospital Denies Life Saving Kidney Transplant to Dying 14-Year-Old Girl for Being Unvaccinated

(confirmation of **real story** status) "In a statement, Brigham and Women’s Hospital confirmed its decision to remove Ferguson from the list, saying, “Like many other transplant programs in the United States — the COVID-19 vaccine is one of several vaccines and lifestyle behaviors required for transplant candidates in the Mass General Brigham system in order to create both the best chance for a successful operation and also the patient’s survival after transplantation.”

Vaccine, health, china, censorship: dec9 China's asymptomatic issue. Something i remember reading about in the summer, I think..

Chinese politics & policy

China’s disappearing data stokes fears of hidden Covid wave

Low official case number and death toll puzzle analysts after Beijing lifts Covid testing requirements

Closed testing booths outside the Shanghai Railway Station. Pandemic controls have been relaxed just weeks after daily cases nationwide hit 40,000 © Aly Song/Reuters

- China’s disappearing data stokes fears of hidden Covid wave on twitter (opens in a new window)
- China’s disappearing data stokes fears of hidden Covid wave on facebook (opens in a new window)
- China’s disappearing data stokes fears of hidden Covid wave on linkedin (opens in a new window)
-

current progress 0%

Edward White in Seoul and **Qianer Liu** in Hong Kong

53 MINUTES AGO

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China is starting to under-report coronavirus cases and fatalities, which experts warn is obscuring the scale and severity of the health crisis just as the world’s most populous country enters its deadliest phase of the pandemic.

Official statistics on Friday revealed no new deaths and only 16,363 locally transmitted coronavirus cases in China, less than half the peak caseload reported last month.

That is despite a stunning U-turn over the past week to relax President Xi Jinping’s heavy-handed pandemic controls, which means the virus is certain to spread.

The sweeping changes to Xi’s zero-Covid policy allow asymptomatic or mild cases to isolate at home rather than in centralised quarantine, and slashed China’s mass testing and contact tracing requirements.

The sudden reversal comes came weeks after Covid-19 cases hit a record high of more than 40,000 a day, with every region of the country reporting an Omicron outbreak.

Despite the official numbers suggesting the caseload had halved, Raymond Yeung, China economist at ANZ bank, said that on-the-ground observations indicated some cities, including Baoding, in the northern province of Hebei, already had “high infection numbers”. More big cities, he said, would soon endure similar levels of infections.

“Like Hong Kong, the actual infection data will no longer be informative. As the ‘official’ infection figures decline, the government can eventually claim their success against the virus,” Yeung said.

Gulf widens between reported cases and projected estimates

Daily reported Covid-19 cases vs projected number of cases based on epidemic modelling

A chart showing China’s daily reported Covid-19 cases vs projected number of cases based epidemic modelling, highlighting that the discrepancy between official caseload and model projection is widening.
Dec 4Nov 27Nov 20Nov 13Nov
680,00060,00040,00020,000**ReportedReportedProjectedProjected**
Source: China’s National Health Commission, Wigram Capital Advisors

FT Data: Andy Lin/@imandylin2

The situation echoes the dearth of official information during the disastrous initial outbreak in Wuhan nearly three years ago. Local officials and analysts warned that the reduced testing, as well as gaps in reporting of both cases and deaths, would make it harder to assess the risk to the world’s second-biggest economy.

“The behaviour of case numbers is very similar to 2020, where we had one [to] two weeks with genuine case numbers, before the veil was drawn," said Rodney Jones, principal at Wigram Capital Advisors, an Asia-focused macroeconomic advisory group.

"We have no idea whether we will see actual case data again, and whether the sharp downshift in cases reflects reduced testing . . . or political management of the case data," Jones added.

A critical missing piece of information is the rate of positive tests, which is important for determining actual infection. Nor is the real-time effective R value published, depriving observers of a vital measure of the rate at which the disease is spreading.

There are also discrepancies between Chinese regions in how cause of death is determined and the definition of "symptomatic". In some cities, including Shanghai, a chest scan is required before Covid diagnosis.

Xi's decision to loosen strictures has led to fears of an unparalleled wave of infections and a sharply rising death toll. Wigram has projected as many as 1mn deaths over the winter months.

China has reported 5,235 coronavirus deaths, with the latest additions on Sunday. More than 4,600 fatalities were reported in the first few months of 2020 and about 600 during Shanghai's lockdown in April and May this year.

One provincial health official said deaths would "normally" only be recorded if a person tested positive before seeking medical attention. They added that many colleagues were questioning the veracity of the official death toll after authorities concealed fatality data in 2020.

"Those who present with symptoms but have not had time to be tested and die from an underlying disease, these would be missed," the official said.

An ICU doctor in Guangzhou, a city in southern China, said the data's usefulness was complicated by the fact that many seriously ill patients were avoiding hospitalisation. Others were unable to obtain the PCR test result required for hospital treatment because of reduced testing.

Chinese officials and state media said the policy changes were designed to "contain the epidemic in a more science-based and targeted manner".

Public health messaging has also intensified to encourage vaccinations among the nearly 90mn elderly Chinese who remain inadequately protected from the virus.

Asymptomatic cases drop after China ends compulsory testing

Daily reported Covid-19 cases

Symptomatic
Asymptomatic
A chart showing China’s daily reported symptomatic and asymptomatic cases , highlighting that asymptomatic cases, usually found by compulsory testing, dropped drastically while symptomatic cases remain stable.
Dec 1Nov 1Oct 1040,00030,00020,00010,000
Source: China’s National Health Commission

FT Data: Andy Lin/@imandylin2

However, public anxiety is increasing about the healthcare system’s capacity to handle a big rise in Covid cases and the discrepancy between the official narrative and reality.

“We should address the problem — either report real figures or stop publishing them,” Hu Xijin, a former editor of the Global Times, a nationalist tabloid, wrote in a social media post, adding that disseminating “severely distorted figures to the public” was damaging the authority of official information.

Hospitals in Beijing have started running out of medical supplies, including ibuprofen and paracetamol, as health workers fight an outbreak spreading rapidly through the Chinese capital. Yet the Chinese capital reported just 2,654 official new infections on Friday for the day prior.

Ben Cowling, a professor of epidemiology at the University of Hong Kong, warned of the risks of abandoning testing requirements and reporting cases inaccurately.

“As testing intensity is reduced, it will be more difficult to maintain situational awareness of the level of infections in the community, and interpretation of case counts will be more nuanced,” he said.

Yanzhong Huang at the Council for Foreign Relations think-tank, noted that after the November surge in cases, there were “so many asymptomatic cases and so few severe cases”.

“That is puzzling,” he said. “Does that mean they have a different way of counting Covid-related deaths?”

Recommended

Coronavirus pandemic

China risks 1mn Covid deaths in ‘winter wave’, modelling shows

Others maintained that after nearly three years, the costs of mass testing, coupled with China’s contact tracing system, had become unsustainable.

As local government coffers dried up, the decision to depart from mass testing was essentially forced upon Beijing, said Sam Radwan, principal at Enhance International, a consultancy.

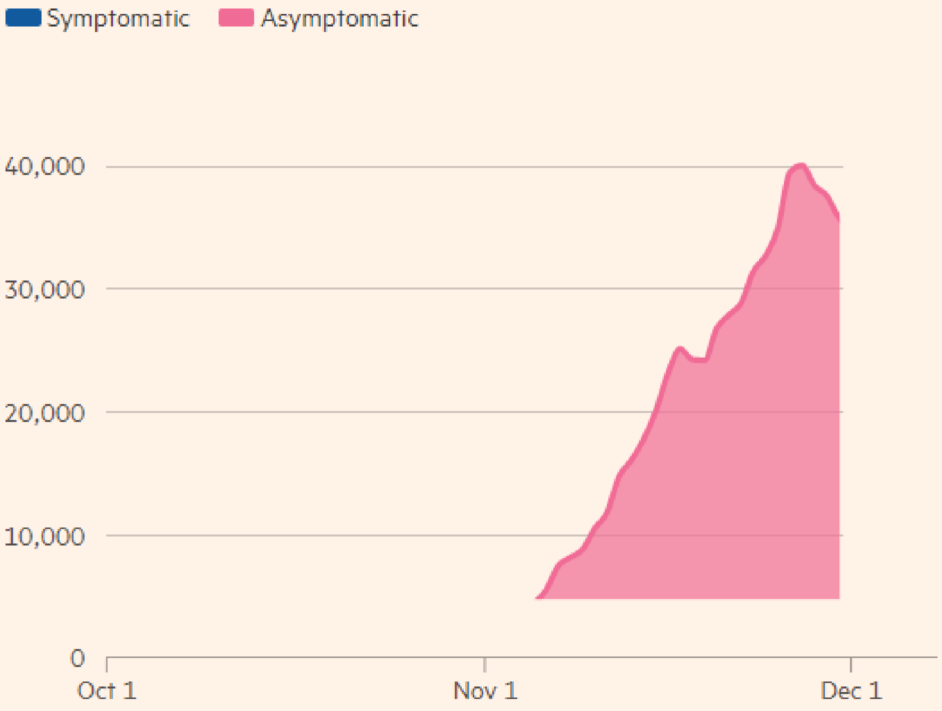
“Beijing Social Insurance Fund Management Center has run out of money. They’re having a hard time paying bills for the first time in a very long time,” Radwan said, referring to the capital’s agency responsible for funding health services.

“That’s why you were seeing they’re shutting down testing booths before they’re removing the restrictions.”

Additional reporting by William Langley, Andy Lin, Gloria Li and Eleanor Olcott in Hong Kong

Asymptomatic cases drop after China ends compulsory testing

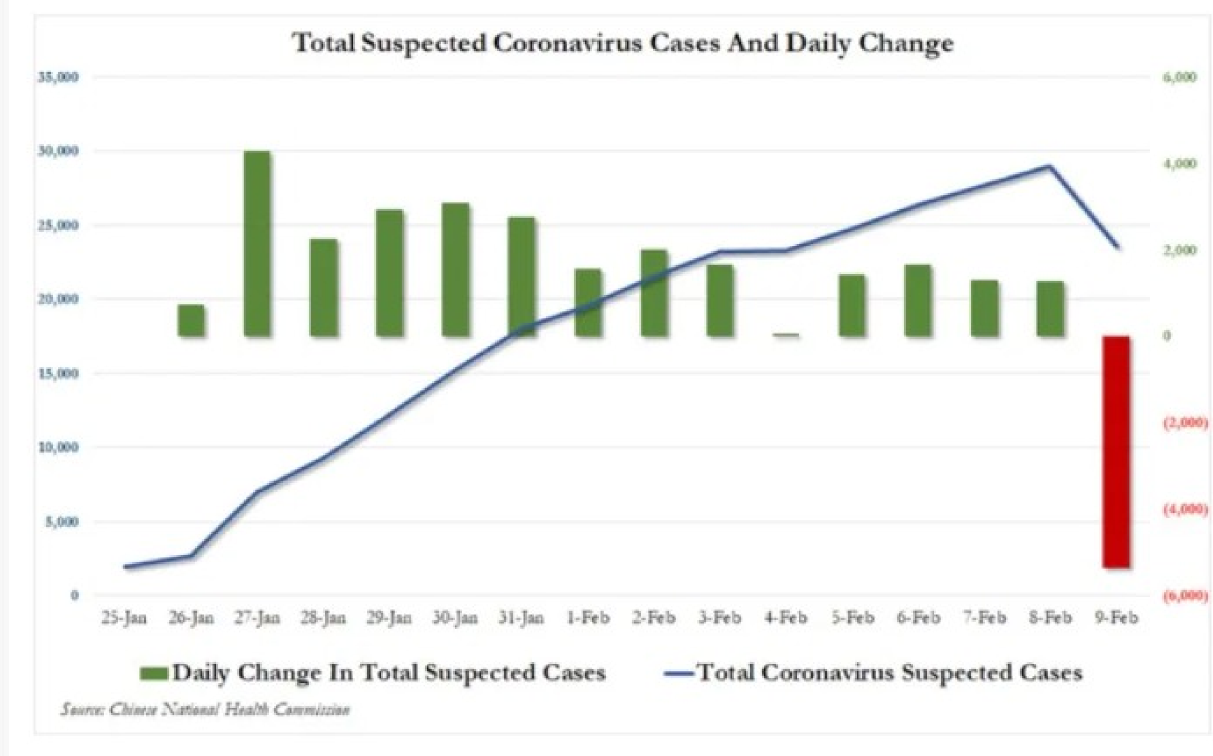
Daily reported Covid-19 cases



Source: China's National Health Commission

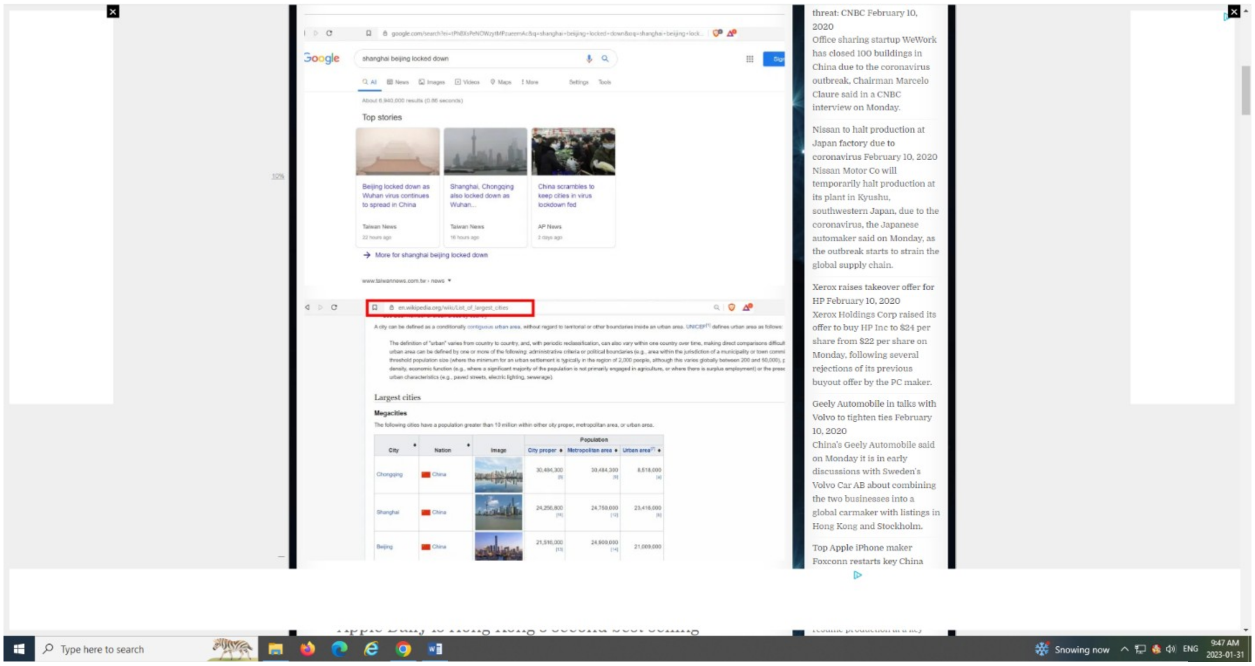
Vaccine, censorship, china, sanctions, war, stats, health:
From February 10th, 2020, including in this document on date: jan31

[FULL REVIEW]China Changes 'Confirmed Case' Methodology: Infected Without Symptoms (Asymptomatic) Now Does NOT Constitute a 'CONFIRMED CASE' According to Alex Lam of AppleDaily.HK



Source: Chinese National Health Commission

Beijing and Shanghai Now Locked Down — Two Both 2nd and 3rd Most Populated Cities in the World


google.com/search?ei=tPhBXsPeNOWzytMPzueemAc&q=shanghai+beijing+locked+down&oq=shanghai+beijing+lock...
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en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_cities

A city can be defined as a conditionally contiguous urban area, without regard to territorial or other boundaries inside an urban area. UNICEF[1] defines urban area as follows:

> The definition of "urban" varies from country to country, and, with periodic reclassification, can also vary within one country over time, making direct comparisons difficult
> urban area can be defined by one or more of the following: administrative criteria or political boundaries (e.g., area within the jurisdiction of a municipality or town commi
> threshold population size (where the minimum for an urban settlement is typically in the region of 2,000 people, although this varies globally between 200 and 50,000), p
> density, economic function (e.g., where a significant majority of the population is not primarily engaged in agriculture, or where there is surplus employment) or the prese
> urban characteristics (e.g., paved streets, electric lighting, sewerage).

Largest cities

Megacities

The following cities have a population greater than 10 million within either city proper, metropolitan area, or urban area.

City	Nation	Image	Population		
			City proper	Metropolitan area	Urban area[7]
Chongqing	China		30,484,300 [8]	30,484,300 [9]	8,518,000 [a]
Shanghai	China		24,256,800 [11]	24,750,000 [12]	23,416,000 [8]
Beijing	China		21,516,000 [13]	24,900,000 [14]	21,009,000

threat: CNBC February 10, 2020
Office sharing startup WeWork has closed 100 buildings in China due to the coronavirus outbreak, Chairman Marcelo Claure said in a CNBC interview on Monday.

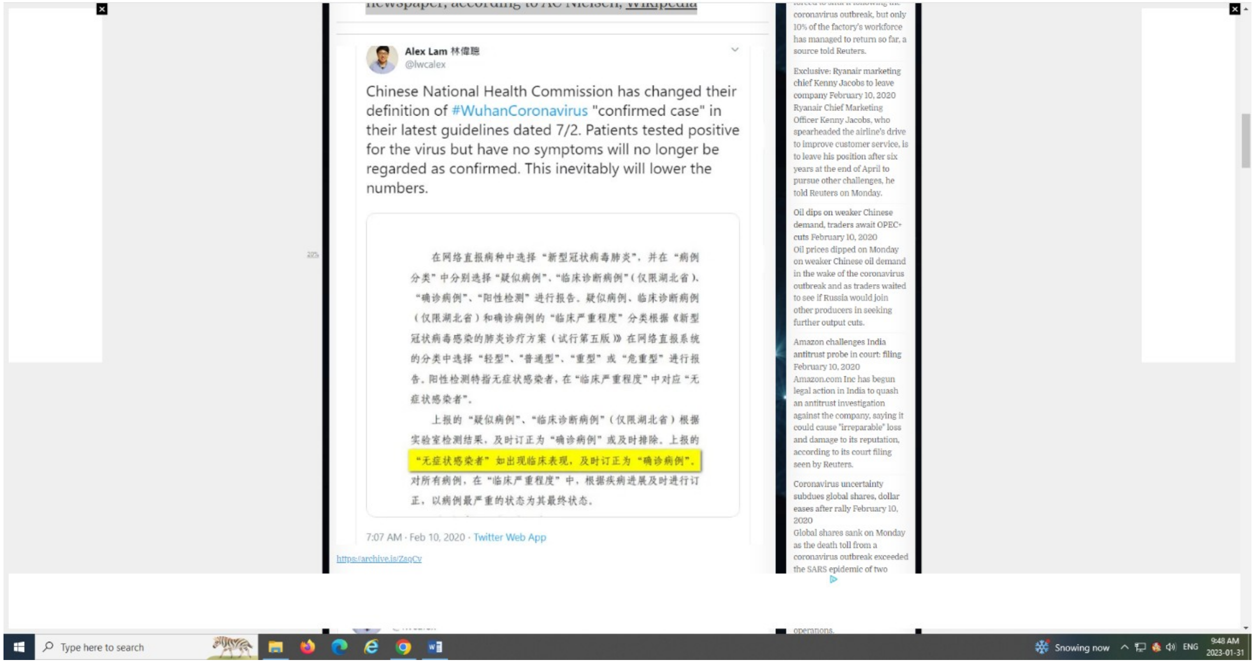
Nissan to halt production at Japan factory due to coronavirus February 10, 2020
Nissan Motor Co will temporarily halt production at its plant in Kyushu, southwestern Japan, due to the coronavirus, the Japanese automaker said on Monday, as the outbreak starts to strain the global supply chain.

Xerox raises takeover offer for HP February 10, 2020
Xerox Holdings Corp raised its offer to buy HP Inc to $24 per share from $22 per share on Monday, following several rejections of its previous buyout offer by the PC maker.

Geely Automobile in talks with Volvo to tighten ties February 10, 2020
China's Geely Automobile said on Monday it is in early discussions with Sweden's Volvo Car AB about combining the two businesses into a global carmaker with listings in Hong Kong and Stockholm.

Top Apple iPhone maker Foxconn restarts key China

Apple Daily is Hong Kong’s second best selling newspaper, according to AC Nielsen, Wikipedia


Alex Lam 林偉聰
@lwcalex

Chinese National Health Commission has changed their definition of #WuhanCoronavirus "confirmed case" in their latest guidelines dated 7/2. Patients tested positive for the virus but have no symptoms will no longer be regarded as confirmed. This inevitably will lower the numbers.

在网络直报病种中选择“新型冠状病毒肺炎”，并在“病例分类”中分别选择“疑似病例”、“临床诊断病例”（仅限湖北省）、“确诊病例”、“阳性检测”进行报告。疑似病例、临床诊断病例（仅限湖北省）和确诊病例的“临床严重程度”分类根据《新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎诊疗方案（试行第五版）》在网络直报系统的分类中选择“轻型”、“普通型”、“重型”或“危重型”进行报告。阳性检测特指无症状感染者，在“临床严重程度”中对应“无症状感染者”。

上报的“疑似病例”、“临床诊断病例”（仅限湖北省）根据实验室检测结果，及时订正为“确诊病例”或及时排除。上报的“无症状感染者”如出现临床表现，及时订正为“确诊病例”。对所有病例，在“临床严重程度”中，根据疾病进展及时进行订正，以病例最严重的状态为其最终状态。

7:07 AM · Feb 10, 2020 · Twitter Web App

https://archive.is/ZsqCv

coronavirus outbreak, but only 10% of the factory's workforce has managed to return so far, a source told Reuters.

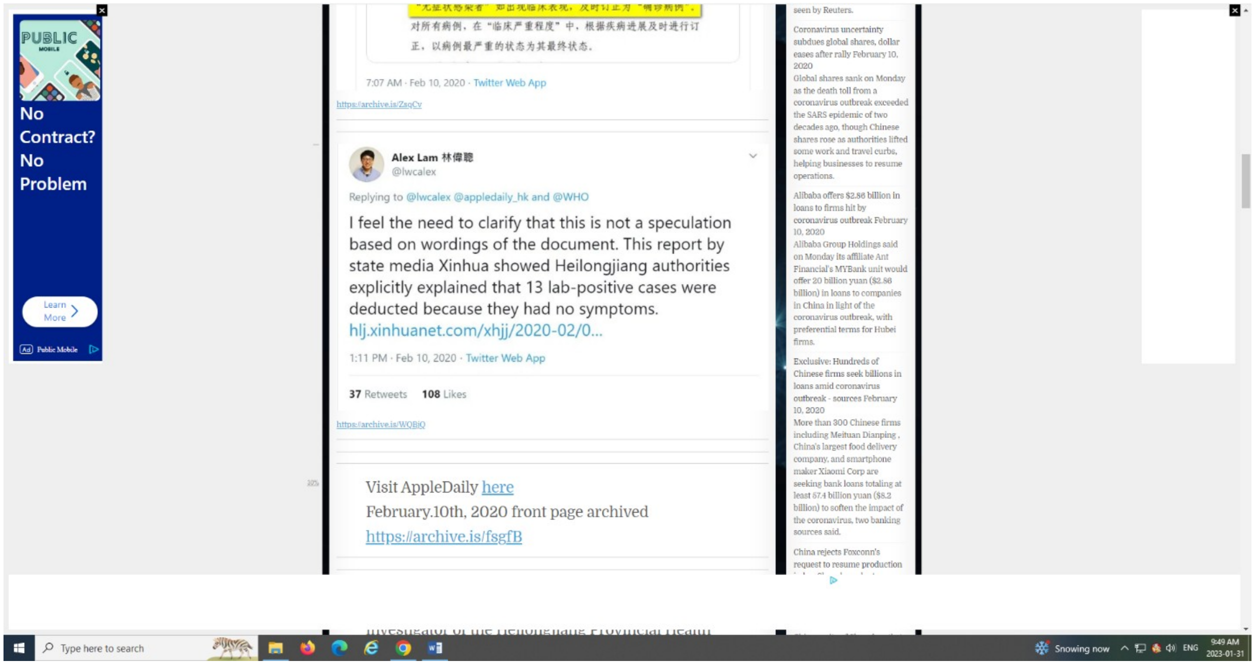
Exclusive: Ryanair marketing chief Kenny Jacobs to leave company February 10, 2020
Ryanair Chief Marketing Officer Kenny Jacobs, who spearheaded the airline's drive to improve customer service, is to leave his position after six years at the end of April to pursue other challenges, he told Reuters on Monday.

Oil dips on weaker Chinese demand, traders await OPEC+ cuts February 10, 2020
Oil prices dipped on Monday on weaker Chinese oil demand in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak and as traders waited to see if Russia would join other producers in seeking further output cuts.

Amazon challenges India antitrust probe in court: filing February 10, 2020
Amazon.com Inc has begun legal action in India to quash an antitrust investigation against the company, saying it could cause "irreparable" loss and damage to its reputation, according to its court filing seen by Reuters.

Coronavirus uncertainty subdues global shares, dollar eases after rally February 10, 2020
Global shares sank on Monday as the death toll from a coronavirus outbreak exceeded the SARS epidemic of two

operations.



PUBLIC MOBILE
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“无症状感染者”如出现临床表现，及时订正为“确诊病例”。
对所有病例，在“临床严重程度”中，根据疾病进展及时进行订正，以病例最严重的状态为其最终状态。

7:07 AM · Feb 10, 2020 · Twitter Web App

https://archive.is/ZsqCv

Alex Lam 林偉聰
@lwcalex

Replying to @lwcalex @appledaily_hk and @WHO

I feel the need to clarify that this is not a speculation based on wordings of the document. This report by state media Xinhua showed Heilongjiang authorities explicitly explained that 13 lab-positive cases were deducted because they had no symptoms. hlj.xinhuanet.com/xhjj/2020-02/0...

1:11 PM · Feb 10, 2020 · Twitter Web App

37 Retweets **108** Likes

https://archive.is/WQBjQ

Visit AppleDaily here
February.10th, 2020 front page archived
https://archive.is/fsgfB

seen by Reuters.

Coronavirus uncertainty subdues global shares, dollar eases after rally February 10, 2020
Global shares sank on Monday as the death toll from a coronavirus outbreak exceeded the SARS epidemic of two decades ago, though Chinese shares rose as authorities lifted some work and travel curbs, helping businesses to resume operations.

Alibaba offers $2.86 billion in loans to firms hit by coronavirus outbreak February 10, 2020
Alibaba Group Holdings said on Monday its affiliate Ant Financial's MYBank unit would offer 20 billion yuan ($2.86 billion) in loans to companies in China in light of the coronavirus outbreak, with preferential terms for Hubei firms.

Exclusive: Hundreds of Chinese firms seek billions in loans amid coronavirus outbreak - sources February 10, 2020
More than 300 Chinese firms including Meituan Dianping , China's largest food delivery company, and smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp are seeking bank loans totaling at least 57.4 billion yuan ($8.2 billion) to soften the impact of the coronavirus, two banking sources said.

China rejects Foxconn's request to resume production

Visit AppleDaily here
February.10th, 2020 front page archived
https://archive.is/fsgfB

“According to Zhao Yuhui, a second-level investigator of the Heilongjiang Provincial Health and Health Committee’s Medical Administration and Medical Administration Division, on the 8th, **14 patients were deducted from Heilongjiang Province, the positive cases of nucleic acid testing are divided into confirmed cases and asymptomatic infection**, rather than collectively referred to as confirmed cases”.

“What are asymptomatic infections, how are these patients screened out, do ordinary people asymptomatic need to go to relevant institutions for examination? Sun Wei explained that asymptomatic infection refers to patients who have no clinical symptoms of infection with the new coronavirus (such as fever, fatigue, pneumonia, etc.), but who have a positive nasopharyngeal swab virus nucleic acid test”.

http://hlj.xinhuanet.com/xhjj/2020-02/09/c_138768326.htm
https://archive.is/Q3BAL

the positive cases of nucleic acid testing are divided into

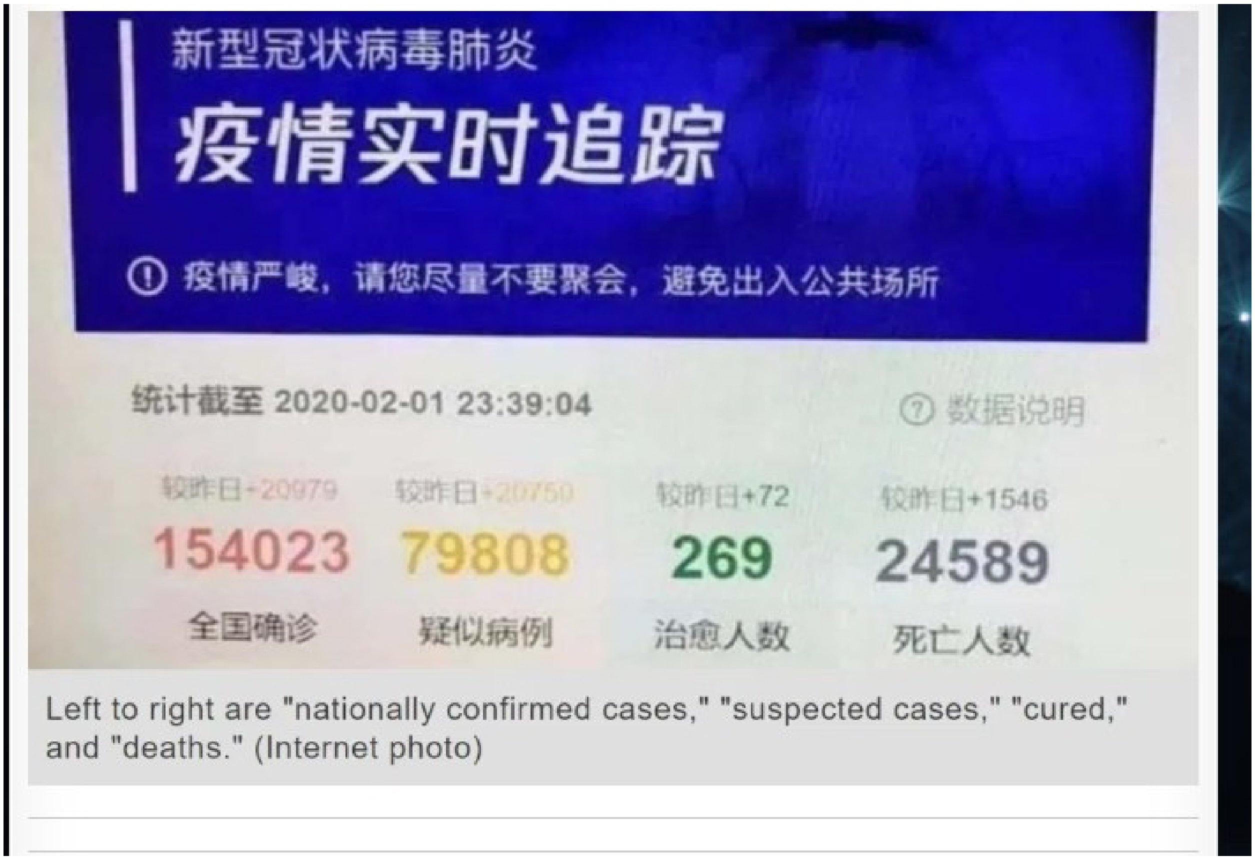
confirmed cases
and ***asymptomatic infection***

Taiwan News was founded 6 June 1949 by James Wei as China News

“TAIPEI (Taiwan News) — As many experts question the veracity of China’s statistics for the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak, Tencent over the weekend appeared to inadvertently release what is potentially the actual number of infections and deaths — which are far higher than official figures, but eerily in line with predictions from a respected scientific journal.

As early as Jan. 26, netizens were reporting that Tencent, on its webpage titled “Epidemic Situation Tracker,” briefly showed data on the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in China that was much higher than official estimates, before suddenly switching to lower numbers. Hiroki Lo,

a 38-year-old Taiwanese beverage store owner, that day reported that Tencent and NetEase were both posting “unmodified statistics,” before switching to official numbers in short order”.
https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3871594
https://archive.is/GNeKy



新型冠状病毒肺炎

疫情实时追踪

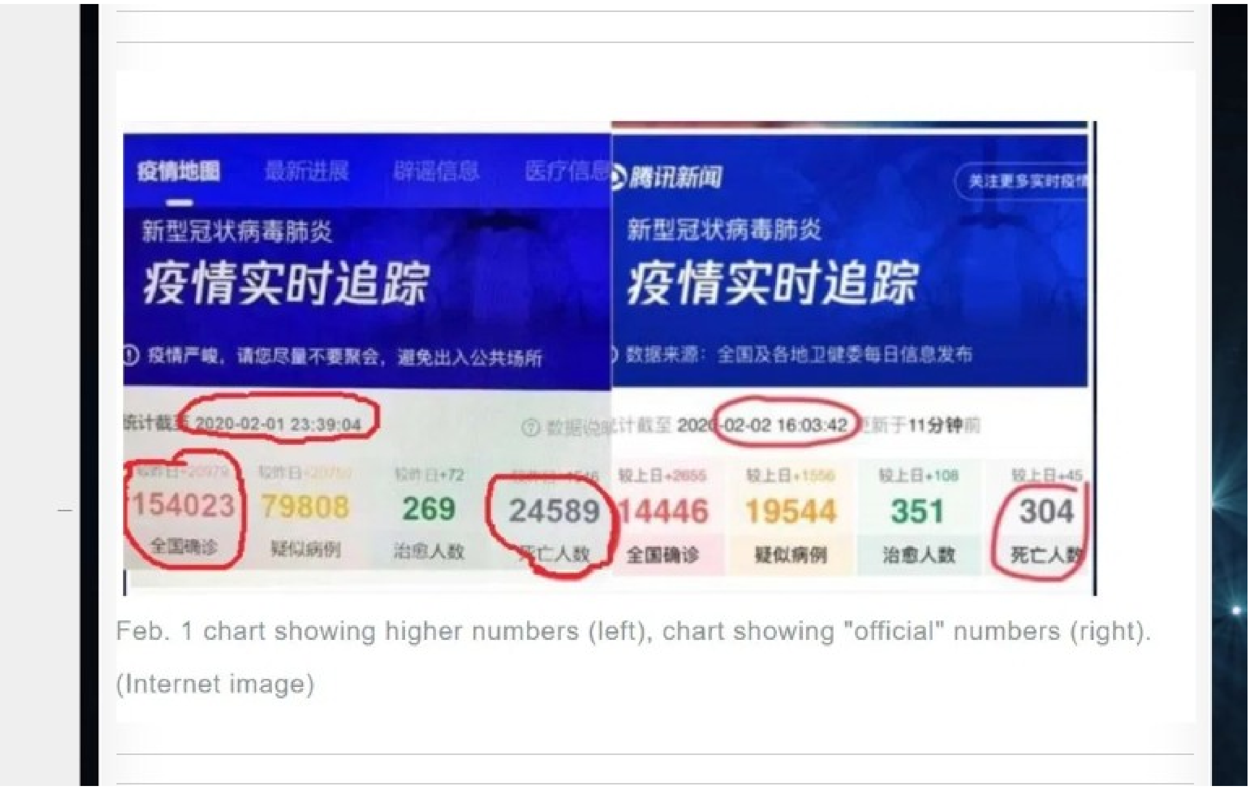
① 疫情严峻，请您尽量不要聚会，避免出入公共场所

统计截至 2020-02-01 23:39:04

? 数据说明

较昨日+20979	较昨日+20750	较昨日+72	较昨日+1546
154023	79808	269	24589
全国确诊	疑似病例	治愈人数	死亡人数

Left to right are "nationally confirmed cases," "suspected cases," "cured," and "deaths." (Internet photo)


疫情地图
最新进展
辟谣信息
医疗信息
新型冠状病毒肺炎
疫情实时追踪
疫情严峻，请您尽量不要聚会，避免出入公共场所
统计截至 2020-02-01 23:39:04
较昨日+72
154023
全国确诊
79808
疑似病例
269
治愈人数
24589
死亡人数
腾讯新闻
关注更多实时疫情
新型冠状病毒肺炎
疫情实时追踪
数据来源：全国及各地卫健委每日信息发布
数据说明
统计截至 2020-02-02 16:03:42
更新于11分钟前
较上日+2655
14446
全国确诊
较上日+1556
19544
疑似病例
较上日+108
351
治愈人数
较上日+45
304
死亡人数

Feb. 1 chart showing higher numbers (left), chart showing "official" numbers (right). (Internet image)

“However, the “internal” data held by Beijing may not reflect the true extent of the epidemic. According to multiple sources in Wuhan, many coronavirus patients are unable to receive treatment and die outside of hospitals”.

Zerohedge: “This Is How China Is Rigging The Number Of Coronavirus Infections”

Reddit conversation: “China changes who qualifies as “confirmed”. This will cause numbers to decrease”.
https://archive.is/5x9pW#selection-1433.0-1433.80
https://old.reddit.com/r/Wuhan_Flu/comments/f1qrmr/china_changes_who_qualifies_as_confirmed_this/

(Translated) Official Chinese News Release
“At 04:00 on February 9th, 31 provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities) and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps reported that 3062 new cases were diagnosed (2618 in Hubei), 296 cases were severely added (258 in Hubei), and new There were 97 deaths (91 in Hubei, 2 in Anhui, 1 each in Heilongjiang, Jiangxi, Hainan, and Gansu), and 4008 new suspected cases (2272 in Hubei).
On the same day, 632 newly discharged cases were cured (356 in Hubei), and 29,307 close contacts were lifted from medical observation.
As of 24:00 on February 9, according to reports from 31 provinces (autonomous regions,

municipalities) and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, there were 35,982 confirmed cases (of which 6,484 were severe cases), a total of 3,281 discharged cases were cured, and 908 died. A total of 40,171 confirmed cases have been reported (87 cases in Hubei, 1 case in Jiangxi and Gansu), and 23,589 suspected cases. A total of 399,487 close contacts were traced, and 187,518 close contacts were still in medical observation.
A total of 64 confirmed cases were reported from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan: 36 cases in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (1 death), 10 cases in the Macau Special Administrative Region (1 case was cured and discharged), and 18 cases in Taiwan (1 case was cured and discharged)".

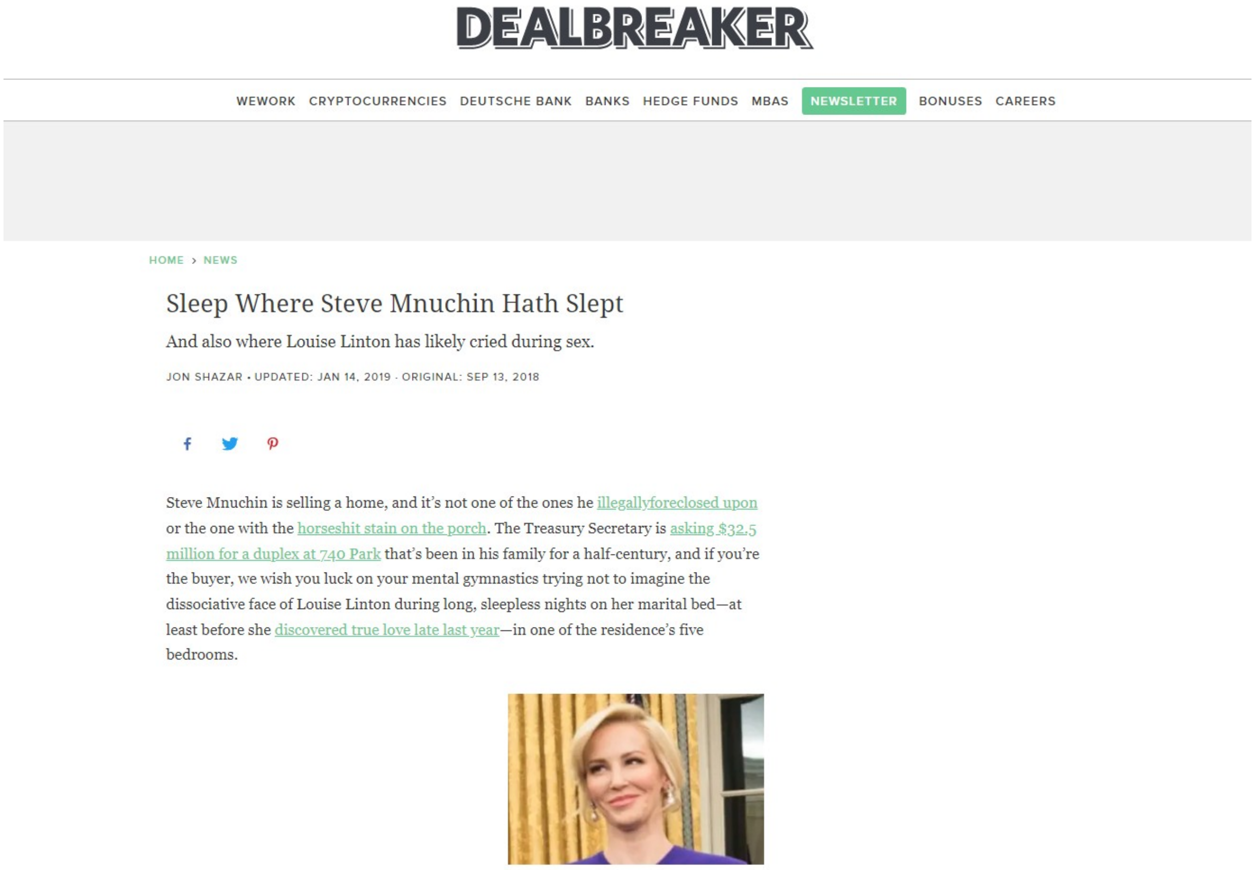
2020-02-10
http://www.nhc.gov.cn/xcs/yqtb/202002/167a0e01b2d24274b03b2ca961107929.shtml
https://archive.is/toSSg

February 10, 2020 5:00 pm
"British traveller may have spread novel coronavirus across Europe, officials say", Global News

zerohedgedotcom/health/how-china-rigging-number-coronavirus-infections
https://archive.is/M4YhO

journal, energy, middle east, Russia: Nov 18, 2022 Russian oil price cap ‘the most ridiculous idea I’ve ever heard’, Steven Mnuchin

Trump’s former Treasury secretary calls G-7 Russian oil price cap ‘the most ridiculous idea I’ve ever heard’



DEALBREAKER

WEWORK CRYPTOCURRENCIES DEUTSCHE BANK BANKS HEDGE FUNDS MBAS NEWSLETTER BONUSES CAREERS

HOME › NEWS

Sleep Where Steve Mnuchin Hath Slept

And also where Louise Linton has likely cried during sex.

JON SHAZAR • UPDATED: JAN 14, 2019 · ORIGINAL: SEP 13, 2018

Steve Mnuchin is selling a home, and it's not one of the ones he illegallyforeclosed upon or the one with the horseshit stain on the porch. The Treasury Secretary is asking $32.5 million for a duplex at 740 Park that's been in his family for a half-century, and if you're the buyer, we wish you luck on your mental gymnastics trying not to imagine the dissociative face of Louise Linton during long, sleepless nights on her marital bed—at least before she discovered true love late last year—in one of the residence's five bedrooms.

The measure, which is due to be implemented early next month, is "*not only not feasible, I think it's the most ridiculous idea I've ever heard*," Mnuchin said.
The former official said that "*the market is going to set the price. So if you put sanctions on at higher prices, in a way you're just making the situation worse.*"

Planet, stats, journal: dec9 Climate-Change Lockdowns? Yup, They Are Actually Going There…

Authored by Michael Snyder via The End of The American Dream blog,

I suppose that we should have known that this was inevitable. After establishing a precedent during the pandemic, now the elite apparently intend to impose lockdowns for other reasons as well. What I have detailed in this article is extremely alarming, and I hope that you will share it with everyone that you can. Climate change lockdowns are here, and if people don't respond very strongly to this it is likely that we will soon see similar measures implemented all over the western world. The elite have always promised to do “whatever it takes” to fight climate change, and now we are finding out that they weren’t kidding.

Over in the UK, residents of Oxfordshire will now need a special permit to go from one “zone” of the city to another. But even if you have the permit, you will still only be allowed to go from one zone to another “a maximum of 100 days per year”…

Oxfordshire County Council yesterday approved plans to lock residents into one of six zones to ‘save the planet’ from global warming. The latest stage in the ’15 minute city’ agenda is to place electronic gates on key roads in and out of the city, confining residents to their own neighbourhoods.

Under the new scheme if residents want to leave their zone they will need permission from the Council who gets to decide who is worthy of freedom and who isn’t. Under the new scheme residents will be allowed to leave their zone a maximum of 100 days per year, but in order to even gain this every resident will have to register their car details with the council who will then track their movements via smart cameras round the city.

Are residents of Oxfordshire actually going to put up with this?

[ZH: Paul Joseph Watson notes that the local authorities in Oxford tried to ‘fact check’ the article claiming they’re imposing de facto ‘climate lockdowns’, but ended basically admitting that’s exactly what they’re doing…]

I never thought that we would actually see this sort of a thing get implemented in the western world, but here we are.

Of course there are a few people that are loudly objecting to this new plan, but one Oxfordshire official is pledging that “the controversial plan would go ahead whether people liked it or not”.

Ouch.

Meanwhile, **France has decided to completely ban certain short-haul flights in an attempt to reduce carbon emissions…**

France can now make you train rather than plane.

The European Commission (EC) has given French officials the green light to ban select domestic flights if the route in question can be completed via train in under two and a half hours.

The plan was first proposed in 2021 as a means to reduce carbon emissions. It originally called for a ban on eight short-haul flights, but the EC has only agreed to nix three that have quick, easy rail alternatives with several direct connections each way every day.

This is nuts.

But if the French public accepts these new restrictions, similar bans will inevitably be coming to other EU nations.

In the Netherlands, the government is actually going to be buying and shutting down approximately 3,000 farms in order to “reduce its nitrogen pollution”…

The Dutch government is planning to purchase and then close down up to 3,000 farms in an effort to comply with a European Union environmental mandate to slash emissions, according to reports.

Farmers in the Netherlands will be offered “well over” the worth of their farm in an effort to take up the offer voluntarily, The Telegraph reported. The country is attempting to reduce its nitrogen pollution and will make the purchases if not enough farmers accept buyouts.

“There is no better offer coming,” Christianne van der Wal, nitrogen minister, told the Dutch parliament on Friday.

This is literally suicidal.

We are in the beginning stages of an unprecedented global food crisis, and the Dutch government has decided that now is the time to shut down thousands of farms?

I don’t even have the words to describe how foolish this is.

Speaking of suicide, Canada has found a way to get people to stop emitting any carbon at all once their usefulness is over. Assisted suicide has become quite popular among the Canadians, and the number of people choosing that option keeps setting new records year after year…

Last year, more than 10,000 people in Canada – astonishingly that’s over three percent of all deaths there – ended their lives via euthanasia, an increase of a third on the previous year. And it’s likely to keep rising: next year, Canada is set to allow people to die exclusively for mental health reasons.

If you are feeling depressed, Canada has a solution for that.

And if you are physically disabled, Canada has a solution for that too…

Only last week, a jaw-dropping story emerged of how, five years into an infuriating battle to obtain a stairlift for her home, Canadian army veteran and Paralympian Christine Gauthier was offered an extraordinary alternative.

A Canadian official told her in 2019 that if her life was so difficult and she so ‘desperate’, the government would help her to kill herself. ‘I have a letter saying that if you’re so desperate, madam, we can offer you MAiD, medical assistance in dying,’ the paraplegic ex-army corporal testified to Canadian MPs.

“Medical assistance in dying” sounds so clinical.

But ultimately it is the greatest lockdown of all.

Because once you stop breathing, you won’t be able to commit any more “climate sins”.

All over the western world, authoritarianism is growing at a pace that is absolutely breathtaking.

If they can severely restrict travel and shut down farms today, what sort of tyranny will we see in the future?

Sadly, most people in the general population still do not understand what is happening.

Hopefully they will wake up before it is too late.

Stats, Africa, journal: dec8 it's their fault because they're growing khat.. https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-11-10/in-yemen-farmers-choose-narcotic-over-other-crops-exacerbating-climate-woes

"It is definitely not like coffee," Garrison Courtney, spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration, told the Times. "It is the same drug used by young kids who go out and shoot people in Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan. It is something that gives you a heightened sense of invincibility."

https://www.livescience.com/37948-what-is-khat-cathinone.html

war, middle east, sanctions, government: dec8 Xi JingPing makes first vist to Riyadh in 6 years

While $30 billion in deals will be signed between Beijing and Riyadh, something much bigger is at play which too few have come to properly appreciate.

Xi Jinping last visited the kingdom in 2016, to advance Riyadh’s participation in China’s newly unveiled Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). A January 2016 policy report by the Chinese government to all Arab states reads:

https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/imports/saudi-arabia#:~:text=United%20States%20Imports%20from%20Saudi%20Arabia%20was%20US%2413.93%20Billion,updated%20on%20December%20of%202022

ai, tech, stats, journal: dec8 robot can self-heal in about a minute after detecting damage, (real story)

Below is the person who headed the project. Looks like quite the guy.

https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2022/12/soft-robot-detects-damage-and-heals-itself

The project builds upon an earlier stretchable sensor, developed in 2016 in Shepherd’s Organic Robotics Lab. To create that sensor, researchers sent light through an optical waveguide, and a photodiode detected changes in the beam’s intensity to determine when the material was deformed, reports David Nutt in Cornell University.

https://www.wearable-technologies.com/2020/11/stretchable-sensor-provides-skin-like-sensation-to-robots-ar-vr/

censorship, china, stats: dec8 **The insanity of china. Disrespecting historical figures, even on overseas social media,**
can land one in prison.

CHINA / SOCIETY

China’s top court releases typical cases for insulting heroes, martyrs to safeguard Constitution’s authority

Published: Dec 08, 2022 10:11 PM Updated: Dec 08, 2022 10:05 PM

Flower baskets are presented as a tribute to martyrs during a commemorative event at the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) martyrs' cemetery in Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province, Sept. 30, 2022. (Xinhua/Li Ang)

China's Supreme People's Court Thursday released 10 typical cases concerning the protection of the rights and interests of martyrs and relevant memorial facilities. These cases include sentences for the insults and defamation of Chinese agricultural scientist Yuan Longping and Qi Fabao, the regimental commander from the PLA Xinjiang Military Command.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the promulgation of China’s current Constitution. The typical cases issued by the court not only aim to protect the rights and interests of heroes and martyrs, but also to further safeguard the authority of the Constitution to promote social equity and justice.

An official of China’s Supreme People's Court said that courts across the country will intensify efforts to protect the rights and interests of martyrs, punish illegal and criminal activities that infringe upon their reputations and honor, and properly handle cases filed by martyrs’ families and prosecutors that infringe upon the names, portraits, reputations and honor of martyrs. Civil liabilities shall be determined according to the law for the wrongdoers.

An offender who earlier defamed Chinese agricultural scientist Yuan Longping via overseas social media published a letter in a state-owned media outlet to express a sincere apology to the late scholar and his relatives, promising never to commit such an offense again.

The offender surnamed Zhang was ordered by a local court in Tianjin on May 19 to apologize publicly to eliminate the negative impact, after Zhang published and shared nine times an insulting post about Yuan via an overseas social media platform between May 22 and 24, 2021.

Luo Changping, a former online celebrity and journalist, made a public apology on May 5 for his offensive remarks about the martyrs of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) in a letter published in the Legal Daily newspaper.

Luo, who has more than 2 million followers on the Chinese social media platform Sina Weibo, posted humiliating remarks on CPVs last October when talking about the newly released movie *The Battle at Lake Changjin*.

Luo violated the right of reputation and the right of honor for martyrs by releasing nine satirizing and humiliating posts on Weibo since 2009, which have drawn more than 17 million views and comments. His posts angered many Chinese netizens who reported them to Sina Weibo.

Luo was sentenced to prison for seven months on May 5 in Sanya, South China's Hainan Province.

The Supreme People's Court vowed to continue to promote the implementation of the policy of preferential treatment for martyrs, ensure that martyrs’ families can enjoy pensions in accordance with laws and regulations, and enjoy better treatment in education, employment, housing and medical care.

At the same time, the country's legislation will also protect the martyrs' memorial facilities from infringement, and will punish the occupation and destruction of land and facilities within relevant areas.

The official from the Supreme Court noted that those who break the law will be liable for different civil and criminal liabilities or administrative penalties, depending on the severity of the act.

Global Times

globaltimesdotcn/page/202212/1281458dotshtml

https://perma.cc/MY5S-7BPU

stats, china, history, planet: dec8 Yuan Longping's discovery of hybrid rice in 1966, responsible for feeding 100 million people.

Yuan’s success inspired hybrid rice production in India, Vietnam and the Philippines. When Japanese geneticist Hiroshi Ikehashi identified a gene that promotes fertility in hybrids in the mid-1980s, Yuan was able to cross diverse plant strains. As a result, rice yields continued to rise when those of hybrid maize and wheat had plateaued. In 1999, it was estimated that the production increases brought about by hybrid rice fed an additional 100 million Chinese people each year (D. Normile *Science* **283**, 313; 1999).

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01732-2

censorship, government, stats, media, journal: dec8

colonel alerts public to military's new policy of informing law enforcement about domestic, non-terrorist, social media posts that could be constued as offensive, or contrary to popular opinion. This seems to be in line with recent announcements that conspiracy theorists will be watched because of growing domestic terror threats.

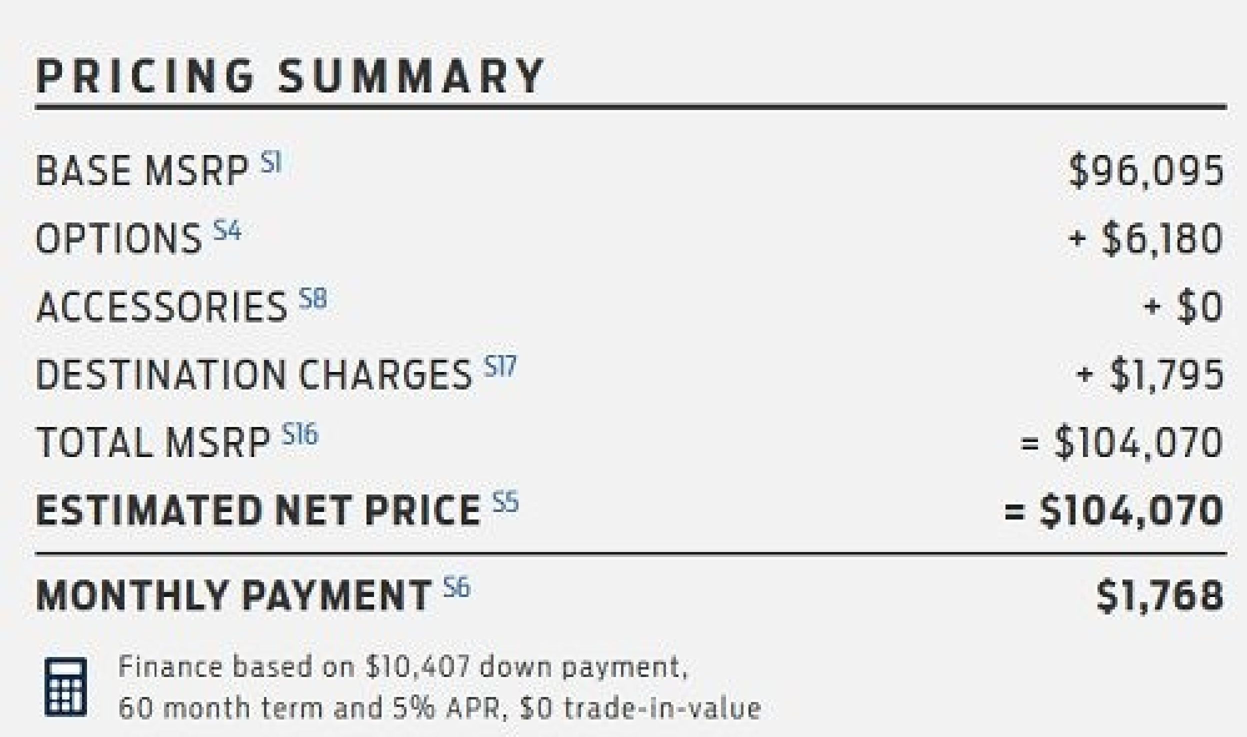
foxnewsdotcom/media/high-ranking-military-official-called-resign-targeting-mom-upset-pansexuality-posters-school

media, history: dec8 great women of history, but from the 1800's..

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amelia_Edwards

journal, inflation: dec8 [MSRP $104,070]:$1,768 a Month, with $10,407 Down, 5% APR, on a Ford Pickup

https://wolfstreet.com/2022/12/05/1768-a-month-with-10407-down-5-apr-on-a-ford-pickup-update-on-q3-new-vehicle-finance/



PRICING SUMMARY

BASE MSRP [S1]	$96,095
OPTIONS [S4]	+ $6,180
ACCESSORIES [S8]	+ $0
DESTINATION CHARGES [S17]	+ $1,795
TOTAL MSRP [S16]	= $104,070
ESTIMATED NET PRICE [S5]	**= $104,070**
MONTHLY PAYMENT [S6]	**$1,768**

Finance based on $10,407 down payment,
60 month term and 5% APR, $0 trade-in-value

Media, journal: Dec8 Devout Christian, TED CRUZ’s Daughter STABS HERSELF...(she's 14)

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11510811/Girl-14-self-inflicted-knife-wounds-Senator-Ted-Cruzs-home.html https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hO_MkcZh-VY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpIpSfaouP8

ai, tech, journal: dec8 new york post: chatgpt could elimate google and COUNTLESS JOBS

We've trained a model called ChatGPT which interacts in a conversational way. The dialogue format makes it possible for ChatGPT to answer followup questions, admit its mistakes, challenge incorrect premises, and reject inappropriate requests. ChatGPT is a sibling model to InstructGPT, which is trained to follow an instruction in a prompt and provide a detailed response.

https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/

Rise of the bots: 'Scary' AI ChatGPT could eliminate Google within 2 years

https://nypost.com/2022/12/06/scary-chatgpt-could-render-google-obsolete-in-two-years/

war, history, journal: dec8 649 Argentine military personnel were killed by British Soldiers during the Falklands War of 1982.

Below is the official statement from argentinian foreign affairs, found on their webpage.

The Question of the Malvinas Islands has been, is and will remain a key issue for all Argentine nationals, as stated in the First Transitory

Provision of the Argentine Constitution: "The Argentine Nation ratifies its legitimate and imprescriptible sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime and insular areas, as they are an integral part of the national territory. The recovery of those territories and the full exercise of sovereignty over them, while respecting the lifestyle of their inhabitants and in accordance with the principles of International Law, are a permanent and unrenounceable goal of the Argentine people." HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

weird citation found on Wikipedia for falklands war:

Falklands War

The conflict was a major episode in the protracted dispute over the territories' sovereignty. Argentina asserted (and maintains) that the islands are Argentine territory,[4] and the Argentine government thus characterised its military action as the reclamation of its own territory. The British government regarded the action as an invasion of a territory that had been a Crown colony since 1841. Falkland Islanders, who have inhabited the islands since the early 19th century, are predominantly descendants of British settlers, and strongly favour British sovereignty. Neither state officially declared war, although both governments declared the islands a war zone.

Found in citation number 4, there is a website calling itself nationaturk with what seems to be no identifyable authors or owners. Very strange.

English/World/America/Argentina to reaffirm Sovereignty Rights over The Falkland Islands

AmericaBreaking NewsDailyEuropeHotLatin AmericaPoliticsWorld

Argentina to reaffirm Sovereignty Rights over The Falkland Islands

4 3,200 1 minute read

The Falklands War between Argentina and Britain in 1982

The Argentine government reaffirmed once again their inalienable sovereignty rights over the Falkland Islands, on commemorating the 179th anniversary of the occupation of that territory by British forces.

Buenos Aires / NationalTurk – The Argentine government reaffirmed once again their inalienable sovereignty rights over the Falkland Islands, on commemorating the 179th anniversary of the occupation of that territory by British forces.

The illegal colonial occupation, which dates from January 3, 1833, is currently exacerbated by the “provocative and continued disregard to international law shown by the persistent reluctance of the United Kingdom to resume negotiations” on the subject, informed the Argentina Foreign Ministry.

The Falklands War between Argentina and Britain

The Falklands War began on Friday 2 April 1982, when Argentine forces invaded and occupied the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. The British government dispatched a naval task force to engage the Argentine Navy and Air Force, and retake the islands by amphibious assault. The resulting conflict lasted 74 days and ended with the Argentine surrender on 14 June 1982, which returned the islands to British control. 649 Argentine military personnel, 255 British military personnel and three Falkland Islanders died during the conflict. It remains the most recent external conflict to be fought by the UK without any allied states and the only external Argentine war since the 1880s. Us gave poliştical and logistical support to its little brother UK in the Falkland Islands war, though.

Whom belongs the Falklands ?

In a statement on the anniversary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that this illegitimacy is exacerbated by the presence of the military base established in the South Atlantic, falsely based on defence needs, as well as the constant development of unilateral illegal activities in the disputed area, which covers not only the Falklands, but also the South Georgia and South Sandwich islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

Referring to the exploration and oil prospecting and to the military exercises being carried out by the UK in the disputed area, the text stresses that they are contrary to resolutions of the UN General Assembly.

Other events that stand out in Argentina's defense history is the loss of their newly retrofitted submarine due to a malfunction in 2017, and the Russian support given to their military during the Falkans war with Britian, something that was apparently a secret according to this article:

"Despite this information, much more remains to be known about the secret involvement of both the Soviet Union and the West in the Falklands conflict. Until the release of secret information that still gathers dust in state archives, the guesswork is left to us."

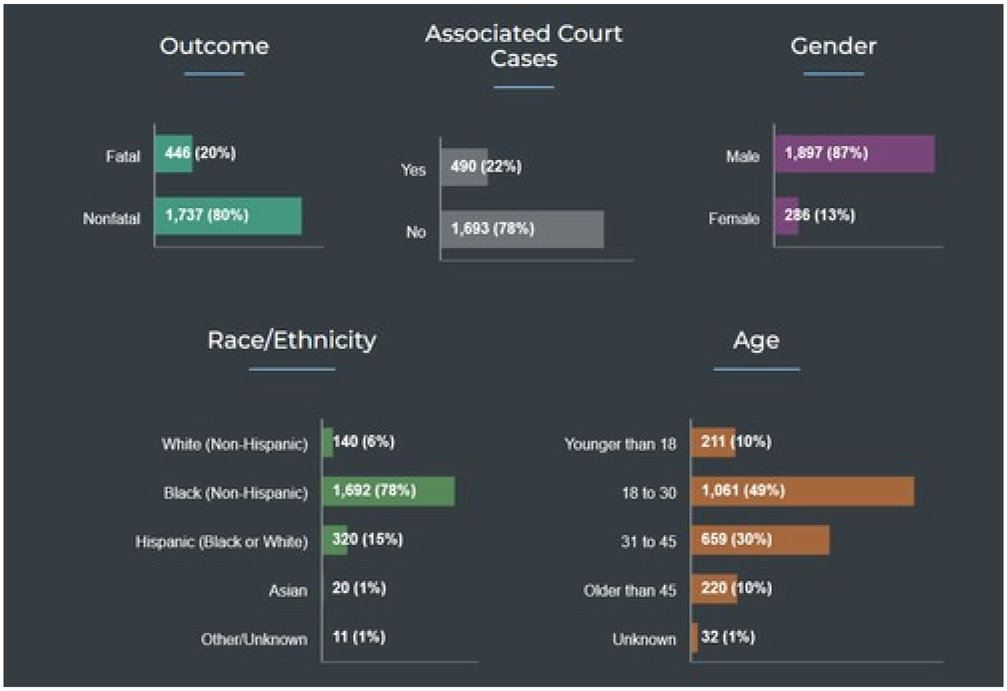
nationalturkdotcom/en/argentina-to-reaffirm-sovereignty-rights-over-the-falkland-islands-15712/

Media, journal, censorship, government: dec8 More evidence black neighborhoods are purposefully being turned into warzones. They hate them. (find source for below article)

It's no secret Philadelphia is a dangerous city.

In 2019, the murder rate was **22.47 per 100,000** residents according to FBI data, with 331 homicides that year. Fast forward three years, **and there have been 480 murders *year-to-date*.**

Most affected are black males between the age of 18 and 45.



According to city statistics released in September, **overall shootings have increased by 3%** over last year, while **violent crime is up 7%**. Robberies involving guns are up 60%, while rapes are down more than 25%. Property crimes are up **over 30%. Businesses getting hit particularly hard - with commercial burglaries up a staggering 50%**, according to *Axios Philadelphia*. What's more, **the city's drug crisis is spiraling further out of control with a new drug called "Tranq"** - an anesthetic and pain reliever used to treat horses and cattle, and which turns people into zombies.

Crime is so out of control that the Philadelphia City Council recently approved a **10 p.m. curfew** for anyone under the age of 18 - making a temporary summertime law permanent.

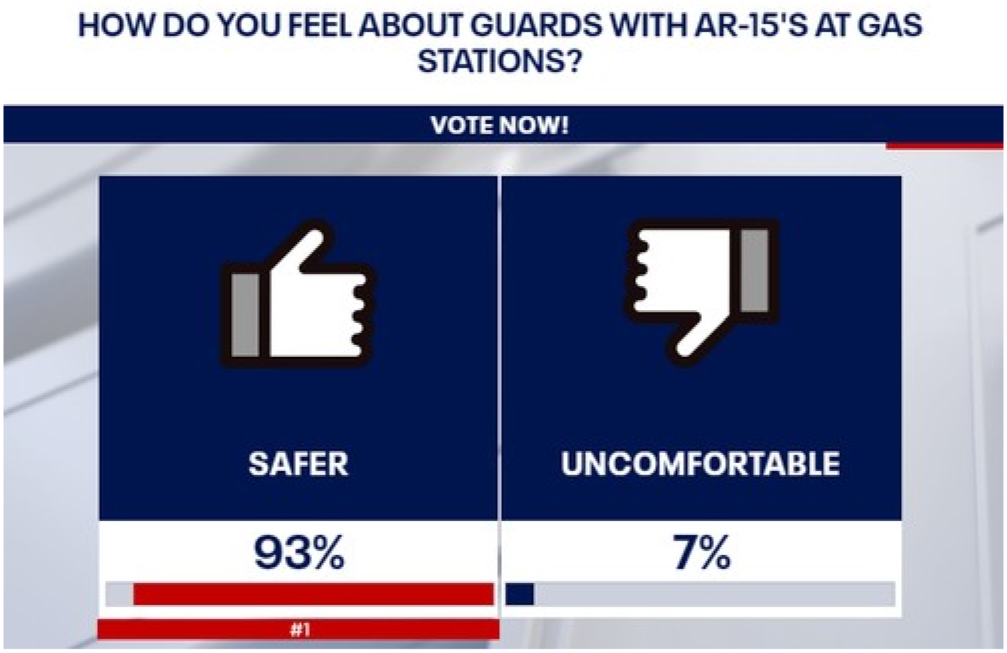
To combat the crime wave, **Philadelphia gas station owners have turned to hiring heavily armed guards**.

"**They are forcing us to hire the security, high-level security, state level**," said Karco gas station owner, Neil Patel, who has recruited Kevlar-clad S.I.T.E. agents packing AR-15s or shotguns. "We are tired of this nonsense; robbery, drug trafficking, hanging around, gangs," *Fox5* reports.

The final straw for Patel after his business was reportedly vandalized by young people who stole an ATM machine. His car has also been a casualty of crime, according to the report.

"We wear Kevlar, we are trained, my guards go to training every other week, they're proficient with [their guns] and with their taser, they know the law," said police chief Andre Boyer.

A realtime online poll on *Fox5*'s website reveals that **93% say they feel safer with guards who have AR-15s at gas stations**:



When asked about residents who are concerned over the gun-toting guards, Patel said: "I listen to them, but according to some people, violent people, they carry the guns, they're not afraid of them? This is the protection for the neighborhood and the customers."

War, middle east, erdogan: dec8 900 troops in sdf controlled areas in northern syria, kurdistan region

The US has about 900 troops in SDF-controlled areas of Syria, keeping the territory out of the hands of Damascus. The US paused patrols with the SDF as a result of recent Turkish airstrikes but said they resumed this week.

U.S. army creates own cogen operator through, well, to put it simply: theft. I know I sound like a niave civilian here, but that's what it is, cogeneration-by-theft.

John Kirby, spokesman for the National Security Council, told reporters Friday that, as in the past, when there are Turkish operations in northern Syria, it has had an impact on the counter-ISIS operations as SDF forces concentrate on defending themselves in northern Syria. The U.S. said the SDF’s decision to pause its missions against the Islamic State group triggered the U.S. decision to do so as well

War, Germany, holy roman empire, journal: germany has invaded france 3 times over the past 150 years

Germany had invaded France twice in living memory, in World War I and World War II, and also defeated France in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71

Stats, china: asian protectionism and centralized control is apparently nothing new

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haijin#Ming

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirteen_Factories

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canton_System

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_opium_in_China#Early_history

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Century_of_humiliation

This puke is as ignorant as the fools that bred him. It's worth watching, "This is a long, but extremely informative explanation of China's "Century of Humiliation" and will leave no doubt in your mind as to why China wants a unified society and a powerful military.

Historian Carl Zha of the Silk & Steel podcast joins me to talk about China's "Century of Humiliation" at the hands of Western powers and how it connects directly to US-Chinese tensions today.

- How the US has repeatedly made treaties and agreements with China only to betray them when US interests demand;
- The West's historical use of Hong Kong and Taiwan as hubs to destabilize and dominate over the rest of China;
- The historical use by the West of China for cheap labor and for markets to exploit;
- The threat China faced for lacking a strong military and a unified population;
- The clear motivations China has for a military and political system used to protect itself from further interference and exploitation; ' ,,,,,, New Atlas, Brian Berletic . . ..

China's "Century of Humiliation" & US-Chinese Tensions Today w/Carl Zha
2 m
rtdotcom/news/567784-arm-taiwan-not-ukraine-hawley/

stats, war, history: dec7 cool medium page

jeff-kaye.mediumdotcom/secret-plan-revealed-cia-told-to-destroy-those-supporting-communist-germ-warfare-myth-f466dfb071be

censorship, journal: dec7 New legislation could result in doctors losing their license to practice medicine if they refuse to regurgitate the official covid talking point put out by the CDC

Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 2098 into law in September, meaning that starting in 2023, doctors who disseminate what the state defines as "misinformation or disinformation related to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus" can face disciplinary action by the California Medical Board, including being stripped of their licenses.

"It essentially ends your ability to combat bad ideas put out by public health because you have this looming power that over you that essentially can end your career," says Bhattacharya.

Media, stats, journal: dec7 America 2022...

investmentwatchblogdotcom/a-north-philly-owner-says-hes-had-enough-violent-crime-at-his-gas-station-so-hes-hired-these-guys-to-protect-his-customers-and-store/

stats, tech: dec7 Short term memory problems can be improved with laser therapy

https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/2022/short-term-memory-problems-can-be-improved-with-laser-therapy

stats, journal: un-peer reviewed research posts, Cornell U

https://arxiv.org/

stats, tech: dec6 3-d printed violin

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/3d-print-low-cost-durable-violin

stats, censorship, journal: dec6 Western Australian mans $580k life savings disappears from Ubank account

https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/banking/western-australian-mans-580k-live-savings-disappear-from-ubank-account/news-story/d4ba3f60cf0ebbdecdd1f2ed88188afd

stats, ai, tech, censorship: dec6 Microsoft sacks journalists to replace them with robots

https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/may/30/microsoft-sacks-journalists-to-replace-them-with-robots

china, war, sanctions, Russia, journal: dec6 permalink:globaltimes in black-and-white today, the 1st day after the 1st attack INSIDE Russia.

https://perma.cc/U5TD-JB7R

journal, markets: Russian Oil Sanctions Send Prices Of Old Tankers To New Records

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, DEC 06, 2022 - 12:20 PM

(The biggest joke after all the oil price cap fanfare is that according to Reuters, buyers must provide documents such as invoices to shipping companies or insurers to show they stuck to the cap **but it will be essentially down to self-monitoring, with no penalties for providers of shipping services if they operated in good faith.** One can imaging how efficient self-monitoring will be when there are millions of dollars daily on the line for those who breach the rules.)

zerohedgedotcom/markets/russian-oil-sanctions-send-prices-old-tankers-new-records

Sadly, the same could be said today about the financial services sector, with the regulators literally owned and controlled by the very companies they are meant to regulate. Even worse, if they do end up finally getting in trouble, its almost always a pittance, at least relative to their yearly, or even quarterly earnings in some cases.

(The European Commission has fined **Bank of America Merrill Lynch**, **Crédit Agricole**, and **Credit Suisse** a total of € 28 494 000 for breaching EU antitrust rules.

The four investment banks participated in a cartel through a core group of traders working in their USD SSA bonds divisions, who were in regular contact with each other. *A bond is a type of debt security that enables entities to raise cash. Bonds are issued on the primary market and then traded by financial institutions on the secondary market. On the secondary market, potential customers, such as investment and pension funds, approach the banks in order to get an independent quotation of price and quantity available of the bonds of a specific issuer.* Bonds are distinguished by currency. This particular case refers to SSA bonds issued in US dollars.

The traders, who were in direct competition, typically logged into multilateral chatrooms or bilateral chatrooms on Bloomberg terminals. They knew each other on a personal basis, thus creating a closed circle of trust. They provided each other with recurring updates on their trading activities, exchanged commercially sensitive information, coordinated on prices shown to their customers, or to the market in general and aligned their trading activities on the secondary market for these bonds. The conduct took place during a five-year period and affected the trading of US denominated SSA bonds on the secondary market in the entire EEA.)

ecdoteuropadoteu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2004

(Whatever the reason, the darkness that started growing around the crimes committed by the big Wall Street banks during the Obama administration has now evolved into such a complete dark curtain that regulators are refusing to say what the crimes actually are that are being settled for huge amounts of money.

On October 7, the Federal Reserve and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) announced consent decrees with Citigroup, the third largest bank in the country. The OCC imposed a $400 million fine on Citigroup's federally-insured commercial bank, Citibank, and stated in its Consent Order that it had "identified unsafe or unsound practices with respect to the Bank's internal controls, including, among other things, an absence of clearly defined roles and responsibilities and noncompliance with multiple laws and regulations."

But for the first time in more than 35 years of our reading these Consent Orders against Wall Street banks, the documents from both the OCC and Federal Reserve failed to specify exactly what crimes the bank had committed. We were so stunned by a $400 million fine for crimes that can't be put in print or shared with the public, that we penned the headline: Citigroup Is Slapped with a $400 Million Fine for Doing Something So Bad It Can't Be Spoken Out Loud.

Yesterday, as further proof that this is a pattern coming out of the Trump administration, the OCC did the exact same thing with JPMorgan Chase, the largest bank in the country which on September 29 admitted to its fourth and fifth criminal felony charges brought by the U.S. Department of Justice in the past six years.

Yesterday, the OCC fined JPMorgan Chase $250 million without detailing any specific crimes it had committed. The Consent Order simply said the bank had, for several years, "maintained a weak management and control framework for its fiduciary activities and had an insufficient audit program for, and inadequate internal controls over, those activities. Among other things, the Bank had deficient risk management practices and an insufficient framework for avoiding conflicts of interest."

A Wall Street bank like JPMorgan Chase that has brazenly committed five felonies for very specific crimes, doesn't get fined $250 million for non-specific crimes. Something very bad has once again happened at JPMorgan Chase and its federal regulators who are all rushing to get new jobs on Wall Street, or at Wall Street's outside law firms, don't want to talk about it.)

Source: the above is an exerpt from the website wall street on parade, a blog dedicated to exposing corruption in financial markets. It has been in operation since the financial crisis of 2008. Nobody knows who they are and they still have yet to create any social media accounts. They have one video on youtube.

Government, inflation, planet, journal, stats: dec6 30% of the EU's 2 trillion NextGenerationEU fund is planned to go towards 'fighting climate change'

"The palace of parliament is one of the biggest buildings in the world by space. It was built between 1983 and 1989 by order of the dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu. To create it historical buildings containing 40,000 flats and a dozen churches were destroyed. The building costs were around 40 % of the gross national income of the country." https://the-passenger.de/2021/09/29/palatul-parlamentului-bucuresti/

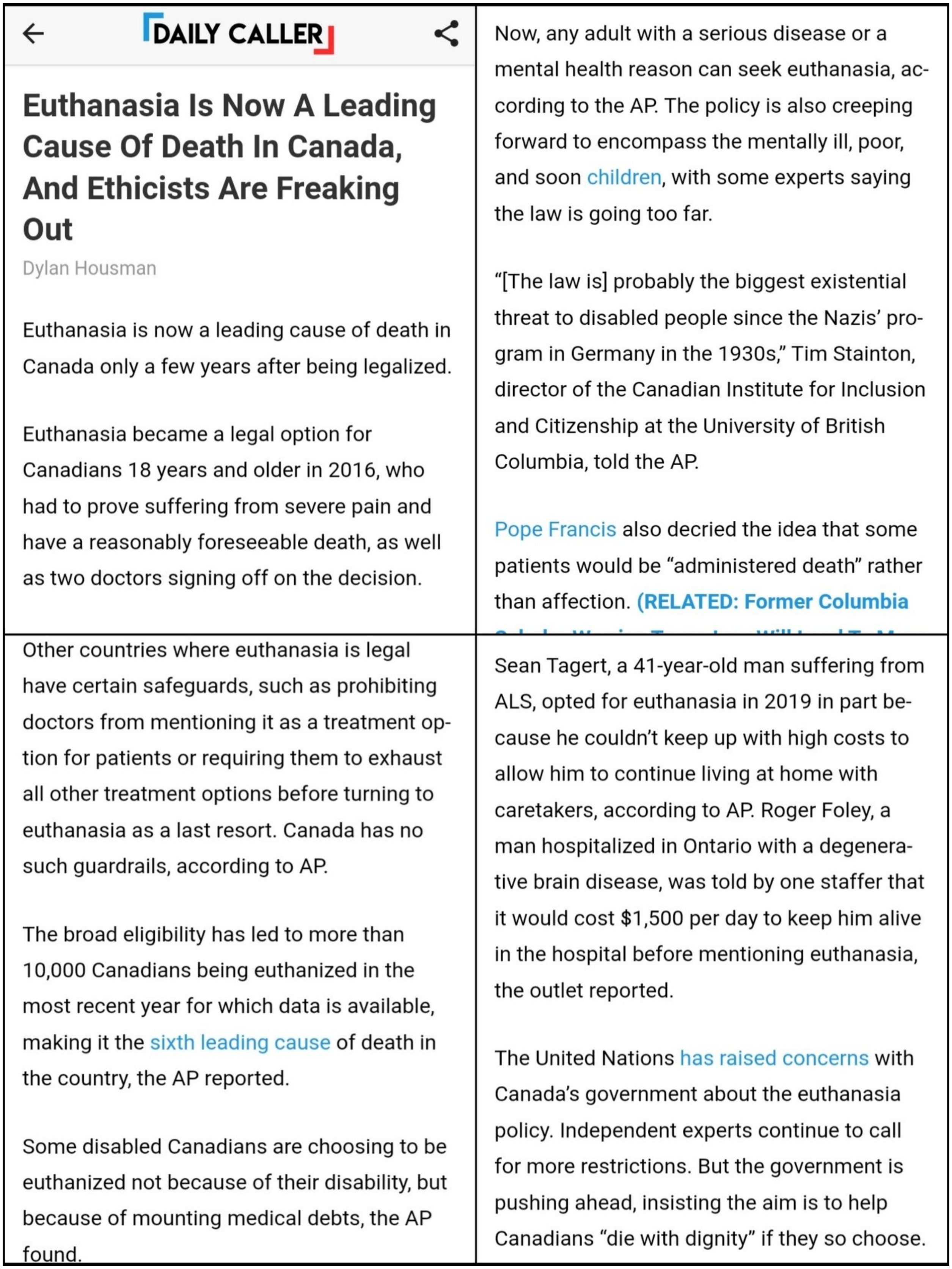
...He was executed on a public display on that very same year. This is what the building looks like 20 years later...

The Palace of the Parliament is the heaviest building in the world, weighing about 4,098,500,000 kilograms (9.04 billion pounds; 4.10 million tonnes), also being the second largest administrative building in the world.[3] (The Great Pyramid of Giza is about 50% heavier.)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palace_of_the_Parliament

The trial of Nicolae and Elena Ceaușescu was held on 25 December 1989 by an Exceptional Military Tribunal, a drumhead court-martial created at the request of a newly formed group called the National Salvation Front. Its outcome was pre-determined, and it resulted in guilty verdicts and death sentences for former Romanian President and Romanian Communist Party General Secretary, Nicolae Ceaușescu, and his wife, Elena Ceaușescu.[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trial_and_execution_of_Nicolae_and_Elena_Ceau%C8%99escu

journal, censorship, government: dec5 (The yolo generation)



DAILY CALLER

Euthanasia Is Now A Leading Cause Of Death In Canada, And Ethicists Are Freaking Out

Dylan Housman

Euthanasia is now a leading cause of death in Canada only a few years after being legalized.

Euthanasia became a legal option for Canadians 18 years and older in 2016, who had to prove suffering from severe pain and have a reasonably foreseeable death, as well as two doctors signing off on the decision.

Now, any adult with a serious disease or a mental health reason can seek euthanasia, according to the AP. The policy is also creeping forward to encompass the mentally ill, poor, and soon children, with some experts saying the law is going too far.

"[The law is] probably the biggest existential threat to disabled people since the Nazis' program in Germany in the 1930s," Tim Stainton, director of the Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship at the University of British Columbia, told the AP.

Pope Francis also decried the idea that some patients would be "administered death" rather than affection. **(RELATED: Former Columbia**

Other countries where euthanasia is legal have certain safeguards, such as prohibiting doctors from mentioning it as a treatment option for patients or requiring them to exhaust all other treatment options before turning to euthanasia as a last resort. Canada has no such guardrails, according to AP.

The broad eligibility has led to more than 10,000 Canadians being euthanized in the most recent year for which data is available, making it the sixth leading cause of death in the country, the AP reported.

Some disabled Canadians are choosing to be euthanized not because of their disability, but because of mounting medical debts, the AP found.

Sean Tagert, a 41-year-old man suffering from ALS, opted for euthanasia in 2019 in part because he couldn't keep up with high costs to allow him to continue living at home with caretakers, according to AP. Roger Foley, a man hospitalized in Ontario with a degenerative brain disease, was told by one staffer that it would cost $1,500 per day to keep him alive in the hospital before mentioning euthanasia, the outlet reported.

The United Nations has raised concerns with Canada's government about the euthanasia policy. Independent experts continue to call for more restrictions. But the government is pushing ahead, insisting the aim is to help Canadians "die with dignity" if they so choose.

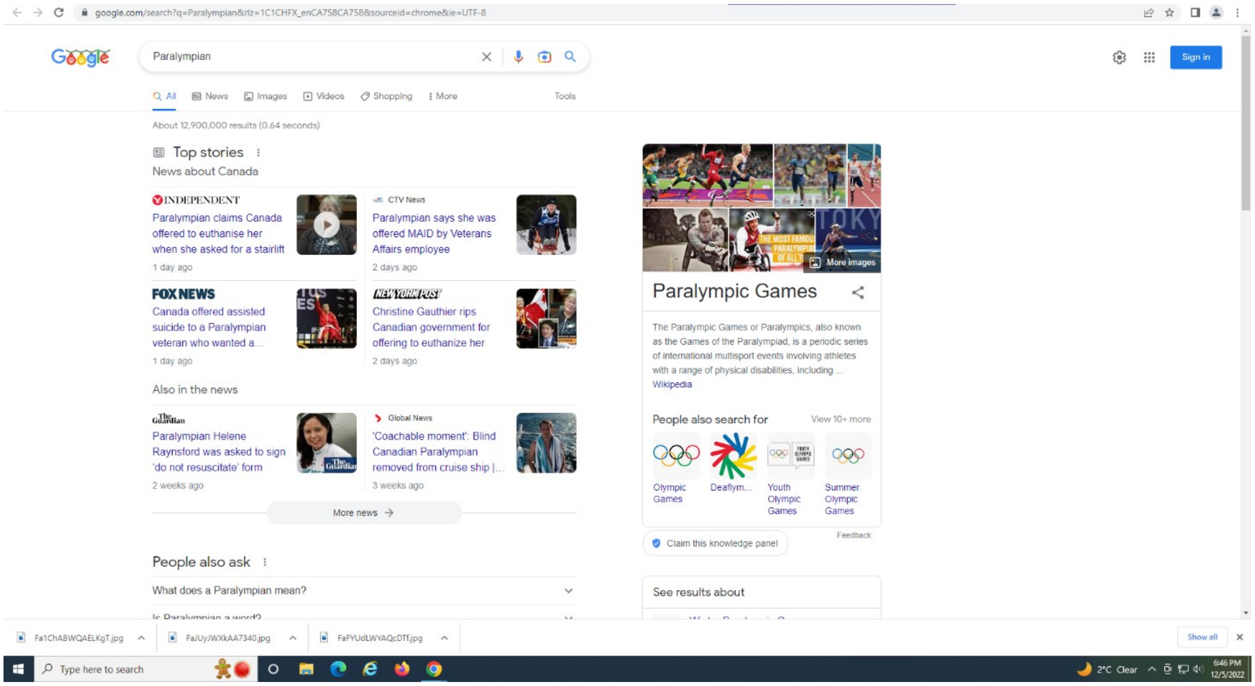
FOX NEWS

CANADA · **Published** August 22, 2022 11:38am EDT

Canadian soldier suffering with PTSD offered euthanasia by Veterans Affairs

Medical assistance in dying, or euthanasia, was legalized in Canada in 2016

By **Michael Lee | Fox News**


google.com/search?q=Paralympian&rlz=1C1CHFX_enCA758CA758&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
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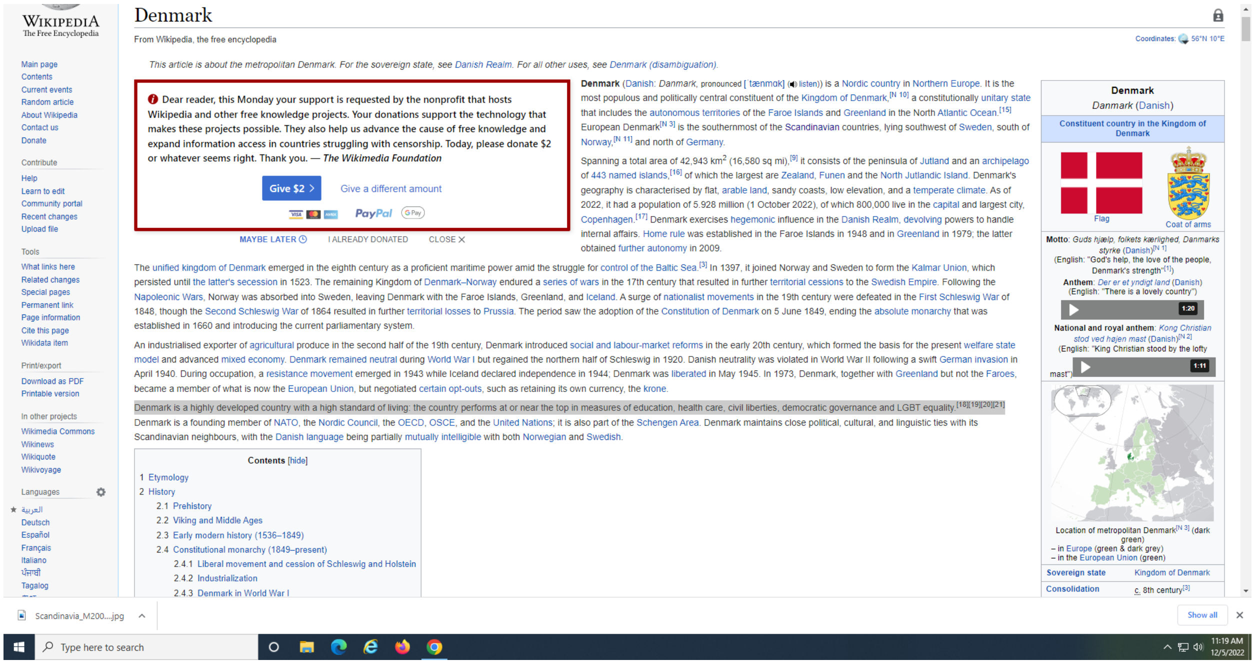

Denmark

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the metropolitan Denmark. For the sovereign state, see Danish Realm. For all other uses, see Denmark (disambiguation).

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Denmark (Danish: *Danmark*, pronounced [ˈtænmɑk] (listen)) is a Nordic country in Northern Europe. It is the most populous and politically central constituent of the Kingdom of Denmark,[N 10] a constitutionally unitary state that includes the autonomous territories of the Faroe Islands and Greenland in the North Atlantic Ocean.[15] European Denmark[N 3] is the southernmost of the Scandinavian countries, lying southwest of Sweden, south of Norway,[N 11] and north of Germany.

Spanning a total area of 42,943 km^2 (16,580 sq mi),[9] it consists of the peninsula of Jutland and an archipelago of 443 named islands,[16] of which the largest are Zealand, Funen and the North Jutlandic Island. Denmark's geography is characterised by flat, arable land, sandy coasts, low elevation, and a temperate climate. As of 2022, it had a population of 5.928 million (1 October 2022), of which 800,000 live in the capital and largest city, Copenhagen.[17] Denmark exercises hegemonic influence in the Danish Realm, devolving powers to handle internal affairs. Home rule was established in the Faroe Islands in 1948 and in Greenland in 1979; the latter obtained further autonomy in 2009.

The unified kingdom of Denmark emerged in the eighth century as a proficient maritime power amid the struggle for control of the Baltic Sea.[3] In 1397, it joined Norway and Sweden to form the Kalmar Union, which persisted until the latter's secession in 1523. The remaining Kingdom of Denmark–Norway endured a series of wars in the 17th century that resulted in further territorial cessions to the Swedish Empire. Following the Napoleonic Wars, Norway was absorbed into Sweden, leaving Denmark with the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Iceland. A surge of nationalist movements in the 19th century were defeated in the First Schleswig War of 1848, though the Second Schleswig War of 1864 resulted in further territorial losses to Prussia. The period saw the adoption of the Constitution of Denmark on 5 June 1849, ending the absolute monarchy that was established in 1660 and introducing the current parliamentary system.

An industrialised exporter of agricultural produce in the second half of the 19th century, Denmark introduced social and labour-market reforms in the early 20th century, which formed the basis for the present welfare state model and advanced mixed economy. Denmark remained neutral during World War I but regained the northern half of Schleswig in 1920. Danish neutrality was violated in World War II following a swift German invasion in April 1940. During occupation, a resistance movement emerged in 1943 while Iceland declared independence in 1944; Denmark was liberated in May 1945. In 1973, Denmark, together with Greenland but not the Faroes, became a member of what is now the European Union, but negotiated certain opt-outs, such as retaining its own currency, the krone.

Denmark is a highly developed country with a high standard of living: the country performs at or near the top in measures of education, health care, civil liberties, democratic governance and LGBT equality.[18][19][20][21] Denmark is a founding member of NATO, the Nordic Council, the OECD, OSCE, and the United Nations; it is also part of the Schengen Area. Denmark maintains close political, cultural, and linguistic ties with its Scandinavian neighbours, with the Danish language being partially mutually intelligible with both Norwegian and Swedish.

Contents [hide]

1 Etymology
2 History
  2.1 Prehistory
  2.2 Viking and Middle Ages
  2.3 Early modern history (1536–1849)
  2.4 Constitutional monarchy (1849–present)
    2.4.1 Liberal movement and cession of Schleswig and Holstein
    2.4.2 Industrialization
    2.4.3 Denmark in World War I

Denmark
Danmark (Danish)

Constituent country in the Kingdom of Denmark

Motto: *Guds hjælp, folkets kærlighed, Danmarks styrke* (Danish)[N 1]
(English: "God's help, the love of the people, Denmark's strength"[1])

Anthem: *Der er et yndigt land* (Danish)
(English: "There is a lovely country")

National and royal anthem: *Kong Christian stod ved højen mast* (Danish)[N 2]
(English: "King Christian stood by the lofty mast")

Location of metropolitan Denmark[N 3] (dark green)
– in Europe (green & dark grey)
– in the European Union (green)

Sovereign state	Kingdom of Denmark
Consolidation	c. 8th century[3]

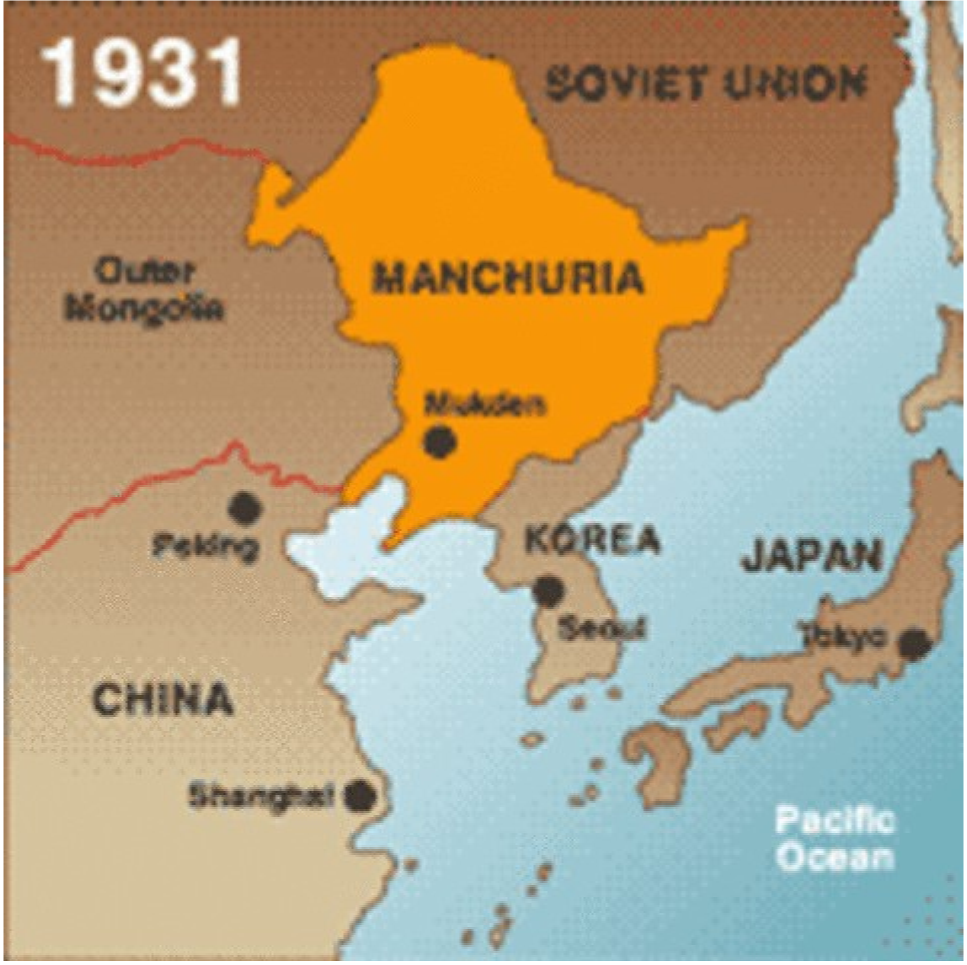
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denmark

stats, war, middle east, readlater: dec5 https://www.counterextremism.com/extremists/mohammad-pakpour has all these slideshows.

History, china, journal: dec5 christians and chinese fighting, boxer rebellion, opium wears

A major cause of discontent in north China was missionary activity. The Treaty of Tientsin (Tianjin) and the Convention of Peking, signed in 1860 after the Second Opium War, had granted foreign missionaries the freedom to preach anywhere in China and to buy land on which to build churches.[19] On 1 November 1897, a band of armed men who were perhaps members of the Big Swords Society stormed the residence of a German missionary from the Society of the Divine Word and killed two priests. This attack is known as the Juye Incident. When Kaiser Wilhelm II received news of these murders, he dispatched the German East Asia Squadron to occupy Jiaozhou Bay on the southern coast of the Shandong peninsula.[20]

History, china, war: Mukden Incident (pretext for invasion of manchuria, (sept181931)


1931
SOVIET UNION
Outer Mongolia
MANCHURIA
Mukden
Peking
KOREA
JAPAN
Seoul
Tokyo
CHINA
Shanghai
Pacific Ocean

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_invasion_of_Manchuria

On September 18, 1931, Lieutenant Suemori Kawamoto of the Independent Garrison Unit of the 29th Japanese Infantry Regiment (□□□□□) detonated a small quantity of dynamite[4] close to a railway line owned by Japan's South Manchuria Railway near Mukden (now Shenyang).[5] The explosion was so weak that it failed to destroy the track, and a train passed over it minutes later. The Imperial Japanese Army accused Chinese dissidents of the act and responded with a full invasion that led to the occupation of Manchuria, in which Japan established its puppet state of Manchukuo six months later. The deception was exposed by the Lytton Report of 1932, leading Japan to diplomatic isolation and its March 1933 withdrawal from the League of Nations.[6]

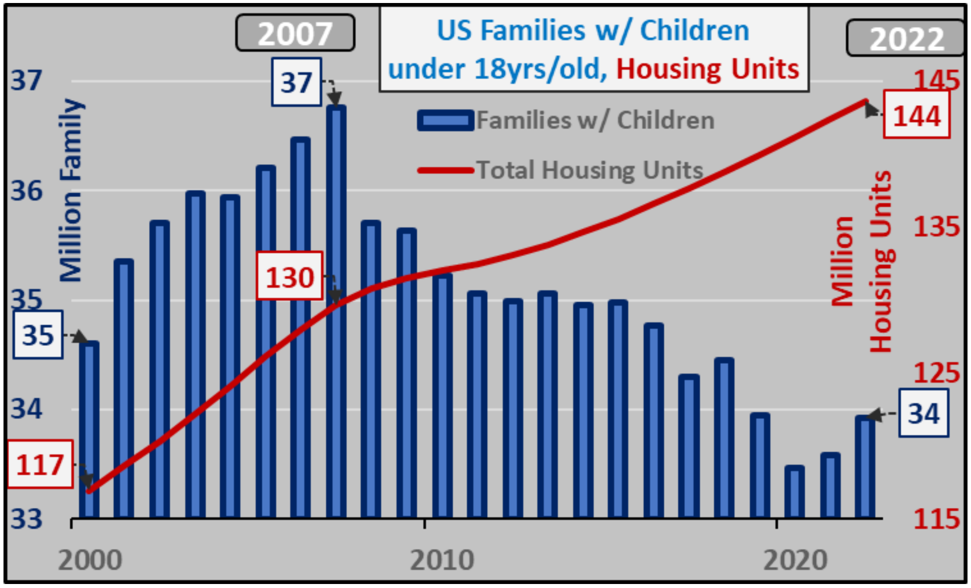
also known as the Liutiao Lake Incident

stats, iran, war, middle east: dec4 Iranian intervention in Iraq (2014–present) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranian_intervention_in_Iraq_(2014%E2%80%93present)

journal, readlater: cool website:blacklistednews.com

media, government: Boy, 10, 'shot mother dead after she refused to buy him a virtual reality headset' on Amazon https://news.sky.com/story/boy-10-shot-mother-dead-after-she-refused-to-buy-him-a-virtual-reality-headset-12759406

stats, government, housing: dec4 **cool demographics chart beside total housing units (need to find source)**



Islam, media, journal: **why islam should be banned.** **https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-63838213**

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history, government, journal: dec3 **perfect, quick ACTUAL breakdown of the british east india companys entrance into india, complete with full timeline and embedded links**

Company rule in India

The company's victory under Robert Clive in the 1757 Battle of Plassey and another victory in the 1764 Battle of Buxar (in Bihar), consolidated the company's power, and forced emperor Shah Alam II to appoint it the *diwan*, or revenue collector, of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. The Company thus became the de facto ruler of large areas of the lower Gangetic plain by 1773. It also proceeded by degrees to expand its dominions around Bombay and Madras. The Anglo-Mysore Wars (1766–1799) and the Anglo-Maratha Wars (1772–1818) left it in control of large areas of India south of the Sutlej River. With the defeat of the Marathas, no native power represented a threat for the Company any longer.[11]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Company_rule_in_India

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Raj stats, war, Erdogan, middle east: dec3 **2019 Turkish offensive into north-eastern Syria** **https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Turkish_offensive_into_north-eastern_Syria**

middle east, Erdogan, war: dec3(OCT152019) Russia has officially stated that Turkey's invasion of north-eastern Syria was unacceptable. The article below is from FT (find link later)

Russia has said Turkey's invasion of north-eastern Syria is unacceptable and was not agreed with Moscow in advance.
Turkey has launched an assault into Syria to claim territory held by Kurdish groups after US troops withdrew from the area. Russia in response brokered a deal between the Kurds and the government in Damascus for the Syrian army to move into the territory.

"We always called for restraint from Turkey, we always believed that some kind of military operation in Syria was unacceptable," Alexander Lavrentiev, President Vladimir Putin's special envoy for Syria, told reporters.

Mr Lavrentiev also said that "real time" negotiations were taking place between the Turkish and Syrian governments amid the threat of armed conflict between the two states' militaries.

"A dialogue between Turkey and Syria is taking place, it is taking place continuously," he said, in remarks published by state-run news agencies. "Negotiations are proceeding in real time between the defence and foreign ministries and special services."

Russia, which backs Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, is the most powerful foreign military in the more than eight-year-long civil war in Syria.

Erdogan, war, journal: dec3 they kidnapped the general of turkey and tried to legitimately stage a coup

"Hulusi Akar (born 12 March 1952) is the current Turkish minister of defense and a former four-star Turkish Armed Forces general who served as the 29th chief of the Turkish General Staff.[2] Akar also served as a brigade commander in various NATO engagements including the International Security Assistance Force against the Taliban insurgency, Operation Deliberate Force during the Bosnian War, the Kosovo Force during the Kosovo War, as well as overseeing much of the Turkish involvement in the Syrian Civil War.[3][4][5]"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hulusi_Akar
https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2016/07/16/turkeys-chief-of-staff-hulusi-akar-rescued-from-pro-coup-soldiers

After decades of negationiations for entry into the EU, all talks officially came to a standstill on February 20th, 2019.

"Turkey is negotiating its accession to the European Union (EU) as a member state, following its application to become a full member of the European Economic Community (EEC), the predecessor of the EU, on 14 April 1987.[2]

After the ten founding members in 1949, Turkey became one of the first new members (the 13th member) of the Council of Europe in 1950.[3][4] The country became an associate member of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1963 and was an associate member of the Western European Union from 1992 to its end in 2011. Turkey signed a Customs Union agreement with the EU in 1995 and was officially recognised as a candidate for full membership on 12 December 1999, at the Helsinki summit of the European Council.

Negotiations for full membership were started on 3 October 2005.[5] Progress was slow: out of the 35 chapters necessary to complete the accession process, only 16 had been opened and one had been closed by May 2016.[6] The early 2016 refugee deal between Turkey and the European Union was intended to accelerate negotiations after previous stagnation and allow visa-free travel through Europe for Turks.[7]

Since 2016, accession negotiations have stalled.[8] The EU has accused and criticized Turkey for human rights violations and deficits in rule of law.[9] In 2017, EU officials expressed that planned Turkish policies violate the Copenhagen criteria of eligibility for an EU membership.[10] On 26 June 2018, the EU's General Affairs Council stated that "Turkey has been moving further away from the European Union.

On 20 February 2019, a European parliament committee voted to suspend the accession talks, sparking criticism from the government of Turkey.[11][12][13] Turkey's accession negotiations have therefore effectively come to a standstill and no further chapters can be considered for opening or closing and no further work towards the modernisation of the EU-Turkey Customs Union is foreseen."[14][15][16][17][18]"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accession_of_Turkey_to_the_European_Union

stats, government: dec3 The Top 100 Most Valuable Brands In 2022 (the world in a nutshell, kind of)

Ranked: The Top 100 Most Valuable Brands in 2022 (visualcapitalist.com)

War, stats, middle east:

Rojava is a major theater in the war against the Islamic State in Syria. During the Syrian Civil war, Kurdish forces led by the People's Protection Units (YPG) took control of Northern Syria and launched campaigns to take control of the Islamist-controlled areas. The Syrian Democratic Forces went on to take substantial territory from the Islamic State and played a major role in the liberation of Raqqa and the battle for Deir Ezzor, ending Islamic State rule in Syria.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manbij_offensive

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combined_Joint_Task_Force_%E2%80%93_Operation_Inherent_Resolve

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_against_the_Islamic_State#Establishment_of_Combined_Joint_Task_Force_%E2%80%93_Operation_Inherent_Resolve_(CJTF-OIR)_in_October_2014

Turkish involvement in the Syrian civil war

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_involvement_in_the_Syrian_civil_war

war, sanctions, middle east, energy, journal: dec2 (2013) al-Hasakah accounts for half of all Syrian oil production (370000bpd)

https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2013/02/syria-oil-crisis.html#ixzz7mLFcXO28

The Rmeilan, Suwayda and Karatchok oil fields are all part of al-Hasakah province. Thousands of workers, mostly non-natives of the region, work in these fields. The province is home to a training and qualifying center for technical workers, an oil and gas institute and a vocational high school for oil.

Read more: https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2013/02/syria-oil-crisis.html#ixzz7mLGCxBHG

Energy, war, sanctions, stats, journal: Dec2 apparently this is the first time since February that gas prices have cost less than $3.50 per gallon, which is below the $3.54 average from Feb. 24, 2022

https://www.axios.com/2022/12/01/gas-prices-aaa-russia-ukraine

Erdogan, war, middle east: U.S. Senate committee approves Turkey sanctions bill, DECEMBER 11, 2019

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-usa-sanctions/u-s-senate-committee-approves-turkey-sanctions-bill-idUSKBN1YF24P

dec2 Turkey’s fourth ground incursion into Northern Syria since 2016

he threatens Turkey’s fourth ground incursion into Northern Syria since 2016 – a threat he has made without follow through since May 2022. The U.S. force presence in Northeastern Syria has historically forced Turkey’s hand to tread lightly along the border. However, just last week, a Turkish airstrike landed within 300 meters of American positions, north of Hasakah. Luckily, no American troops were present at the time.

Censorship, government, journal, media: Walker County man convicted of voter fraud, sentenced to 25 years, DA says

WALKER COUNTY, Ga. — A 62-year-old Walker County man is facing 25 years in prison after being convicted of voter fraud, according to District Attorney Chris Arnt.

The DA says William Chase filled out another Walker County resident's absentee ballot in the January 2021 runoff election after it was sent ton a PO box at an old address by mistake.

When the husband of the original owner of the ballot got his and she did not, the DA says she called the Walker County Elections Office to inquire about it.

The Elections Office found out that it has already been accepted, but not yet counted, and that it appeared to have her signature, the DA says.

The resident went to the Elections Office and pointed out that it was not her signature.

The DA says the Elections Office cancelled the forged ballot and had a new ballot sent to the resident’s current address.

The Elections Office then requested the Secretary of State Office investigate the forged ballot.

The DA says they learned that Chase was the current owner of the PO box, but he had already submitted a ballot for the election.

The DA says they matched fingerprints on the forged ballot with Chase's.

The DA says Chase is convicted of forgery in the first degree, illegal acts regarding election documents, unlawful acts regarding elector's vote, and repeat voting in same election.

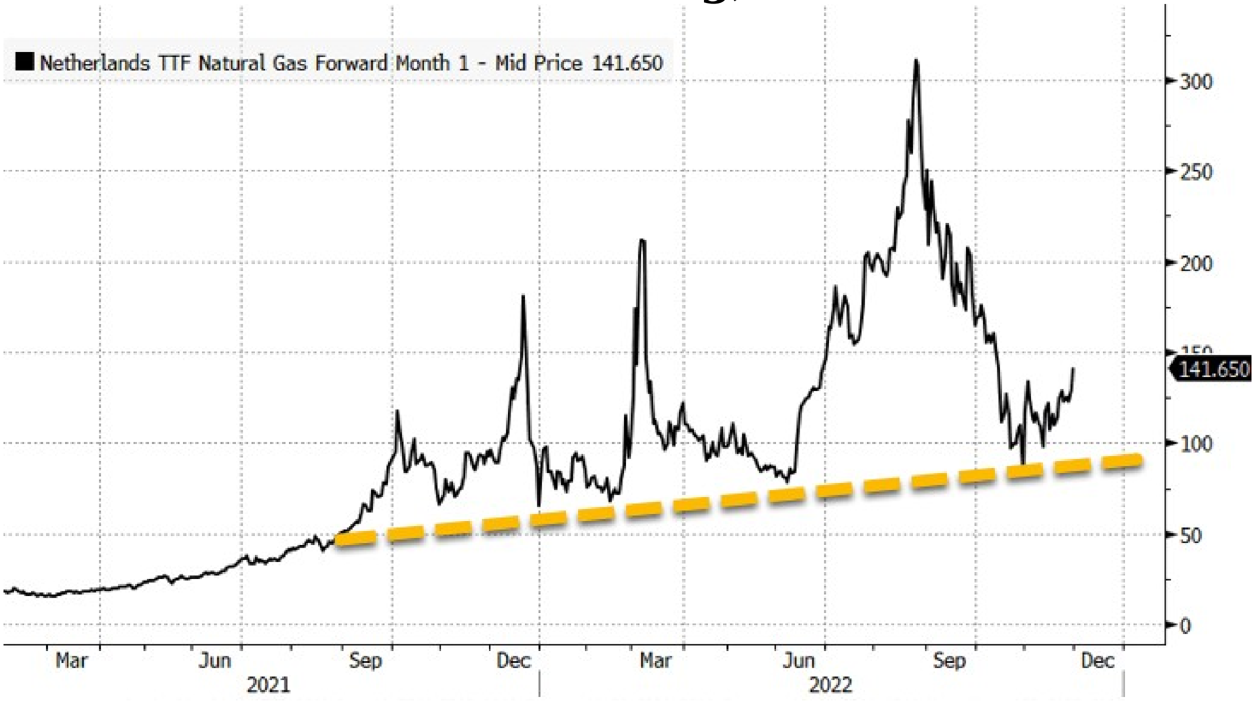
Chase is sentenced to 25 years, with the first 15 years to be served in the Georgia Department of Corrections without the possibility of parole, the DA says.

The DA says Chase is no stranger to fraud and forgery as he has several felony convictions including: bankruptcy fraud, theft by shoplifting, forgery in the first degree, stealing public documents, and financial identity fraud.

https://newschannel9.com/news/local/walker-county-man-convicted-of-voter-fraud-sentenced-to-25-years-da-says

middle east, government, sanctions, war: dec1 **India and Pakistan joined the SCO on 9 June 2017, a Eurasian political, economic and security organization covering approximately 60% of the area of Eurasia, 40% of the world population, and more than 30% of global GDP**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanghai_Cooperation_Organisation

stats, energy, sanctions, journal: dec1 **long, lol**



Censorship, government, journal (how law firms work):
“Finally, a word must be said about the role of lawyers in this fifty-year history of deceiving smokers, potential

smokers, and the American public about the hazards of smoking and second hand smoke, and the addictiveness of nicotine. At every stage, lawyers played an absolutely central role in the creation and perpetuation of the Enterprise and the implementation of its fraudulent schemes. They devised and coordinated both national and international strategy; they directed scientists as to what research they should and should not undertake; they vetted scientific research papers and reports as well as public relations materials to ensure that the interests of the Enterprise would be protected; they identified ‘friendly’ scientific witnesses, subsidized them with grants from the Center for Tobacco Research and the Center for Indoor Air Research, paid them enormous fees, and often hid the relationship between those witnesses and the industry; and they devised and carried out document destruction policies and took shelter behind baseless assertions of the attorney client privilege.”
Source: wallstreetonparade

Stats, energy, Middle east, war, sanctions, Erdogan, iran: dec1

45% of Iraq's electricity is generated by natural gas imported from Iran https://english.news.cn/20221201/c8106866d8a24b17bc61a08ff8d80062/c.html

media, government: dec1 Soldier charged with stealing machine gun parts, grenade https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2022/11/29/soldier-charged-with-stealing-machine-gun-parts-grenade-launcher/

war, history, Russia, stats: dec1 ukrainian holocaust, 1932-1933 https://web.archive.org/web/20170909103902/http://www.ukemonde.com/genocide/margolisholocaust.html

Erdogan, middle east: dec1 **boycott-turkey.net, read more**

Censorship: dec1 "Freedom of expression in Saudi Arabia has, much beyond having the freedom to express what one thinks, regressed to the extent of having to say what one does not believe. In other words, you cannot say what you think. Nothing will happen to you anywhere else, but here, you will be forced to say what you do not believe. You have to speak against Qatar and approve the legitimacy of the blockade. Despite all the violations of human rights in Yemen, you have to praise the coalition’s operations there. If you keep silent, then you are the enemy."

yenisafakdotcom/en/columns/yasin-aktay/saudis-embargo-on-turkish-goods-backfires-as-muslims-boycott-french-products-2047647

markets, stats, government: Top Citi Exec Marvels That An Entire

Generation Of Bankers Only Knows Cheap Money

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, DEC 01, 2022 - 06:45 AM

A top Citigroup banker said it was “fascinating” that some of the Wall Street firm’s "rising stars" had spent their whole careers in an era of cheap money.

According to Bloomberg, Alison Harding-Jones, vice chair of corporate and investment and head of M&A in EMEA at Citigroup, said **rising rates were helping create an environment where more junior bankers "will learn a lot."**

“It is absolutely fascinating to me that I have people who come to me who are starting to think about being made a managing director in an investment bank who started in this business in 2010 or 2011, and so they’ve never really seen an environment where money hasn’t essentially been free or very, very cheap,” Harding-Jones said at the Financial Times Global Banking Summit on Tuesday.

“We’ve seen this pandemic, which has inflated this bubble, which has driven this incredible amount of activity, and they’ve kind of thought ‘Well, that’s normal,’” she said.

“That clearly isn’t normal and I think all the old heads on this call and all of my old-headed colleagues, we are looking at this and thinking this is going to be an environment where you will learn a lot.”

As Bloomberg notes, her comments were echoed by Clare Woodman, Morgan Stanley’s head of Europe, the Middle East and Africa, who told the conference that banks were faced with an outlook that hadn’t been seen “in the last half a century.”

Government, Africa: dec1

South Africa President Ramaphosa's Resignation Believed Imminent Over 'Farmgate' Scandal

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, DEC 01, 2022 - 10:25 AM

South Africa is facing deep political turmoil and corresponding uncertainty across markets amid growing calls for President Cyril Ramaphosa to step down over an emerging bizarre scandal centered on the **alleged theft of $580,000**. The over half million in cash was literally found stuffed in a sofa at a farm that Ramaphosa owns. The timing of the crisis couldn't be worse given long-awaited economic reforms had only just begun to take shape and improve the country's outlook.

The mysterious cash payment has sparked outrage particularly among the opponents of the ruling African National Congress, and with his allies holding emergency consultations. On Thursday South African media is reporting President Ramaphosa is to imminently address the nation as **prospect for his resignation grows**, and as he faces impeachment.

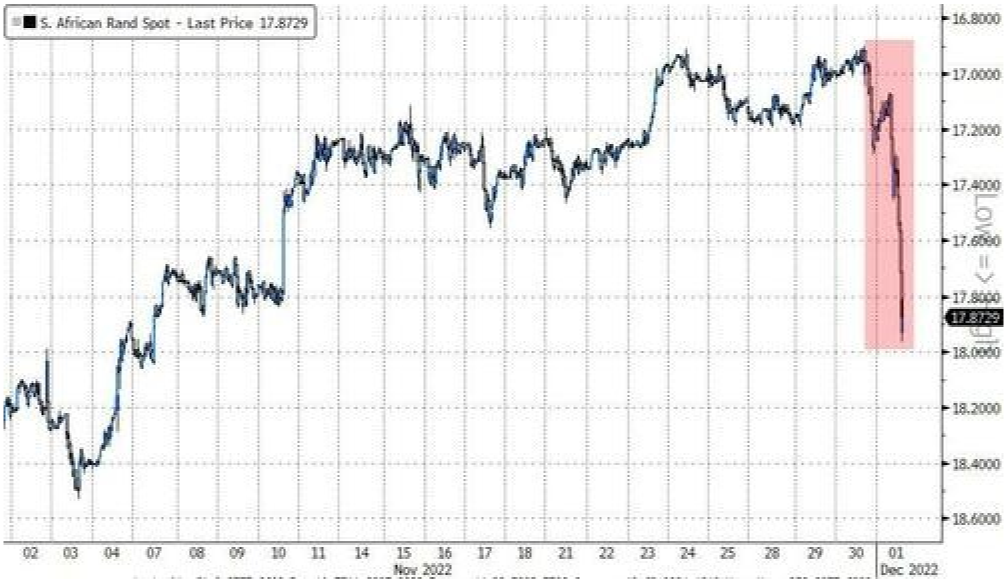
Ramaphosa, who has advanced himself as an 'anti-corruption' and reformist president, has vehemently denied wrongdoing in the scandal coming to be known as **"Farmgate"**, centered on a game farm he owns in South Africa's northeast.

According to a summary of the scandal in CNBC:

In what has become known as the “Farmgate” scandal, Ramaphosa is alleged to have ***covered up a $4 million theft from his Phala Phala farm in the north east of the country in 2020. Some $580,000 of this was found beneath sofa cushions****, and allegation****s also include working with Namibian authorities to apprehend, torture and bribe the suspects****.*

Ramaphosa staunchly denies the allegations and has not been charged with any crimes. ***He maintains that the cash was the proceeds from the sale of buffalo****. He has confirmed that the robbery took place, but insists that the amount stolen was smaller than alleged and denies participating in a cover-up.*

The rand has **weakened more than 3% against the dollar** as the country is on edge awaiting Ramaphosa's and the ANC's next move. The economic reforms he set in motion are now seen as under threat by the major scandal, also as political succession within the ANC would remain uncertain.



According to more on the jitters unleashed across South African markets on news of Ramaphosa's likely impending resignation, via *Bloomberg*:

- The yield on 10-year local-currency bonds climbs 74 basis points to 11.55%, the most in a day since December 2015
- Benchmark dollar bonds lead losses among EM peers; 10-year yield up 48bps to 7.42%
- Dollar-rand one-week imlied volatility surges to the highest since May 2022 at 20.4%
- 5-year CDS +12.5% to 274.62 bps, biggest jump since March 2021

developing...

journal (HAVE TO SAVE THE COMMENTS):

NoDebt
15 minutes ago

A corrupt, black, African politician. There's something you don't see every day.

play_arrow11play_arrow

A shaped recovery
PREMIUM
13 minutes ago

where do you find cushions that big these days?

play_arrow2play_arrow

S.Parker
1 minute ago

When did the fake sign language guy become the president?

play_arrowplay_arrow

spiff
11 minutes ago

Not unless you live in Africa.

play_arrowplay_arrow

mojo_jojo
18 minutes ago

$580K.

Chimp change.

play_arrow8play_arrow

Aspergers or Sociopath
11 minutes ago

Should have had his son smoke some crack and then handle the cash. Amateur.

play_arrow3play_arrow

gatorengineer
7 minutes ago

or had a good druish bitcoin launderer.

play_arrowplay_arrow

ponyboy99
10 minutes ago

When the Dutch settled SA it was a vast and arid place with just a handful of natives living there. 99.9% of the Africans living there now are immigrants from other countries. Finding a native SA in Capetown would be like finding a Iroquois in Martha's Vineyard. As usual, history has been perverted and twisted to fit the narrative against anyone productive and hard working. F em

play_arrow7play_arrow

rete
13 minutes ago

> *Ramaphosa, who has advanced himself as an 'anti-corruption' and reformist president, has vehemently denied wrongdoing in the scandal coming to be known as **"Farmgate"***

Sounds a bit like this

> *Zelensky, who has advanced himself as an 'anti-corruption' and reformist president, has vehemently denied wrongdoing in the scandal coming to be known as **"Pandora Papers"**,*

play_arrow6play_arrow

Grumpy Old Objectivist
7 minutes ago

It may not be Wakanda Forever, but it sure as **** is Wakanda Again

play_arrow5play_arrow

Sam Adam's Ghost
5 minutes ago

Great moniker!

play_arrowplay_arrow

Krink26
10 minutes ago

Blame whitey

play_arrow5play_arrow

Z Freedom
18 minutes ago

Another corrupt politician...Imagine my surprise.

play_arrow5play_arrow

you_are_cleared_hot
10 minutes ago

Nancy Pelosi: "crumbs..."

play_arrow3play_arrow

August
4 minutes ago

Africans can be very entertaining in their child-like simplicity.

Too bad they are also gifted with the ultra-violence gene.

play_arrow1play_arrow

The_Way
5 minutes ago

Check the sofa's at the white house. Biden must have billions of $ stuffed everywhere after all the loot he has stolen.

play_arrow4play_arrow

..
4 minutes ago
(Edited)

.

play_arrow1play_arrow

ThomasJefferson69
15 minutes ago

I can't stuff money in my own sofa? What's the world coming to, it's just so racist.

play_arrow4play_arrow

Cautiously Pessimistic
6 minutes ago

He just got lucky in the markets like the Pelosi's and the Clinton's.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Sam Adam's Ghost
4 minutes ago

African Buffalo futures.

play_arrow1play_arrow

fxrxexexdxoxmx3
PREMIUM
7 minutes ago

He spent years working hard for the people and saved some cash.

What's the problem?

Sounds like a Pelosi or a McConnell.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Sam Adam's Ghost
13 minutes ago

BLM should fly over to protest!

play_arrow4play_arrow

NoDebt
13 minutes ago

> *The timing of the crisis couldn't be worse given long-awaited economic reforms had only just begun to take shape and improve the country's outlook.*

Context? Is this the "reform" where the government just takes land from white farmers and gives it to their cronies while calling it "justice"?

play_arrow3play_arrow

Im Back
11 minutes ago

Joggers gotta jog, no matter where they are!

play_arrow2play_arrow

gatorengineer
14 minutes ago

No Doubt emboldened by Wakanda Forever.

play_arrow2play_arrow

HRH of Aquitaine 2.0
17 minutes ago

They don't sell safes in SA?

play_arrow2play_arrow

gatorengineer
13 minutes ago

the combinations have numbers on them and we all know maff is rayczist

play_arrow3play_arrow

Joe Davola
12 minutes ago

And no crack head kids to hodl it for them?

play_arrowplay_arrow

3.7.77
18 minutes ago

and all i've ever found is loose change in a couch...

play_arrow2play_arrow

Joe Davola
18 minutes ago

$580,000, that's all - c'mon man!

play_arrow2play_arrow

Argenta
36 seconds ago

South Africa slouches toward Liberia...

play_arrow1play_arrow

maniac_nv
2 minutes ago

But muh Africa is a black utopia where everyone is honest and at peace!!!

play_arrow1play_arrow

tested-positive
3 minutes ago

When THEY attain power, no matter where all over the world, the result is the same.

THIS result.

NO exceptions.

None.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Yancey Ward
3 minutes ago

Hey, the money was in that sofa when he bought it.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Leewardhedge
5 minutes ago

Let the man enjoy his retirement in Zurich

play_arrow1play_arrow

Ms. Yulia Boiko
5 minutes ago

Assassinate Putin 2023

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Goody Two Shoes
58 seconds ago

That is a dumb plan. If you think that would make things better for you, you are a dumb person.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Sam Adam's Ghost
6 minutes ago

Name one country in Africa as prosperous as America. Why is that?

play_arrow1play_arrow

Resident Creeper
8 minutes ago
(Edited)

$4m dollar theft.

$580k found in a sofa.

Seems this guy might have gone to the Joe Biden School of 10%. and improved it.

play_arrow1play_arrow

tested-positive
1 minute ago
(Edited)

"I swear I didn't know about that money.

I purchased that used sofa from a traveling furniture show that passed through here 9 months ago."

play_arrowplay_arrow

dwhit
2 minutes ago

This is a new thing. This has never happened before. Finding big chunks of CASH stuffed in sofas, mattresses, freezers by politicians. The big reset is coming.

play_arrowplay_arrow

jimfcarroll
9 minutes ago

$580K? Wow. African politicians come cheap.

play_arrowplay_arrow

rete
9 minutes ago

remove
link

> *There's a penny underneath that couch*

~Peter Griffin

If the sofa was stuffed with US dollars, the sofa would become bigger because of inflation.

Erdogan, middle east, war, journal: dec1

turkish failed overthrow attempt, 2016, gulan movemment

On 15 July 2016, a faction within the Turkish Armed Forces, organized as the Peace at Home Council,[32] attempted a coup d'état against state institutions, including the government and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.[33] They attempted to seize control of several places in Ankara, Istanbul, Marmaris and elsewhere, such as the Asian side entrance of the Bosphorus Bridge, but failed to do so after forces loyal to the state defeated them. The Council cited an erosion of secularism, elimination of democratic rule,[34] disregard for human rights, and Turkey's loss of credibility in the international arena as reasons for the coup.[35][36] The government[37][38] said the coup leaders were linked to the Gülen movement,[34][39] which is designated as a terrorist organization by the Republic of Turkey and led by Fethullah Gülen, a Turkish businessman[40][41][42][43] and scholar[44][45][46] who lives in Pennsylvania.[47] The Turkish government alleged that Gülen was behind the coup (which Gülen denied) and that the United States was harboring him.

[48][49][50] Events surrounding the coup attempt and the purges in its aftermath reflect a complex power struggle between Islamist elites in Turkey.[51][52]

https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/07/11/536011222/cleric-accused-of-plotting-turkish-coup-attempt-i-have-stood-against-all-coups
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fethullah_G%C3%BClen
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Turkish_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat_attempt

middle east, energy, war, sanctions: nov30

The violence created one of the largest mixed-migration flows ever dealt with, reaching almost 800,000
migrants crossing the borders to flee violence, with some 263,000 reaching Egypt and 345,000 to Tunisia
Over 120 nationalities, and 5 separate categories of displaced persons could be identified: migrant workers,
Libyan nationals, “boat-people” heading towards the European Union, internally displaced persons, and
asylum-seekers and refugees who had previously been residing in Libya;7
4. Both of the countries to which Libyans and migrants were fleeing were in the midst of their own revolutions,
which could have had a disastrous impact on their respect for the legal principle of non-refoulement, had
these 2 countries not kept their borders open. Yet, it did not. Both the Tunisian and Egyptian borders
remained open;
5. Relations between the United Nations and the pre-revolutionary government with regard to the existing
8,000 refugees and over 3,000 asylum-seekers had been fragile and access had not been guaranteed to all;
6. Some 2.5 million migrant workers were estimated to be living in Libya prior to the uprising. Many of the
Sub-Saharans among them came to be viewed with extreme suspicion due to assumed connections with
the previous regime, and faced particular aggression, abuse, and discrimination during the conflict;
7. The attempts by some Libyans (and Tunisians) to seek safety from the violence at home by crossing the
Mediterranean sea triggered fears among European politicians and populations of arrivals in “Biblical”
proportions that would “flood” their shores. This spurred on a flurry of legislative activity and patrolling of
the waters to manage arrivals.

Source:

“Displacement in the Middle East and North Africa: Between an Arab Winter and the Arab Spring”

Shaden Khallaf

Media, censorship, stats, middle east, journal: Qatari Official Casually Admits 'Between 400 & 500' Worker Deaths For World Cup Construction

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, NOV 30, 2022 - 06:00 AM

Authored by Brett Wilkins via Common Dreams,

An Amnesty International campaigner on Tuesday led calls for "truth, justice, and compensation" after Qatar's World Cup chief **admitted that hundreds of migrant workers died during the construction of projects related to the FIFA tournament**.

In an interview with British journalist Piers Morgan aired on *TalkTV*, Hassan Al-Thawadi, secretary general of the Qatar World Cup Supreme Committee, was asked how many migrant workers—who make up 90% of the nation's workforce—have died during the construction of $300 billion worth of tournament-related infrastructure including stadiums, hotels, highways, railways, and an expanded international airport. **"The estimate is around 400, between 400 and 500,"** Al-Thawadi replied. "I don't have the exact number, that's something that's been discussed. One death is too many, it's as simple as that."

Responding to Al-Thawadi's remarks, Steve Cockburn, Amnesty International's head of economic and social justice, said that "the continued debate around the number of workers who have died in the preparation of the World Cup exposes the stark reality that so many bereaved families are still waiting for truth and justice."

"Over the last decade, thousands of workers have returned home in coffins, with no explanation given to their loved ones," he noted. An analysis by *The Guardian* found that more than 6,500 workers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka died in Qatar since the repressive Gulf monarchy was awarded soccer's premier international tournament in late 2010. ***The Guardian*****'s estimate, however, has been criticized for counting all foreign worker deaths in the country over the past decade**.

"Qatar's **extreme heat and grueling working conditions** are likely to have contributed to hundreds of these deaths, but without full investigations, the true scale of lives lost can never be known," Cockburn continued. "Meanwhile, families are suffering the added anguish of severe financial insecurity that comes from losing the main wage earner."

"There is nothing natural about this scale of loss and there can be no excuse for denying families truth, justice, and compensation any longer," he added. "Until all abuses suffered by migrant workers in Qatar are remedied, the legacy of this World Cup will be severely tarnished by their mistreatment."

Al-Thawadi asserted that conditions are improving for migrant workers in Qatar, noting the implementation of a 1,000 riyal, or about $275, minimum monthly wage and increased attention to safety. "I think every year the health and safety standards on the sites are improving, at least on our sites, the World Cup sites, the ones that we're responsible for, most definitely," he said.

A spokesperson for Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy **appeared to backpedal Al-Thawadi's remarks in a Tuesday statement** reiterating the Qatari government's **claim of just three work-related and 37 non-work-related migrant worker deaths** during the World Cup construction period.

"Separate quotes regarding figures refer to national statistics covering the period of 2014-2020 for all work-related fatalities (414) nationwide in Qatar, covering all sectors and nationalities," the agency said.

Hari, a 27-year-old Nepalese builder who earned 700 riyals a month in a country where the average Qatari household makes more than 100 times more, described working conditions to *CNN* earlier this month:

It was too hot. The foreman was very demanding and used to complain a lot. The foreman used to threaten to reduce our salaries and overtime pay. I had to carry tiles on my shoulder to the top. It was very difficult going up through the scaffolding. In the pipeline work, there were 5-7 meters deep pits, we had to lay the stones and concrete, it was difficult due to the heat. **It was difficult to breathe. We had to come upstairs using a ladder to drink water. At**

some places, they didn't have water. Some places, they didn't provide us water on time. At some places, we used to go to houses nearby asking for water.

It never happened to me, but I saw some workers fainting at work. I saw one Bengali, one Nepali... two to three people faint while working. They took the Bengali to medical services. I'm not sure what happened to him.

A 2019 study of 1,300 Nepali migrant worker deaths in Qatar published in *Cardiology Journal* found a "strong correlation" between toiling in extreme heat and dying from heart problems.

f anyone says white people were bad because of slavery, kindly point out that not only did the middle eastern nations start this sh*t, they continue to do uphold slavery to this very day.

play_arrow66play_arrow

Baghdad_Bob
5 hours ago

Madeleine Albright: Yes, 500,000 dead Iraqi children were worth it.

play_arrow33play_arrow3

2+2 ≠ 5
5 hours ago

A few thousand dead indentured slaves are worth it for sportsball! Yay!!

play_arrow19play_arrow

arrowdent
2 hours ago

> *'Between 400 & 500' Worker Deaths For World Cup Construction*

That's how many Palestinians

Apartheid Israhell kills in a given month.

play_arrow4play_arrow3

Ayn Stein
1 hour ago

The Big Game is the Event of the Year! Anyone who doesn't love The Big Game is unmutual and should be unpersoned and memoryholed!

play_arrowplay_arrow1

AtATrESICI
4 hours ago

500,000 dead kids, totally worth it.

play_arrow7play_arrow3

ThomasJefferson69
3 hours ago
(Edited)

You are a joke. You may as well claim 500 million dead children, it's just as believable.

However it has been documented that Islam has murdered some 590 million people over 1400 years.

play_arrow4play_arrow5

cyberchicken
2 hours ago

Whataboutism. A tactic employed by the Chinese communist party.

play_arrowplay_arrow3

PrinceMyshkin
2 hours ago

Hey moron, that was a direct citation from Madeline Albright, she said word for word, that the sanctions who caused the death of 500.000 children in Iraq were worth it f.ckwit.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

ThomasJefferson69
2 hours ago

Yea and she rode a unicorn to work every day.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Leonine
1 hour ago

you are quite the prideful troll

play_arrow1play_arrow2

ThomasJefferson69
6 minutes ago

You would believe anything posted from the MSM.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Mile0
5 hours ago

Also, ashanti tribe.

play_arrow4play_arrow2

Lord RG
5 hours ago

Admits 400-500 deaths

so multiply that by factor x10 and once again cospiratory theorist who said cca 4000ppl died were right

about racism: they say india people are more racist, even asian are racist but only white cant be racist cause if white is racist he will be punished

Btw: im not racist, i dont like anybody thats my advantage :D

play_arrow4play_arrow2

2+2 ≠ 5
5 hours ago

Double or triple that figure to get cloer to the truth.

play_arrow4play_arrow1

t_kAyk
5 hours ago
(Edited)

I’ll give the middle eastern chappies this: they looked at all the migrants and said “ya know, we have all the labor we will ever need right here and all they want is a meal card and an iPhone.”

You may get away with that **** in the too nice white people countries but over in durka durka stan we still cut your head off boy.

play_arrow4play_arrow

Leonine
1 hour ago

durka durka!

play_arrow3play_arrow

sundalmurugan
3 hours ago

with whose help you jackass?

play_arrowplay_arrow

Show More Replies

tahoebumsmith
5 hours ago

So thousands of people die and are paid slave labor $275 a month so the woketards can kick their ball around and get cheered on by a stadium full of Woketards? Pathetic.

play_arrow37play_arrow

rogerwaters69
3 hours ago

Well said, sir

play_arrow5play_arrow

Joe Davola
2 hours ago
(Edited)

Human nature doesn't change:

The Gladiator Colosseum - built by Jewish slaves, funded by loot from their Jerusalem Temple

How long did the Roman Empire hold sway before falling?

Since everything is time compressed these days, we are well past the Colosseum construction point on the downslope

play_arrow1play_arrow1

RebBiker
1 hour ago

Since muslims consider other muslims expendable, I guess they consider everyone else expendable, too.

play_arrow2play_arrow

Rabbi Zero
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Just write covid on the death certificate like the US does.

play_arrow32play_arrow1

Almachius
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Appoint Fauci as Superintendent over the whole construction operation, and all corpses would be swept under the rug.

play_arrow5play_arrow1

Castor gordo el tercero
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Who in the world would willingly go to a Muslim middle eastern country to work as a guest worker in construction? Answer is no one... These are slaves... But the US and europe don't have any concern about that... Only about gay rights...

play_arrow26play_arrow

John Evergreen
4 hours ago

As a US government contractor? $100k+, with no US income tax. Back in the day that was a lot of money.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

bentaxle
3 hours ago

They make sure to get workers from countries that won't invade them. If they need US workers the Qataris soon back off. You will be allowed to keep your passport. They will honour your contract. They will try it on. If you complain they will back down.

play_arrow1play_arrow

sukittrebek
5 hours ago

Whats with the vagina shaped stadium.

play_arrow19play_arrow

BarryMcCockiner
5 hours ago

Reminds them of their pet goats

play_arrow13play_arrow

Dog Serious
5 hours ago

They said they wanted to build a stadium in respect of those with Angina, but got lost in the translation!

play_arrow8play_arrow

Rusticus
5 hours ago

It's none like I've ever seen, but then I've always been picky.

play_arrow3play_arrow

The Fool On The Hill
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Yeah, that's what I thought. Supposed to be a lotus, or sumpin, I guess.

PS. Just gaggled it. Supposed to represent a dhow fishing boat. Beats me.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Von Hayek
5 hours ago

Dunno.

Pass me a Duff Beer.

play_arrow5play_arrow

MCDirtMigger
2 hours ago

You’re not at all curious about the one shaped like a sphincter?

play_arrowplay_arrow

Show More Replies

css1971
PREMIUM
5 hours ago

> ***"The estimate is around 400, between 400 and 500,"*** *Al-Thawadi replied*

The translation from Arabic: We don't know so we'll just make some **** up.

play_arrow14play_arrow

The Fool On The Hill
5 hours ago

The translation from Arabic: We don't know AND WE DON'T CARE, so we'll just make some **** up.

play_arrow11play_arrow

Kat
PRO
3 hours ago

The West has adopted this same tactic after forcing its slaves...er...citizens to take a "vaccine".

play_arrow4play_arrow

HankLove
PREMIUM
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Piers Morgan now complicit of the understatement

play_arrow1play_arrow2

Blano
4 hours ago

When the J6 political prisoners are finally released in the US, and America becomes less of a banana republic, then I might start to care about other people.

Until then, don't care.

play_arrow8play_arrow

SpotemGottem Gekko Jr
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Soccer should be banned is it so boring. There are a handful of marquee players in the entire world, and the rest is just guys passing the ball around for hours (99.9% of the time) .

They literally could have picnics of fans in the middle of the field and it wouldn't change most matches. Just also place several BBQ grills at various points and the bloody ball would not hit them.

play_arrow8play_arrow8

Rusticus
5 hours ago

There's really no need to ban it; the smart people who find it boring choose not to watch it.

play_arrow4play_arrow3

SpotemGottem Gekko Jr
5 hours ago

This is correct. I am just butt hurt about the whole matter.

play_arrow4play_arrow1

John Evergreen
4 hours ago

There are a lot of smart people who still watch it because they are gay.

play_arrow2play_arrow3

Gregorius Swizzlepants
5 hours ago

But then Canadians wouldn’t get to cheer for our “Canadian” national team, which is almost entirely made up of immigrants.

Nothing says Canada like cheering for our soccer stars, such as
Ismaël Konè and Ikè Ugbo!

play_arrow6play_arrow

Leotardo
3 hours ago
(Edited)

That has already been going on in baseball for decades, Jr. Just leave football alone, willya?

play_arrowplay_arrow2

dojufitz
5 hours ago

Says all of them were named

Muhammad.

play_arrow7play_arrow1

takewhatyoucan64
5 hours ago

LMAO.............no loss at all

play_arrow2play_arrow1

takewhatyoucan64
5 hours ago

moslems are gonna moslem

play_arrow7play_arrow1

Mockingbird101
PREMIUM
2 hours ago

A lot of truth to this story. My brother-in-law was contracted to work 3 weeks with a construction company in Qatar to teach the workers how to build floors in warehouses. He said it's the most ****** up place he had ever seen. No engineer could make a decision on anything because of the fear of being deported without pay. You piss off the owner of the company they call the police and deport you.

No telling how many died.

play_arrow6play_arrow

koan
2 hours ago

Slavery never stopped in the ME, surprised how few know this.

play_arrow6play_arrow

tested-positive
3 hours ago

No Flash and Grab mobs in Qatar.

No rioting, looting and pillaging.

No Gay Parades or Trannie Rights.

No mass shootings.

Little crime of any kind.

How come?

play_arrow6play_arrow1

Krink26
3 hours ago

It was well worth it so woke assholes can watch kickball and lecture others about human rights.

play_arrow6play_arrow1

Castor gordo el tercero
5 hours ago

It was so many that he felt he couldn't get away with admitting to anything less than 4 or 500 hundred? There must have been 1500 or more...

play_arrow6play_arrow

Castor gordo el tercero
5 hours ago

They paid for a lot of it with black market organs i bet. The world is run by a level of evil we have not seen before...

play_arrow6play_arrow

goldhoarder
4 hours ago

Chinese "quarantine" camps

play_arrow2play_arrow

McGantic
5 hours ago

That shows how far behind the culture and conditions in Qatar are compared to other nations.

For example, a grand total of zero people died during construction for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

Always imagined Qatar as being more of an advanced nation, but those are African nation numbers.

play_arrow6play_arrow

GatorMcClusky
5 hours ago

The estimate is around 400, between 400 and 500," Al-Thawadi replied. "I don't have the exact number, that's something that's been discussed. One death is too many, it's as simple as that."

Dude needs someone to write for him like they do for Biden.

play_arrow6play_arrow

American Citizen
5 hours ago

Based on the quote I thought the guy already wrote for Biden.

play_arrow4play_arrow

buzzsaw99

3 hours ago

a vaxxxed reporter at the competition went down like a sack of dirt. they cut off the video right before his face hit the ground.

play_arrow5play_arrow2

MANvsMACHINE

2 hours ago

You sure it wasn't Kamala? Going down like a sack of dirt is her specialty.

play_arrowplay_arrow

YesWeKahn

5 hours ago

How many dead to construct north American rail roads?

play_arrow5play_arrow2

Totally_Disillusioned

1 hour ago

And when the world cup was televised in China the CCP blurred all images of the spectators in the stadium so that Chinese viewers would not see maskless people. CCP controls streaming feeds via their intrrnet.

play_arrow4play_arrow

ParanoidSquirrel

1 hour ago

Those middle east nations bring in a lot of workers from places like India and treat them terribly. It's a "caste" system where the local host country Arabs look down on all the imported workers. The workers go into debt to get the money to get there for work thinking it is their ticket our of poverty. Once there, their passports get taken, the get put in horrible living conditions and forced to work in terrible conditions. Just a step up from slaves...they truly have a hard life...

play_arrow4play_arrow

Ahmeexnal

1 hour ago

AT LEAST THEY ARE NOT FORCED TO WEAR FACEMASKS.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

StopGaslightingMe
2 hours ago

Look to them we are "useless eaters" unless they have a project they need to complete then we are simply useless eater "tools" they use to get the job done. If some of the tools break they will be replaced by other tools and the old broken tools tossed in the garbage.

play_arrow4play_arrow

emcee
3 hours ago

Klaus would be proud.

play_arrow4play_arrow

OutWithLibs
3 hours ago

In the US the majority of “migrants” aren’t workers, they are *asylum seekers* who get free cell phones, taxpayer money, free housing and in some idiot sanctuary states, the right to vote.

play_arrow4play_arrow

Multi
4 hours ago

With the ferocious needle running amok, you cannot make much sense of death statistics.

Then, at the end, they just throw this pearl in: "[a 2019 study] *found a 'strong correlation' between toiling in extreme heat and dying from heart problems*". Don't you say, heart problems, really?

What about how many of the deceased were "vaccinated" (wink wink)?

It is just the biggest gaslighting operation in human history.

play_arrow4play_arrow

eyewillcomply
4 hours ago

Soccer is the most boring spectator sport imaginable. What is the great allure?

play_arrow4play_arrow3

AZ Man
3 hours ago

It gives loser countries something to like about themselves.

play_arrow4play_arrow

Gefeltafudge
3 hours ago

Better than Sominex.

play_arrowplay_arrow

OutWithLibs
3 hours ago
(Edited)

Have you ever watched baseball? At least players in soccer are constantly moving

play_arrow5play_arrow5

ClimbingTheLog
4 hours ago

So **THE SICKNESS** was less dangerous than working construction?

Better **DESTROY THE ECONOMY** then!

Good job, Harvard. "Mimic the Communists" was all they could muster.

play_arrow4play_arrow

nicxios
5 hours ago

5 people died building the Empire State Building, and that was low for those days' standards. Add extreme heat to the mix. Just sayin'.

play_arrow4play_arrow1

Castor gordo el tercero
5 hours ago

96 officially died building the hoover dam... Though there were many deaths covered up...

play_arrow4play_arrow

John Evergreen
4 hours ago

Those deaths were from covid

play_arrow4play_arrow

Leonine
1 hour ago

wouldve been worse if they werent vaccinated

play_arrow1play_arrow

Obamanism666
5 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

May be he should blame COVID-19 for 450 deaths. Fauci would

if ex-workers keep dying say it was the clot shot given to prevent the COVID 19. Us the weapons of the DS and swamp against them

aeslong
2 hours ago
(Edited)

death due to forced "vax"

play_arrow3play_arrow1

!!!
2 hours ago
(Edited)

When working in the heat, it is essential to stay hydrated. If you dont drink enough water you dramatically increase your risk of death. Not providing workers with adequate water is murder.

play_arrow3play_arrow

dr80
PREMIUM
2 hours ago

these mutherfarkers arab muslims do not treat foreign migrant workers as human being, especially "infidels" are treated as farm animals or worse.

play_arrow3play_arrow1

dustinthewind
2 hours ago

Compare that to Pfizer gene therapy deaths.

play_arrow3play_arrow

A.Retard
2 hours ago

the money Pfizer made works great

play_arrowplay_arrow

MCDirtMigger
2 hours ago

Wait a minute. Why aren’t Muslim migrants going to Qatar for work? Why do they come to Europe?

play_arrow3play_arrow

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

"PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW WHEN THEY ARE CONQUERED."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXmCouSVSC4

play_arrowplay_arrow1

AZ Man
3 hours ago

Only American cities get boycotted by sport franchises as a result of virtue signaling.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago
(Edited)

IT'S THE VAXXXINES, STUPID!!!!

MILLIONS DEAD, MAIMED, AND WITH SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS FROM THE MODERNA/PFIZER mRNA MENGELE CLOTSHOTS...BUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SAYS NOTHING.

play_arrow2play_arrow

Chargly 2
21 minutes ago

Wonder why?

How about international sex worker "facilitators"? That a pretty fair and delightful industry?

Are their "clients" having to work 16 hours and pee in bottles?

Does anyone start to wonder if there will be anyone left in America after the wrath of God hits such a wickedly oblivious, selfish, and clueless bunch of azholes?

That's after abortion as well. And now this coerced homicidal suicide pact with big pharma and government to sterilize and cull humans. Because the TV told them to.

play_arrowplay_arrow

RITEPOWAH
2 hours ago

the jabbed will DIE

play_arrow2play_arrow1

MANvsMACHINE
2 hours ago

So will the unjabbed. Just a bunch of years later.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

WRONG, THE WHACKEDXXXINATED ARE NO LONGER MADE IN G-D'S IMAGE. THEIR SOUL IS DAMNED.

THE PUREBLOOD'S SOUL IS ETERNAL AND CAN KEEP ASCENDING.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

beavertails
4 hours ago

Meanwhile, over 100,000 Ukranians have died in less than a year because they keep poking the bear and they edit that bitchez speech.

play_arrow2play_arrow

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

OVER HALF A MILLION, BUT MANY OF THOSE ARE POLES, GERMANS, FRENCH, ROMANIANS, FINNS, AUSTRALIANS, CANADIANS, SPANIARDS, BELGIANS, BRITISH, SWEDES.....

play_arrowplay_arrow1

NoPension
4 hours ago

It was only…like…400.   BFD….

play_arrow2play_arrow

Fran Flintstone
5 hours ago

Get back on that ladder and quit your crying. You sound like an American Trump voter.

play_arrow2play_arrow7

Invert This, Media Matters Monkeys
5 hours ago
(Edited)

This Troll Farm Monkey posts under several aliases :

- ElonsTwitter
- ElonTrump
- Fran flintstone
- Shaminator
- Frank Zappa Lives
- Real Ivanka
- President Hunter
- Hunters Angel
- Sponge Bob Square Pants
- NickPeeMe
- And Many More

play_arrow10play_arrow1

John Evergreen
4 hours ago

Who pays him?

play_arrow2play_arrow2

Fran Flintstone
3 hours ago

This troll farm Monkey has his head up his *** so far he found the gerbil.^^

play_arrowplay_arrow5

Invert This, Media Matters Monkeys
3 hours ago

And I still managed to find you once again, Troll****

play_arrow3play_arrow

Fran Flintstone
3 hours ago

Seeing how I seem to be living in your head you might try and charge rent. You keep better track of my screen names that keep getting banned because of free speech than I do.

play_arrowplay_arrow4

Invert This, Media Matters Monkeys
3 hours ago
(Edited)

Yesterday you used ElonsTwitter as proof you weren't banned. How soon you forget, Troll****.

Trump and conservatives in general should charge you rent. You live a die being a ******. Yet you keep coming back for more. Ask your handlers to send you to troll Teen Vogue. You won't get banned there.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Almachius
5 hours ago

Meanwhile, US and UK leaders dissuaded Zelenski from accepting a peace agreement with Russia last March, promising instead to fund and supply the war until Russia was defeated.

How many lives that belligerence caused!

play_arrow2play_arrow1

goldhoarder
4 hours ago

They are fighting for freedom or money laundering or something...

play_arrow1play_arrow

El Hosel
5 hours ago

NEXT

play_arrow2play_arrow

Ghiaur
5 hours ago

It was a sacrifice he was willing to make. Thanks for playing!

play_arrow2play_arrow

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

HOW MANY DIED BUILDING CHINA'S GREAT WALL....AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SAYS NOTHING.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Somewhat Unisex
1 hour ago

We labor’d some folks.

Any chance we can put these guys in charge of our migrants too?

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Galtmandu
1 hour ago

(Edited)

In comparison, 5 people reportedly died building the Empire State building 90 years ago.

You have to purposefully create an unsafe worksite today to get 500 people killed.

I have statistic'd,

Galtmandu

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Bullet_Sponge
2 hours ago

Shocking number of deaths. It sounds a lot like the chernobyl incident where mid level officials trying to appease their bosses put pressure on people below them like a lot of bosses do.

Hope this doesn't derail the efforts. I watched the interview with the Qatar official, everything he was saying was right on. Looks like they're trying to do the right thing.

Sporting events take a while to get into. People have to fall in love with the players, has to be drama...

Also people can only care so much about a sport they watch but don't participate in. Everyone has different interests. Some of the money spent on soccer stadiums could be spent on the 2nd, 3rd most popular sports.

play_arrow1play_arrow

MANvsMACHINE
2 hours ago

Who cares about a bunch of sweaty men chasing a ball?

What the article fails to mention is the fact that all 400-500 who died were vaxxed and boosted. If not, it would have been so much worse.

play_arrow2play_arrow

Everybody Ropes, Everybody Rides
2 hours ago

Always amazes me the amount of money that is spent on circuses.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Games Without Frontiers
2 hours ago

remove
link

They virtue signal then awarded these guys the World Cup.

Que Pasa Miami
2 hours ago

More likely 4 or 5 thousand, but who really cares anyhow.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

THE END BEGINS
2 hours ago
(Edited)

How many of those people (real people) who walked among us died lost i.e. never personally received Christ and were on the road to perdition when alive? It's a good bet that most of them, if not all of them, are now in an eternity of suffering that they will never, ever escape from.

Jesus said that on judgment day, many will be turned away from entering Heaven even though they claimed his name and performed many wonderful works in his name. He said even those who cast out demons in his name will be turned away ...

"*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity*" (Matthew 7:22-23).

The reason that they were turned away is because they were do-gooders. They we're trusting in their riches and their good works to save them. They did not possess the one qualification that allows someone entrance into Heaven.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15).

Is your name in that book? I hope so. Find out what that one qualification is that you may possess eternal life and be allowed entrance into Heaven by clicking the link below.*.*

ETERNAL SECURITY DEBATE 1: CAN A PERSON LOSE THEIR SALVATION ONCE SAVED?

CONDITIONALISM VS. ETERNAL TORMENT VS. UNIVERSAL RECONCILIATION

play_arrow1play_arrow2

jamesedtx
2 hours ago

There is no hell. Salvation is for the children of Israel. 500 workers dying over a 12 year period in one of the world's ****hole's isn't a big deal.

play_arrowplay_arrow2

THE END BEGINS
2 hours ago
(Edited)

LIFE AFTER DEATH: VISIONS OF HELL

The rich, the poor, the in-between, the indifferent ... "*ALL*" who are without Christ shall be driven into damnation and have no hope for eternal life once they breathe their last breath. Is this you?

play_arrow1play_arrow2

MANvsMACHINE
2 hours ago

Prove it.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

A.Retard
2 hours ago

the stupid rules in soccer make no sense

play_arrow1play_arrow

A.Retard
2 hours ago

for a stupid soccer game LOL

play_arrow1play_arrow

toady
2 hours ago

"Meh... **** happens."

-Hassan Al-Thawadi

play_arrow1play_arrow

rando
3 hours ago

I'm guessing that was the similar death toll "PER DAY" on slaves when the Kings and Pharaohs erected all those Pyramids and Penis symbol structures. Mines bigger!

play_arrow1play_arrow

thealtthug
2 hours ago

Exactly. Same thing, different time.

play_arrow1play_arrow

IamNewt
3 hours ago

Just like ancient Egypt. Maybe they can enslave the right people again?

play_arrow1play_arrow

Powerball_Trillionaire
3 hours ago

Only 800 were stoned to death....

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

BRITISH HOOLIGANS ARE ALWAYS DRUNK AND STONED.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

tested-positive
3 hours ago

Get with the program.

Every last one of those deaths can be attributed to Covid-19.

What's this **** about the heat and harsh working conditions?

play_arrow1play_arrow2

buzzsaw99
3 hours ago

https://t.me/covidbc/6943

play_arrow1play_arrow1

ssgredux
4 hours ago

Does that include gay workers who took a flying leap off a tall building?

play_arrow1play_arrow

Ban KKiller
4 hours ago

Moo slim and his low IQ, inbred followers can't build anything. Too stupid.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

capndiesalot
PREMIUM
4 hours ago

I do not care.

play_arrow1play_arrow

QABubba
4 hours ago

It is possible to have both safe and profitable workplaces. I worked in the oilfield of the seventies, and we lost three people within two weeks.

It is not like that now.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

goldhoarder
4 hours ago

The USA had an actual economy back then.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

YEP, VIETNAM KEPT THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX ALIVE AND KICKING.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

Hermit in a Cave
5 hours ago

Piers the pleb thinks writing uncensored next to his name actually makes him more trustworthy?

play_arrow1play_arrow

Dog Serious
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Whipped to death in the name of whatever!

play_arrow1play_arrow

Cranky The Un-clown
3 hours ago

It's the cost of doing business

Can we hand out the cup now?

play_arrowplay_arrow2

Ink Pusher
6 minutes ago

'Qatari Official Casually Admits 'Between 400 & 500' Worker Deaths For World Cup Construction'

Translation:

***Acceptable death toll** for the creation of a venue for an international sporting event where alcohol sales will be prohibited and politics will overshadow all participants or competitors.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Chargly 2
10 minutes ago
(Edited)

Thankfully, here in America!

The upper body of congress voted to show those cutaris a thing or two and demand same sex marriage. For everyone!

Because unlike doing their presumed jobs to not possibly murder everyone with intent or out of indifference or fear, or for profit, and oppose Der vaxxes.

They cannot even pass a resolution to not do that to American school kids!

But trans people are ruling the insane distracted asylum apparently.

However, in cutar, Muslim 9th century jumped up goat herders are mean n' sh*t!

Who would have guessed?!

play_arrowplay_arrow

Crush the cube
12 minutes ago

How else did you expect them to get that turf so green and lush in the desert?

play_arrowplay_arrow

Chargly 2
19 minutes ago

remove
link

What isn't highlighted is the religion likely of some of these migrants.

But that sports ball was sure good.

Almost like it isn't the end of the world.

Chargly 2
29 minutes ago

Did they at least not have to pee in bottles and get 4 or 5 months off for mlk and (those people's) history "months"?

play_arrowplay_arrow

Chargly 2
31 minutes ago

So these cutaris are crackers?

Yeah this happens all the time with migrant workers.. in the middle east

Dude was working a slave labor game of chance or extreme workout construction job at 100 times under the average cutari salary?

That doesn't seem super nice.

Are we sure cutaris are not pews?

Well at least they hate trans people and made Telemundo female reporters there for raving mad Mexicans wear head rags.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Francis Marxximus
43 minutes ago

You don't want a Christian God...you have the alternative god who does not love and could care less. Rubs off onto the followers.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

Trapper Creek
PRO
51 minutes ago

There's no QOSHA in Qatar is there ?

play_arrowplay_arrow

Purple Rabbit
56 minutes ago

They were a sacrifice to the moon gods of Baall.

play_arrowplay_arrow

CovidBannedTard
58 minutes ago

Work them to death and delay their pay for 11 months.

Slave labor keeps the Western World entertained.

play_arrowplay_arrow

LouTurks
PREMIUM
1 hour ago

Qatar gives gifts to those in power so it's ok.

play_arrowplay_arrow

lion in winter
1 hour ago

thats the norm for infrastructure projects.

play_arrowplay_arrow

3.14159
1 hour ago

Working humans to death in the desert heat. That hasnt been done in AmeriKa in over a hundred years.

Old traditions die hard...

play_arrowplay_arrow

LouTurks
PREMIUM
1 hour ago

Oh look at you. Your TV knowledge is good.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Pooter
1 hour ago

lol make Himalayian Sherpas work in the hot sunny desert, what do you think would happen?

play_arrowplay_arrow

CryptoingTheLightFantastic
2 hours ago
(Edited)

Fortunately for Europe, the same people who hate Europeans for religious and racist reasons will now be providing them with all of their natural gas! At least until the utopia of Year Zero becomes manifest throughout the EU via solar panels and wind turbines made by 12 year old Chinese girls in CCP slave labor camps. Imagine how bad this situation could be if the West didn't have such a strong moral conscience and wasn't so dedicated to the sacred principles of democracy.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

moonmac
2 hours ago

This should have been solved in 1946.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

Spacelord77
3 hours ago

Yet the woke western teams are happily there practicing their propaganda...

Same as: "We have to reduce our electricity usage but we want everyone to buy an EV"

play_arrowplay_arrow

ThomasJefferson69
3 hours ago

Just TCNs....lol.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Powerball_Trillionaire
3 hours ago

What say you Snidley, you Iranian boot licker?

play_arrowplay_arrow2

zeroisunbiased
3 hours ago

why don't fans build it in exchange for free tickets? problem solved in more ways than one...

play_arrowplay_arrow1

Offthebeach
4 hours ago

Important thing were the Apple Iphone Pro 14 adds successful?

play_arrowplay_arrow

HistoryRepeat
4 hours ago

Sounds like Budweiser should have donated all that beer to the workers.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Vinividivinci
4 hours ago

"It is what it is" ...

play_arrowplay_arrow

back4more
4 hours ago

remove
link

Nothing to see here, move along...

..
5 hours ago
(Edited)

.

play_arrowplay_arrow

HankLove
PREMIUM
5 hours ago

remove
link

Al-Thawadi master of Al-Taqiyyah

play_arrowplay_arrow

Castor gordo el tercero
5 hours ago

How many of those were executions?

play_arrowplay_arrow1

john milton
5 hours ago

Pls dont start bashing qatar now..

Liver sausage just made huge 15y lng contract with them..

Double stantards at play here again

play_arrowplay_arrow1

war, sanctions, europe: nov30 Lights Go Out On Hungary Stadiums, Theatres As Energy Crisis Bites

Rocketing energy bills are forcing Hungary to shutter libraries, theatres, swimming pools and even its new football stadiums for winter.

france24dotcom/en/live-news/20221129-lights-go-out-on-hungary-stadiums-theatres-as-energy-crisis-bites

History, government, journal: nov30 germany defeats france 1940, 10's of thousands of british, french, and german casualties

this results in the german occupation of france after an armistice was signed. It lasted for 4 years, 1940-1944 until the Liberation of France after the Normandy and Provence landings.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_military_administration_in_occupied_France_during_World_War_II

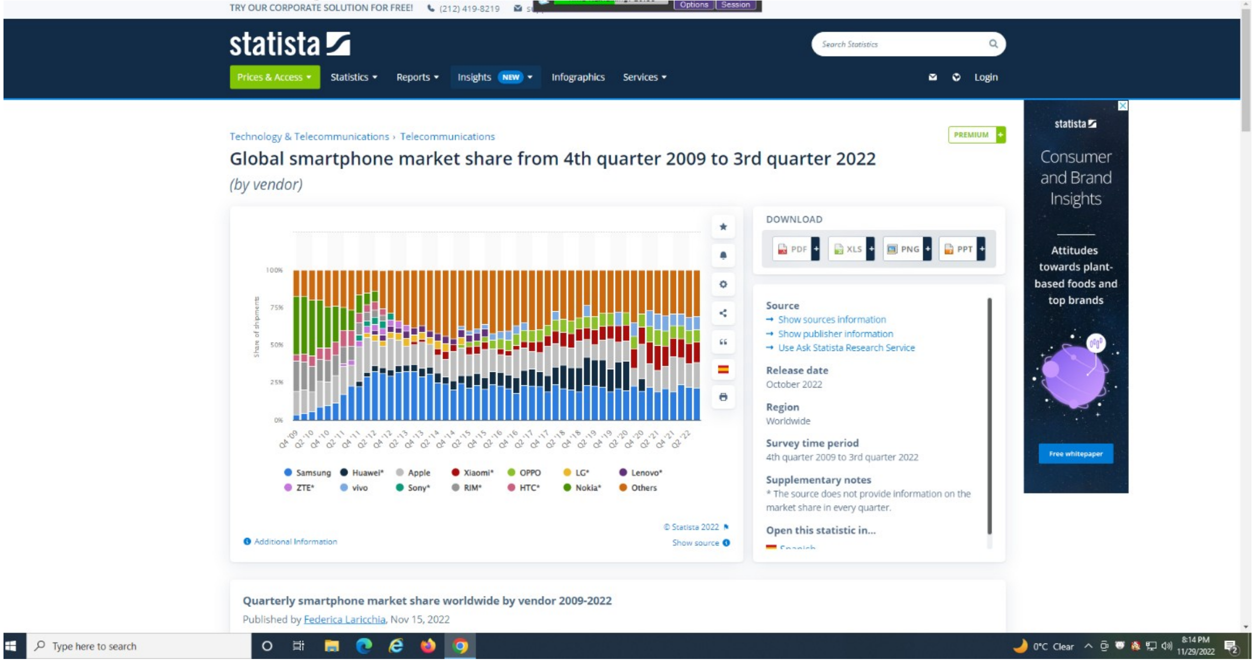
The term **Malgré-nous** (lit. 'we despite ourselves', or more figuratively 'we who are forced against our will') refers to men from Alsace–Lorraine who were conscripted into the German military after the region's annexation from France during World War II. The female term *Malgré-elles* is sometimes used to refer to the Alsace-Moselle women also drafted against their will into the general German War effort.[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malgr%C3%A9-nous

Memory of the Napoleonic Wars was still fresh in the 1870s. Wilhelm I himself had had to flee with the Prussian royal family to East Prussia as a nine year old in 1806 and had served in the Battle of Waterloo
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsace%E2%80%93Lorraine

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Empire

china, stats, sanctions, journal: nov29 smartphone marketshare by vender on statista shows huawei going from holding up to 20% marketshare and closely rivaling samsung (korea), and apple (usa), to literally disappearing from the graph...



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Share of shipments
Q4 '09
Q2 '10
Q4 '10
Q2 '11
Q4 '11
Q2 '12
Q4 '12
Q2 '13
Q4 '13
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0°C Clear
8:14 PM
11/29/2022

Technology & Telecommunications › Telecommunications

Global smartphone market share from 4th quarter 2009 to 3rd quarter 2022

(by vendor)

© Statista 2022

Additional Information

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Release date
October 2022

Region
Worldwide

Survey time period
4th quarter 2009 to 3rd quarter 2022

Supplementary notes
* The source does not provide information on the market share in every quarter.

Open this statistic in...

Quarterly smartphone market share worldwide by vendor 2009-2022

Published by Federica Laricchia, Nov 15, 2022

rs. [Huawei's market share]reached up to 20 percent in previous years, however, strong performances from rivals and the effects of the U.S. trade ban have since seen Huawei fall outside the list of top five vendors by smartphone shipments. https://www.statista.com/statistics/271496/global-market-share-held-by-smartphone-vendors-since-4th-quarter-2009/

stats, tech: nov29 Quantum computer recieves $823 million in 2021, up 70% from the year ago period according to marketwatch, November 29th 2022,

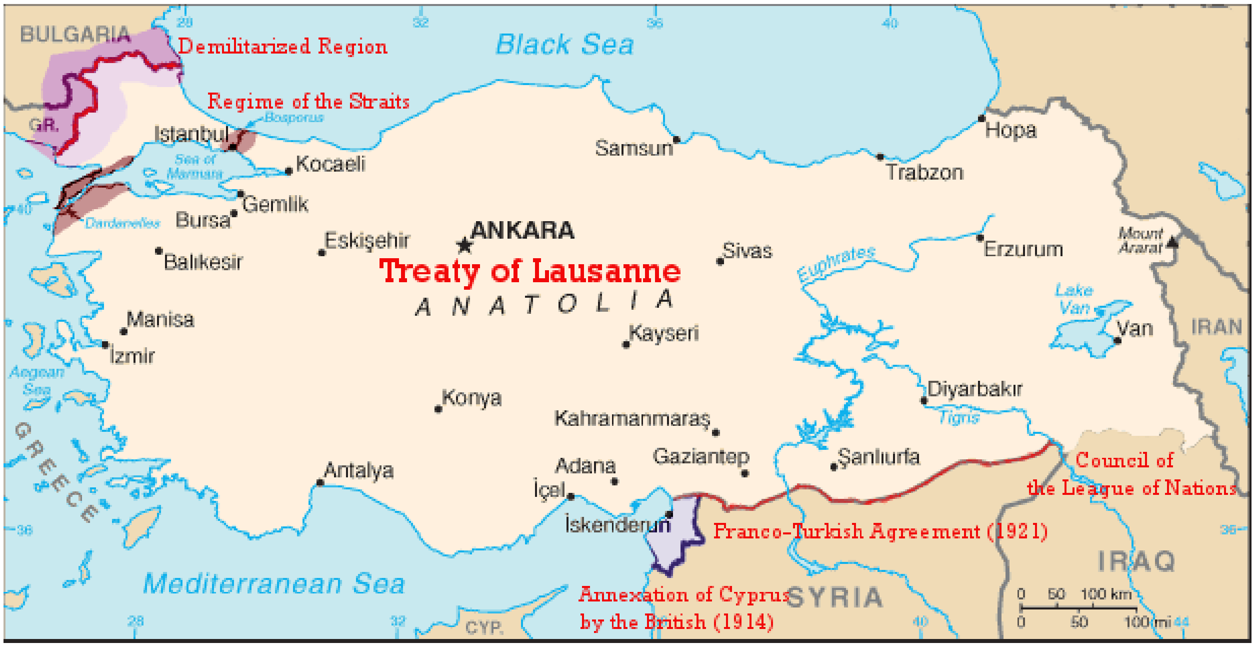
Quantum computing is also in the midst of a venture-capital funding boom, receiving a record $823 million in 2021, up more than 70% from 2020. Palo Alto-based PsiQuantum received $450 million, which gave the company a $3.1 billion valuation. Toronto-based Xanadu, a designer of quantum silicon photonic chips received $100 million.

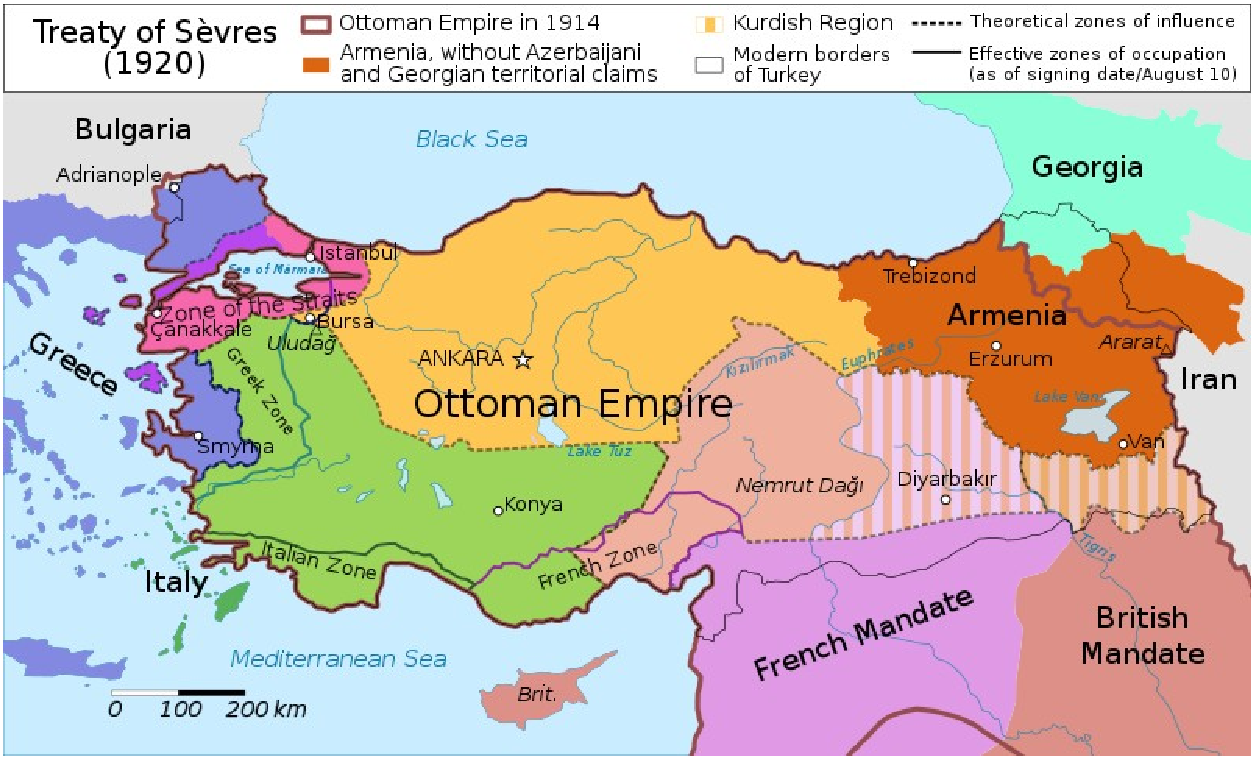
https://www.marketwatch.com/story/more-risk-doesnt-always-mean-greater-reward-just-look-at-these-imploded-tech-stocks-11669712414

middle east, war, energy: nov29 **Iraqi Kurdistan. 2014, Washinton Post business, nice due diligence** **https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/new-oil-pipeline-boosts-iraqi-kurdistan-the-region-made-of-three-northern-provinces/2014/06/12/50635600-ef30-11e3-bf76-447a5df6411f_story.html**

history, war, government, Erdogan, journal: nov29 The 1923 Treaty of Lausanne superseded the Treaty of Sèvres

The 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, which superseded the Treaty of Sèvres, ended the conflict and saw the establishment of the Republic of Turkey.


BULGARIA
Demilitarized Region
Black Sea
Regime of the Straits
Bosporus
GR.
Istanbul
Sea of Marmara
Kocaeli
Samsun
Hopa
Trabzon
Dardanelles
Gemlik
Bursa
Eskişehir
ANKARA
Sivas
Euphrates
Erzurum
Mount Ararat
Balıkesir
Treaty of Lausanne
ANATOLIA
Lake Van
Van
IRAN
Manisa
İzmir
Kayseri
Aegean Sea
Diyarbakır
Tigris
Konya
Kahramanmaraş
GREECE
Gaziantep
Şanlıurfa
Council of the League of Nations
Adana
Antalya
İçel
İskenderun
Franco-Turkish Agreement (1921)
IRAQ
Mediterranean Sea
Annexation of Cyprus by the British (1914)
SYRIA
CYP.
0 50 100 km
0 50 100 mi
28
32
36
40
44


Treaty of Sèvres (1920)
Ottoman Empire in 1914
Armenia, without Azerbaijani and Georgian territorial claims
Kurdish Region
Modern borders of Turkey
Theoretical zones of influence
Effective zones of occupation (as of signing date/August 10)
Bulgaria
Black Sea
Georgia
Adrianople
Istanbul
Sea of Marmara
Trebizond
Zone of the Straits
Çanakkale
Bursa
Uludağ
Armenia
Ararat
Erzurum
Iran
Greece
Greek Zone
ANKARA
Kızılırmak
Euphrates
Ottoman Empire
Lake Van
Van
Smyrna
Lake Tuz
Nemrut Dağı
Diyarbakır
Konya
Italian Zone
French Zone
Tigris
Italy
French Mandate
British Mandate
Mediterranean Sea
Brit.
0 100 200 km

Kurds comprise anywhere from 18 to 25% of the population in Turkey, 15 to 20% in Iraq 10% in Iran; and 9% in Syria.

After World War I and the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, the victorious Western allies made provision for a Kurdish state in the 1920 Treaty of Sèvres. However, that promise was broken three years later, when the Treaty of Lausanne set the boundaries of modern Turkey and made no such provision, leaving Kurds with minority status in all of the new countries.[40] Recent history of the Kurds includes numerous genocides and rebellions, along with ongoing armed conflicts in Turkish, Iranian, Syrian, and Iraqi Kurdistan. Kurds in Iraq and Syria have autonomous regions, while Kurdish movements continue to pursue greater cultural rights, autonomy, and independence throughout Kurdistan.

The ceding of Eastern Mediterranean lands saw the introduction of novel polities, including the British Mandate for Palestine and the French Mandate for Syria and Lebanon.[7]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_S%C3%A8vres

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1923-1938), Ideologically a secularist and nationalist, founding father of the Republic of Turkey, serving as its first president

Atatürk came to prominence for his role in securing the Ottoman Turkish victory at the Battle of Gallipoli (1915) during World War I.[9] Following the defeat and dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, he led the Turkish National Movement, which resisted mainland Turkey's partition among the victorious Allied powers. Establishing a provisional government in the present-day Turkish capital Ankara (known in English at the time as Angora), he defeated the forces sent by the Allies, thus emerging victorious from what was later referred to as the Turkish War of Independence. He subsequently proceeded to abolish the decrepit Ottoman Empire and proclaimed the foundation of the Turkish Republic in its place.

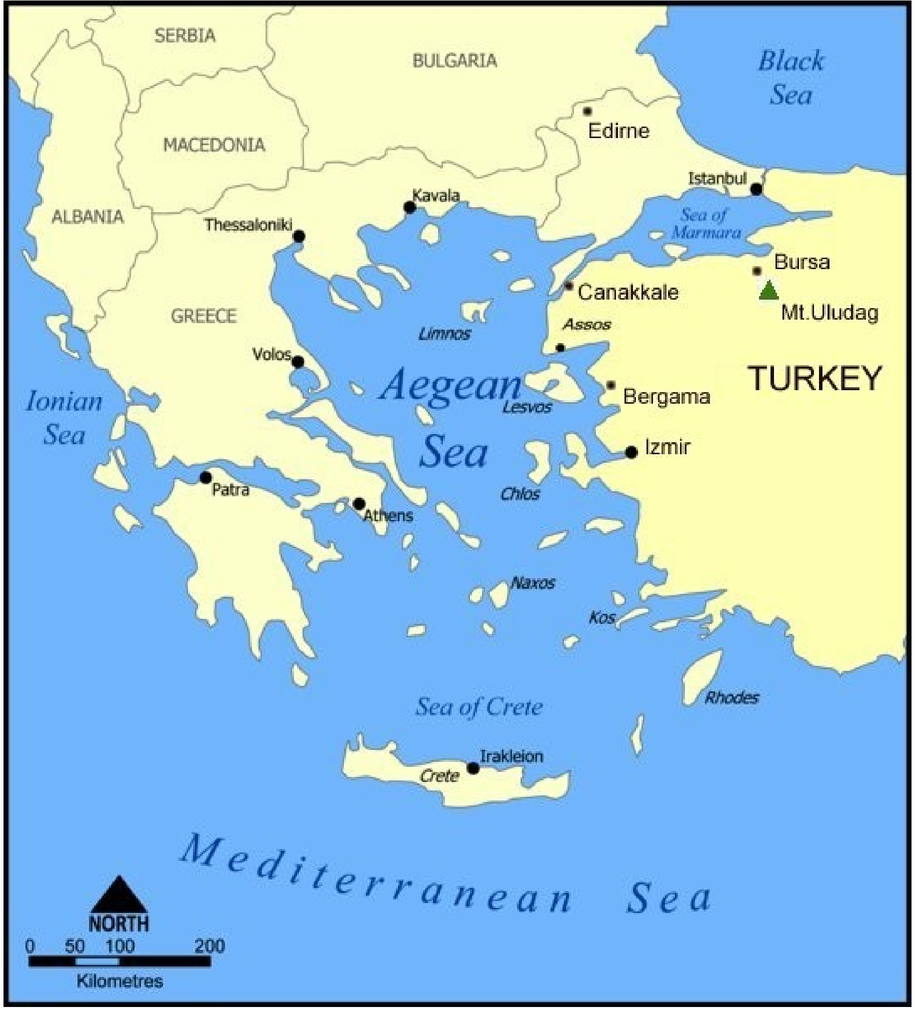
As the president of the newly formed Turkish Republic, Atatürk initiated a rigorous program of political, economic, and cultural reforms with the ultimate aim of building a modern, progressive and secular nation-state. He made primary education free and compulsory, opening thousands of new schools all over the country. He also introduced the Latin-based Turkish alphabet, replacing the old Ottoman Turkish alphabet. Turkish women received equal civil and political rights during Atatürk's presidency.[10] In particular, women were given voting rights in local elections by Act no. 1580 on 3 April 1930 and a few years later, in 1934, full universal suffrage.[11]

His government carried out a policy of Turkification, trying to create a homogeneous, unified and above all secular nation under the Turkish banner.[12][13][14] Under Atatürk, the minorities in Turkey were asked to speak Turkish in public, but also were allowed to maintain their own languages at the same time;[15] non-Turkish toponyms and minorities were ordered to get a Turkish surname as per Turkish renditions.[16][17] The Turkish

Parliament granted him the surname Atatürk in 1934, which means "Father of the Turks", in recognition of the role he played in building the modern Turkish Republic.[18] He died on 10 November 1938 at Dolmabahçe Palace in Istanbul, at the age of 57;[19] he was succeeded as president by his long-time prime minister İsmet İnönü[20] and was honored with a state funeral.

Stats, war, energy, pipeline: nov29

world coastline closeups, mapped


SERBIA
BULGARIA
Black Sea
Edirne
MACEDONIA
Istanbul
Kavala
ALBANIA
Thessaloniki
Sea of Marmara
Bursa
Canakkale
Mt.Uludag
GREECE
Assos
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Volos
TURKEY
Aegean Sea
Ionian Sea
Lesvos
Bergama
Izmir
Patra
Athens
Chios
Naxos
Kos
Rhodes
Sea of Crete
Irakleion
Crete
Mediterranean Sea
NORTH
0 50 100 200
Kilometres

The **Black Sea** is a large inland sea which spans **168,500 square miles** - roughly, about the same size as California, situated between **Europe** and **Asia**. During the past few centuries, it has held a **strategic and economic importance to Russia**. For security reasons too, **Russia** relies on the Crimean port

of **Sevastopol** and **Novorossiysk** - large, warm-water seaports with extensive cargo transloading facilities for **maritime trade** to the rest of the world ads well as for **naval power** - so that it can **maintain control of the sea in the south**. The **Black Sea** is vital for **Russia** as it provides t**ransit routes to the Sea of Marmara**, the **Mediterranean** and the **Atlantic Ocean**. As the **world's largest exporter of grains**, it is via the warm-water ports of the Black Sea basin which Russia is able to ship its cargo anywhere in the world **all year round**. In 2020, the **Russia Federation's container port throughput** was approximately **4,871, 919 twenty-foot equivalent units** (TEUs).
https://en.as.com/en/2022/02/25/latest_news/1645814627_130506.html

war, sanctions , middle east: nov29 Tehran claims 300 people have lost their lives during protests, The Islamic Republic announced on 28 November

war, middle east, erdogan: nov29

The last Turkish military operation in October 2019, "Operation Peace Spring," displaced around 300,000 people and led to accusations by human rights monitors that Turkey had committed war crimes.

Turkey views the SDF as the Syrian offshoot of the PKK and as a consistent security threat on its southern border.

The SDF is backed by the US and was the ground force which routed the so-called Islamic State (IS) from Syria in 2019. It also presides over detention camps and prisons which hold tens of thousands of suspected IS fighters.

newarab.com/news/one-million-displaced-if-turkey-invades-sdf-commander

asia, china, war: nov29 Japan, Philippines Hold First Air Defense Training

War, middle east: Nov29 turkey

Over the past two weeks, Turkiye has been attacking the positions of Kurdish militias in northern Syria and Iraq, allegedly in pursuit of those responsible for a terror attack in Istanbul.

The attacks have targeted the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the People Protection Units (YPG) – two militias that make up the bulk of the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

Al Akhbar's sources allege that, in addition to preparing lists of fighters and doing an inventory of their weapons, the Turkish officials are pushing their hired militias to overcome any differences with the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) armed group – formerly known as the Al-Nusra Front – which is also expected to take part in the Turkish ground offensive.

In an attempt to defuse the situation, Russia has been in talks with the SDF to convince the group to hand over control of the cities of Ain al-Arab, Manbij, and Tal Rifaat to Damascus. However, these talks have yet to bear fruit, as the Kurdish groups are reportedly divided between leaving with the least possible damage by opening up to Damascus, and trusting in the promises of the US government.

While Washington has condemned the attacks on Kurdish targets, US officials have also expressed 'understanding' for Turkiye's actions.

Nonetheless, the SDF is seemingly convinced that Ankara's escalation is made "just for show" months before presidential elections in the country and believes Washington will stop any ground offensive before it starts.

Censorship, government, journal: nov29 Former USIA Director of TV and Film Service Alvin Snyder recalled in his 1995 memoir that "the U.S. government ran a full-service public relations organization, the largest in the world

Former USIA Director of TV and Film Service Alvin Snyder recalled in his 1995 memoir that "the U.S. government ran a full-service public relations organization, the largest in the world, about the size of the twenty biggest U.S. commercial PR firms combined. Its full-time professional staff of more than 10,000, spread out among some 150 countries, burnished America's image and trashed the Soviet Union 2,500 hours a week with a 'tower of babble' comprised of more than 70 languages, to the tune of over $2 billion per year". "The biggest branch of this propaganda machine" was the USIA.[1]

Within the US, the USIA was intended to assure Americans that "[t]he United States was working for a better world".[8] Abroad, the USIA tried to preserve a positive image of the U.S. regardless of negative depictions from communist propaganda. One notable example was Project Pedro. This secretly funded project created newsreels in Mexico during the 1950s that portrayed Communism unfavorably and the United States positively.[9] Articles reflecting the views promoted by the USIA were frequently published under fictitious bylines, such as "Guy Sims Fitch".[10][11]

byline as "a printed line of text accompanying a news story, article, or the like, giving the author's name"

USIA's broadcasting functions were moved to the newly created Broadcasting Board of Governors.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Information_Agency

The Broadcasting Board of Governors is the largest public diplomacy program by the U.S. government, reaching an audience of 278 million by broadcasting in 100 countries and 61 languages. The agency was created in 1942 during World War II to send pro-democracy news across Europe, as it aimed to counter Nazi and Japanese propaganda. The agency has since evolved into a more traditional news operation, while still pushing out the virtues of democracy worldwide.

Because of the modification of the Smith-Mundt Act in 2013, the BBG can now broadcast in the U.S., too. But the influence on the domestic market could be even more subtle, the Republican official warned.

“On Jan. 21, we’ll have a welcoming ceremony for our next CEO, who could be Steve Bannon, or Laura Ingraham or Ann Coulter,” said a senior Voice of America staffer.

The covert mentality penetrated nearly every aspect of American life. The mandarins decided that American students should attend international conferences and youth festivals to counteract Soviet propaganda. So the CIA secretly began funding the National Student Association. Anti-communist intellectuals in Europe were deemed worthy of aid, so the CIA subsidized the Congress for Cultural Freedom and Encounter magazine. It was decided that we should help democratic parties in Europe resist communist pressure. The CIA did it covertly.

When these covert activities surfaced (as they inevitably did), the fallout was devastating. The CIA connection, intended to protect people and organizations from public embarrassment, had precisely the opposite effect.

"A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA," agrees Weinstein. The biggest difference is that when such activities are done overtly, the flap potential is close to zero. Openness is its own protection.

INNOCENCE ABROAD: THE NEW WORLD OF SPYLESS COUPS

rest of article

INNOCENCE ABROAD: THE NEW WORLD OF SPYLESS COUPS

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By David Ignatius September 22, 1991 ◊ Follow @ignatiuspost

NOBODY WAS rude enough to say so during last week's confirmation hearings for Robert M. Gates to head the CIA, but the old era of covert action is dead. The world doesn't run in secret anymore. We are now living in the Age of Overt Action.

The great democratic revolution that has swept the globe over the past few years has been a triumph of overt action. The CIA old boys spent a generation fantasizing about this sort of global anti-communist putsch. But when it finally happened, it was in the open. There were no secret paramilitary armies, and there was almost no bloodshed. The key operatives in the conspiracy turned out to be telephones, televisions and fax machines.

Working in broad daylight, the United States and its allies were able to do things that would have been unthinkably dangerous had they been done in the shadows. Consider:

When Boris Yeltsin's aides were trying to rally support for their resistance in Moscow on Aug. 19, the first day of the coup, they needed to broadcast their defiant message to Russia and the world. One of them sent a fax to Allen Weinstein, a pro-democracy activist who heads a think tank in Washington.

"Did Mr. Bush make any comments upon the situation in this country?" implored the handwritten fax message. "If he did, make it known by all means of communication to the people of this country. The Russian government has no NO ways to address the people. All radio stations are under control. The following is {Boris Yeltsin's} address to the Army. Submit it to USIA. Broadcast it over the country. Maybe 'Voice of America.' Do it! Urgent!"

And it was done, in the open.

Next, it was time for the leader of the free world to contact the Kremlin rebel who was seeking to dismantle the Soviet empire and destroy the Communist Party. And how was this contact, arguably the most sensitive and delicate in the history of the Cold War, handled? George Bush called Boris Yeltsin on the telephone. And then he went on television and described his conversation.

We didn't need the CIA to support Yeltsin's countercoup. We just needed a telephone operator.

Preparing the ground for last month's triumph of overt action was a network of overt operatives who during the last 10 years have quietly been changing the rules of international politics. They have been doing in public what the CIA used to do in private -- providing money and moral support for pro-democracy groups, training resistance fighters, working to subvert communist rule. And, in contrast to many of the CIA's superannuated Cold Warriors, who tended to get tangled in their webs of secrecy, these overt operatives have been immensely successful.

There's an obvious lesson here for Gates, or whoever ends up heading the CIA. The old concept of covert action, which has gotten the agency into such trouble during the past 40 years, may be obsolete. Nowadays, sensible activities to support America's friends abroad (or undermine its enemies) are probably best done openly. That includes paramilitary operations such as supporting freedom fighters, which can be managed overtly by the Pentagon. And it includes political-support operations for pro-democracy activists, which may be best left to the new network of overt operators.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) thus has it half-right when he urges that the CIA be abolished. The main problem, contrary to what Moynihan says, is not with intelligence collection -- "spying," in its purest form. That part of the CIA needs to be strengthened, not cut.

What may need abolishing is the covert-action role that was awkwardly grafted onto the CIA's basic spying mission when the agency was created in 1947. The covert-action boys were known back then as the Office of Policy Coordination. It may be time, at last, to bid them adieu. They're obsolete. They've been privatized.

That's especially true in the realm of what used to be called "propaganda" and can now simply be called information. The CIA worked hard in the old days to draw foreign newspapers and magazines into its web, so as to counter Soviet disinformation. Frank Wisner, the head of CIA covert operations during the mid-1950s, once remarked that he could play his media assets like a "mighty Wurlitzer."

Today the mighty Wurlitzer actually exists. It's called CNN. But it doesn't need playing by anybody but the independent journalists who work there. CNN's objective, omnipresent, real-time coverage of the news helps America's interests more than all the besotted Third World "media assets" of old could ever have imagined. And the bar bills are less.

Allen Weinstein, the recipient of Yeltsin's faxes, is probably the dean of the new overt operatives. Like many of the people running the new nations of Eastern Europe, he's an ex-professor. He taught history at Smith College for 15 years and even worked for several months writing editorials for The Washington Post.

Weinstein's career as an overt operator dates back to 1980, when he joined Soviet dissidents in organizing a citizens' committee to monitor the Helsinki Accords on Human Rights. He quickly became connected with the network of pro-democracy activists who were then beginning to challenge anti-democratic regimes around the world. Soon he was sponsoring conferences for dissidents, arranging visits for them to the United States and otherwise making trouble.

"The networking phenomenon is one of the things we've specialized in," explains Weinstein. His visitors in those early days included some of the insurgents who were later to lead protest movements across Eastern Europe in 1989.

"People wander through your office," he says. "They become family."

Weinstein founded the Center for Democracy in 1984 as an umbrella for his global meddling. He dispatched election-monitoring teams to the Philippines, Panama and Nicaragua that are credited with having helped topple undemocratic regimes in those countries through the ballot box. By 1990, he was hosting meetings for newly elected Polish parliamentarians; for legislative clerks from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland; and for constitution-drafters from those three countries.

Trenchcoats and tradecraft were irrelevant to these gatherings. The key man in Weinstein's overt operation was the rapporteur.

Boris Yeltsin and his aides were soon drawn into this transatlantic hospitality suite. They attended Weinstein's conferences, including one on environmental problems held in Moscow in early August, which was co-sponsored by Weinstein's center and the Russian republic. When the hard-liners launched their putsch a few days later, the Yeltsin aides naturally enough began sending faxes to their friend, Weinstein. The first one read simply: "It is military coup. Tanks are everywhere."

Now, with the KGB in retreat from Prague to Vladivostok, Weinstein has scheduled a conference in Sofia, Bulgaria on the topic: "The Proper Role of Intelligence Agencies in a Democracy." That may be rubbing it in.

Amazingly enough, these simple pro-democracy activities were once the exclusive province of the CIA. Back in the heyday of the Cold War, the wizards of Langley seemed to think it necessary to "recruit" the world's democrats and give them code names.

The covert mentality penetrated nearly every aspect of American life. The mandarins decided that American students should attend international conferences and youth festivals to counteract Soviet propaganda. So the CIA secretly began funding the National Student Association. Anti-communist intellectuals in Europe were deemed worthy of aid, so the CIA subsidized the Congress for Cultural Freedom and Encounter magazine. It was decided that we should help democratic parties in Europe resist communist pressure. The CIA did it covertly.

No activity was so innocent that the CIA didn't think it could be improved by secrecy.

Even Gloria Steinem, now a feminist leader, was drawn into the CIA covert web. According to CIA historian John Ranelagh, she was involved in a CIA operation to send American students to World Youth festivals in Vienna in 1959 and Helsinki in 1962.

When these covert activities surfaced (as they inevitably did), the fallout was devastating. The CIA connection, intended to protect people and organizations from public embarrassment, had precisely the opposite effect.

"A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA," agrees Weinstein. The biggest difference is that when such activities are done overtly, the flap potential is close to zero. Openness is its own protection.

Allen Weinstein is just one of many overt operatives who helped prepare the way for the political miracles of the past two years by sponsoring exchanges and other contacts with liberal reformers from the East. It's worth naming a few more of them, to show the breadth of this movement for democracy: William Miller of the American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations; financier George Soros of the Soros Foundation; John Mroz of the Center for East-West Security Studies; John Baker of the Atlantic Council; and Harriett Crosby of the Institute for Soviet-American Relations. This has truly been a revolution by committee.

The AFL-CIO also deserves a healthy pat on the back. Working mostly in the open, it helped keep the Polish trade union Solidarity alive in the dark days of martial law during the early 1980s. As the AFL-CIO's Adrian Karatnycky wrote in these pages two years ago, American trade unions and the U.S. Congress provided millions of dollars to the Solidarity underground.

"The money underwrote shipments of scores of printing presses, dozens of computers, hundreds of mimeograph machines, thousands of gallons of printers' ink, hundreds of thousands of stencils, video cameras and radio broadcasting equipment," according to Karatnycky.

The sugar daddy of overt operations has been the National Endowment for Democracy, a quasi-private group headed by Carl Gershman that is funded by the U.S. Congress. Through the late 1980s, it did openly what had once been unspeakably covert -- dispensing money to anti-communist forces behind the Iron Curtain.

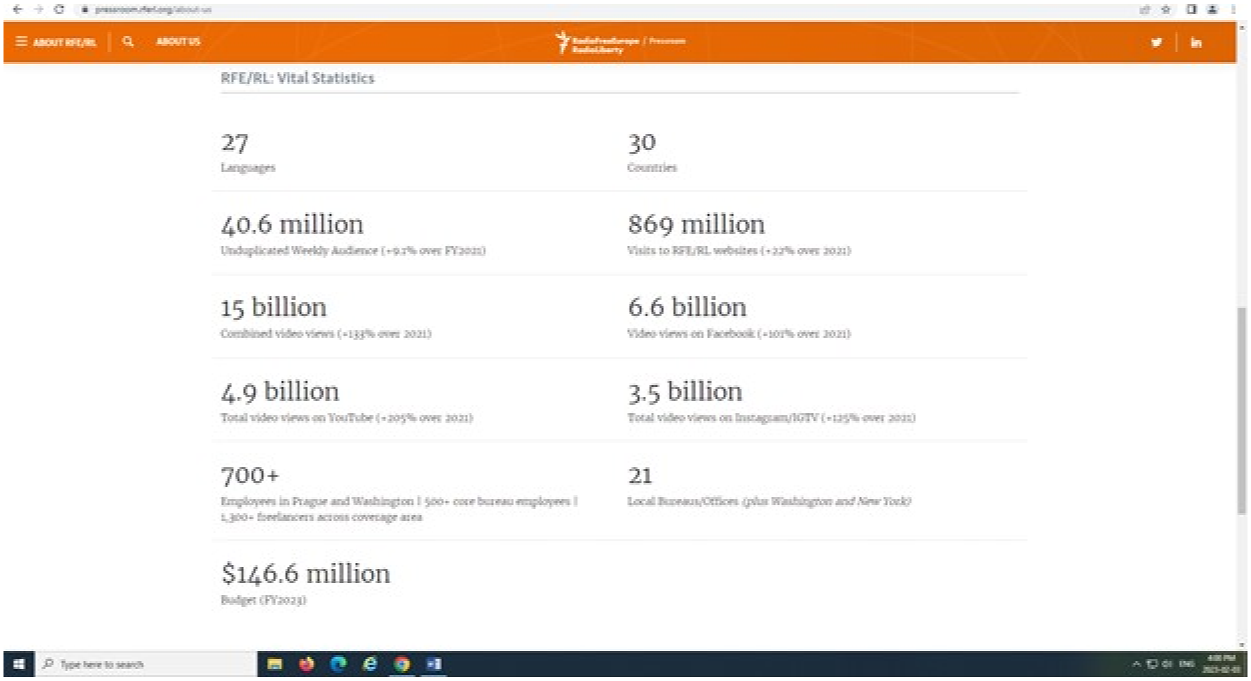
To read through the NED's grant list (a public document) is to take a stroll down the democracy movement's memory lane: In Czechoslovakia, the endowment began aiding democratic forces in 1984, including support for Civic Forum; in Hungary, the aid began in 1986 and included election help and funding for Hungary's first independent public-opinion survey; in Romania and Bulgaria, the endowment has supported new intellectual journals and other tools of democracy. Among its many activities in Poland, the endowment has backed the Gdansk Video Center, which helped produce and distribute pro-democracy videos throughout Eastern Europe during the 1980s. And through the Free Trade Union Institute and the Center for International Private Enterprise, the endowment helped support new unions and employers' associations across Eastern Europe -- building the infrastructure of a free economy.

The endowment has also been active inside the Soviet Union. It has given money to Soviet trade unions; to the liberal "Interregional Group" in the Congress of Peoples Deputies; to a foundation headed by Russian activist Ilya Zaslavsky; to an Oral History Project headed by Soviet historian Yuri Afanasyev; to the Ukrainian independence movement known as Rukh, and to many other projects.

Covert funding for these groups would have been the kiss of death, if discovered. Overt funding, it would seem, has been a kiss of life.

David Ignatius is foreign editor of The Washington Post and author of "Siro," a spy novel.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (**RFE**/**RL**) is a United States government funded organization that broadcasts and reports news, information, and analysis to countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Caucasus, and the Middle East where it says that "the free flow of information is either banned by government authorities or not fully developed".[6][7] RFE/RL is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation supervised by the U.S. Agency for Global Media, an independent government agency overseeing all U.S. federal government international broadcasting services.[8] Jeremy Bransten is acting editor-in-chief of RFE.[9]


pressroom.rferl.org/about-us
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RadioFreeEurope RadioLiberty / Pressroom
Type here to search

RFE/RL: Vital Statistics

27
Languages

30
Countries

40.6 million
Unduplicated Weekly Audience (+9.1% over FY2021)

869 million
Visits to RFE/RL websites (+22% over 2021)

15 billion
Combined video views (+133% over 2021)

6.6 billion
Video views on Facebook (+101% over 2021)

4.9 billion
Total video views on YouTube (+205% over 2021)

3.5 billion
Total video views on Instagram/IGTV (+125% over 2021)

700+
Employees in Prague and Washington | 500+ core bureau employees | 1,300+ freelancers across coverage area

21
Local Bureaus/Offices *(plus Washington and New York)*

$146.6 million
Budget (FY2023)

Journal: radio free Europe I, a united states funded news organization with billions of listeners and decades of operations, is said to have been used by student protestors during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 to influence opposition groups fighting against the soviets.

https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldhistory2/chapter/the-hungarian-uprising/#:~:text=The%20Hungarian%20Revolution%20of%201956%20or,and%20violence%20erupted%20throughout%20the%20capital.

The revolt spread quickly across Hungary and the government collapsed. Thousands organized into militias, battling the ÁVH and Soviet troops. Pro-Soviet communists and ÁVH members were often executed or imprisoned and former political prisoners were released and armed. Radical impromptu workers' councils wrested municipal control from the ruling Hungarian Working People's Party and demanded political changes. A new government formally disbanded the ÁVH, declared its intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact, and pledged to re-establish free elections. By the end of October, fighting had almost stopped and a sense of normality began to return.

After announcing a willingness to negotiate a withdrawal of Soviet forces, the Politburo changed its mind and moved to crush the revolution. On November 4, a large Soviet force invaded Budapest and other regions of the country. The Hungarian resistance continued until November 10. More than 2,500 Hungarians and 700 Soviet troops were killed in the conflict, and 200,000 Hungarians fled as refugees. Mass arrests and denunciations continued for months thereafter. By January 1957, the new Soviet-installed government had suppressed all public opposition. These Soviet actions, while strengthening control over the Eastern Bloc, alienated many Western Marxists, leading to splits and/or considerable losses of membership for Communist Parties in the West.

Public discussion about this revolution was suppressed in Hungary for more than 30 years. Since the thaw of the 1980s, it has been a subject of intense study and debate. At the inauguration of the Third Hungarian Republic in 1989, October 23 was declared a national holiday.

Hungarian Uprising: Flag of Hungary, with the communist coat of arms cut out. The flag with a hole became the symbol of the revolution.

Background

Hungary became a communist state under the severely authoritarian leadership of Mátyás Rákosi. Under Rákosi’s reign, the Security Police (ÁVH) began a series of purges, first within the Communist Party to end opposition to Rákosi’s reign. The victims were labeled as “Titoists,” “western agents,” or “Trotskyists” for as insignificant a crime as spending time in the West to participate in the Spanish Civil War. In total, about half of all the middle and lower level party officials—at least 7,000 people—were purged.

From 1950 to 1952, the Security Police forcibly relocated thousands of people to obtain property and housing for the Working People’s Party members and to remove the threat of the intellectual and “bourgeois” class. Thousands were arrested, tortured, tried, and imprisoned in concentration camps, deported to the east, or executed, including ÁVH founder László Rajk. In a single year, more than 26,000 people were forcibly relocated from Budapest. As a consequence, jobs and housing were very difficult to obtain. The deportees generally experienced terrible living conditions and were interned as slave labor on collective farms. Many died as a result of poor living conditions and malnutrition.

The Rákosi government thoroughly politicized Hungary’s educational system to supplant the educated classes with a “toiling intelligentsia.” Russian language study and Communist political instruction were made mandatory in schools and universities nationwide. Religious schools were nationalized and church leaders were replaced by those loyal to the government. In 1949 the leader of the Hungarian Catholic Church, Cardinal József Mindszenty, was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment for treason. Under Rákosi, Hungary’s government was among the most repressive in Europe.

Middle east, war: nov29

'Difficult and painful': Morocco's former PM distances himself from normalisation deal with Israel

The Moroccan state sealed the deal as a patriotic diplomatic' step that serves its interests in the Western Sahara conflict, as the US recognised Morocco's sovereignty over the disputed territory in exchange for normalisation with Israel.

newarab.com/news/i-signed-normalisation-act-under-pressure-moroccos-ex-pm

Russia, war, europe: nov29 Russia: missile strikes have been no closer than 35 km from the Polish border

Nov 16 (Reuters) - Russia said an explosion in Poland on Tuesday had been caused by a Ukrainian air defence missile and that Russian strikes in Ukraine had been no closer than 35 km (22 miles) from the Polish border.

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-says-its-strikes-ukraine-were-no-closer-than-35km-polish-border-2022-11-16/

history, europe: Late antiquity, transition from classical antiquity to the Middle Ages, spanning the 4th–6th century in Europe

Late antiquity is the time of transition from classical antiquity to the Middle Ages, generally spanning the 4th–6th century in Europe and adjacent areas bordering the Mediterranean Basin. The popularization of this periodization in English has generally been credited to historian Peter Brown, after the publication of his seminal work *The World of Late Antiquity* (1971). Precise boundaries for the period are a continuing matter of debate, but Brown proposes a period between the 3rd and 8th centuries AD. Generally, it can be thought of as from the end of the Roman Empire's Crisis of the Third Century (235–284) to the early Muslim conquests (622–750), or as roughly contemporary with the Sasanian Empire (224–651). In the West its end was earlier, with the start of the Early Middle Ages typically placed in the 6th century, or earlier on the edges of the Western Roman Empire.

Late antiquity - Wikipedia

Censorship, war, middle east, journal (massive pr nightmare from 2009):

There were hellish scenes at the hospital in Kunduz, the provincial capital, about 15 miles north of the village. “Wounded people with extensive burns crowded a hospital in Kunduz,” the French news agency AFP reported. “An AFP reporter said around eight were in terrible condition— the skin burnt black and peeling off to expose raw red muscle. Others were silent in agony with incinerated clothes stuck to their flesh.”

"’Nobody was in one piece. Hands, legs, and body parts were scattered everywhere. Those who were away from the fuel tanker were badly burnt,’ said 32-year-old Mohammad Daud, depicting a scene from hell. The burned-out shells of the tankers, still smoking in marooned wrecks on the riverbank, were surrounded by the charred-meat remains of villagers from Chahar Dara district in Kunduz province, near the Tajik border. Dr. Farid Rahid, a spokesperson in Kabul for the ministry of health, said up to 250 villagers had been near the tankers when the air strike was called in."

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-village-sb-idUSTRE58356F20090904
https://original.antiwar.com/roberts/2009/09/06/us-hypocrisy-astonishes/

stats, war: THE 700 MILITARY BASES OF AFGHANISTAN nov29

https://fpif.org/the_700_military_bases_of_afghanistan/

stats, media, journal: current example shows the destruction of war

“598,000 homes, 182 university facilities, and 1,679 mosques, in addition to 379 tourist facilities, and 415 hospitals and health facilities have been destroyed by the Saudi-led forces”

resstvdotir/Detail/2022/11/28/693526/Number-of-displaced-in-Yemen-exceeded-5-million-report-

middle east, censorship, media, journal: nov29 gaddafi giving out viagra and condoms (fake story)

http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/gaddafi-troops-given-viagra-to-rape-us/783345/

censorship, war, middle east, journal: nov29 Iran accused of giving out condoms to criminals for the purpose of raping jailed activists

Prison guards in Iran are giving condoms to criminals and encouraging them to systematically rape young opposition activists locked up with them, according to accounts from inside the country's jail system.

The guardian also posted a similar story about police using rape as an interrigation tactic for men as young as 18.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/jun/24/jailed-iran-opposition-activists-rape

"They gave us warm water to drink and one meal a day. Repeated smacking was a regular punishment. In interrogations, they kept on asking if I was instructed from abroad. I believed I was going to be sent from the detention centre to prison. But they sent me to where they called Roughnecks' Room. There were some other youths of my age in there. I asked a guard why I am not sent to prison and the reply was: 'You have to be our guest for a while.'

"I refused to confess during interrogations. They said: 'Ask your friends what we'll do to you if you don't co-operate.' Others in the room were also arrested on 15 June. I was tempted to confess at this point but I didn't. On the third and fourth day, they beat me up again. They insisted we were instructed from abroad. I kept on saying we were only protesting for our votes.

"It was on Saturday or Sunday that they raped me for the first time. There were three or four huge guys we had not seen before. They came to me and tore my clothes. I tried to resist but two of them laid me on the floor and the third did it. It was done in front of four other detainees.

"My cell mates, especially the older one, tried to console me. They said nobody loses his dignity through such an act. They did it to two other cell mates in the next days. Then it became a routine. We were so weak and beaten up that could not do anything.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jul/01/iran-protest-arrests-afshin-friend

iran, middle east, islam, journal:

In 1988, a top iranian official says explicitly that without their husbands permission, a woman cannot even go to a funeral. Thats how backward they were back then! A funeral! That would definitely get complicated sometimes..

IRAN AND THE SLAVERY OF WOMEN

By **JACK ANDERSON** and **DALE VAN ATTA**

December 21, 1988

The brains of women are smaller than the brains of men and that's why men are the rulers and women are the housekeepers. It's true. Just ask Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian parliament. He is the man the Reagan administration considers to be the moderate hope of a dissolute Iran.

Rafsanjani opined on the shortcomings of the female in a prayer sermon: "A man's brain is larger. Women mature too fast. The breathing power of men's lungs is greater and women's heartbeats are faster . . . . Men heed reasoning and logic, whereas most women tend to be emotional . . . . Courage and daring are stronger in men."

When Rafsanjani speaks, others follow. Hadi Khameini, the brother of Iranian president Ali Khameini and a parliamentary deputy, likes the small-brain theory too. "The average size of a man's brain is larger than a woman's," he was quoted as saying in a Persian-language newspaper. "A man's nervous system is more resistant. He is less afraid and deals with danger more easily. A woman's feelings are less stable than a man's. A woman is more cautious, fearful, talkative and ceremonious than a man . . . . Women cannot compete with men in the rational sciences and problems of pure logic . . . . Abstaining from housework is dreadful torture for a woman."

War, middle east, history: More than one million people were killed during the brutal 1980-88 war between Iran and Iraq

https://www.peoplesworld.org/article/iran-pursues-german-companies-that-gave-saddam-hussein-chemical-weapons/

Erdogan, stats, middle east, journal: nov28 kurds, pkk, turkey oppresses them

https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-between-turkey-and-armed-kurdish-groups

middle east , energy, war: nov28

Turkish involvement in the Syrian civil war (wikipedia)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_against_the_Islamic_State https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Iraq_offensive_(August_2014)

middle east, erdogan, war, history: nov28 important quote

Mottaki has on occasion accused the US and Israel of conspiring to form an independent Kurdistan, uniting around 25 to 30 million ethnic Kurds living in Iraq, Turkey, Iran and Syria.

november 8th, 2007

journal, war: crazy tensions, confirmed by the israeli military....

https://thecradle.co/Article/News/18918

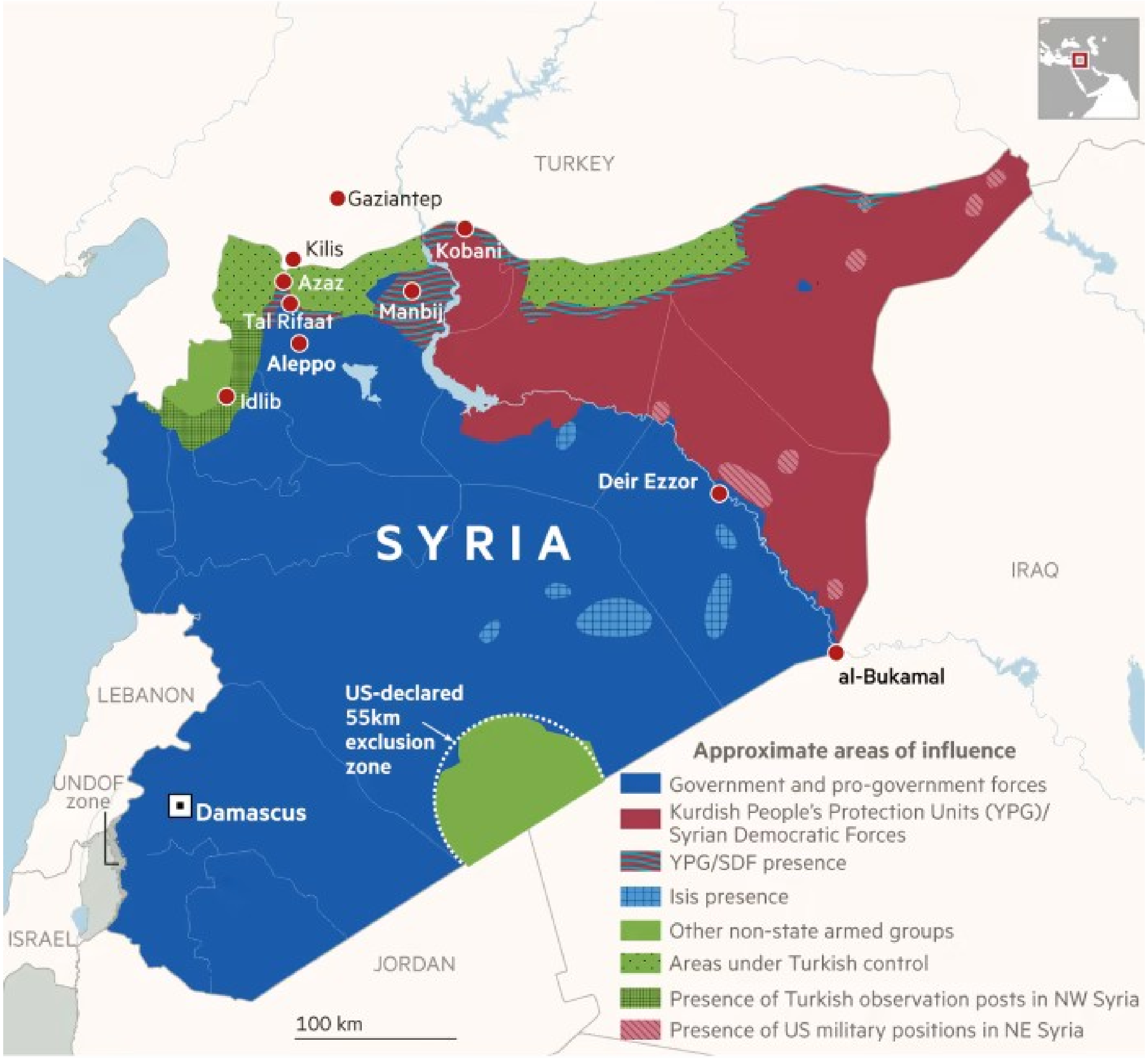
china, war, sanctions: nov28 first time fcc has banned tele equip from specified country

“Our unanimous decision represents the first time in the FCC’s history that we have voted to prohibit the authorization of communications and electronic equipment based on national security considerations,” FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr said in a statement on Friday.

War, Africa, journal, history: nov28 The US military operation in Somalia, explained

https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/us-military-operation-somalia-explained

middle east, Erdogan, war, journal: nov28 picture of syrian control zones from ft, read later


TURKEY
Gaziantep
Kilis
Azaz
Kobani
Tal Rifaat
Manbij
Aleppo
Idlib
Deir Ezzor
SYRIA
IRAQ
al-Bukamal
LEBANON
US-declared 55km exclusion zone
UNDOF zone
Damascus
ISRAEL
JORDAN
100 km
Approximate areas of influence
Government and pro-government forces
Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG)/ Syrian Democratic Forces
YPG/SDF presence
Isis presence
Other non-state armed groups
Areas under Turkish control
Presence of Turkish observation posts in NW Syria
Presence of US military positions in NE Syria

Syria: spheres of influence

As of Dec 2021

Sources: OHCHR; Clingendael
© *FT*

It represents the largest Turkish footprint in an Arab state since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1918 — and it could be about to get bigger as President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan warns that he wants to extend Ankara's control with a new offensive. If he follows through on his threats, it will heap more scrutiny on Turkey's long-term strategy and the role of foreign actors in Syria, after more than a decade of conflict in the Arab nation.

Backed by Russia, Iran and Iranian-aligned militias, Assad has regained control of much of the country but presides over a shattered nation. The remnants of the opposition have been driven to the north, where they rely on Turkey’s military muscle and financial aid. In the north-east, Kurdish-led militias control more than a fifth of the country, with US support and the effective protection of about 800 American troops.

read rest here:

A Kurdish homeland

The YPG came to the fore as a fighting force during the battle of Kobani after Isis seized the predominantly Kurdish Syrian border town during the jihadis’ blitz across Iraq and Syria in 2014. It became the US partner of choice to take the battle to Isis in northeastern Syria under the umbrella of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of fighters dominated by the Kurdish militants that has been armed and trained by Washington.

In Ankara, Turkish officials watched with dismay as the Kurdish militias gained territory, weapons and international standing. Khalifa estimates that the SDF — which accuses Turkey of occupation — controls an army of 100,000 and runs a civil administration of a similar size.

Erdoğan first ordered troops across the border in 2016 in an offensive on the Syrian city of Jarablus, ostensibly to target Isis but also to pre-empt any advance by the Kurdish militants. That operation came weeks after Erdoğan survived a coup attempt and marked the beginning of a more assertive, interventionist foreign policy.

Ankara ordered similar offensives in 2018 and 2019, with Turkish forces fighting alongside their Syrian proxies.

Turkey launched a fourth operation in 2020 to reverse gains made by Assad forces around Idlib in the north-west, another opposition enclave home to 4mn people. Ankara has less control over Idlib, which is run by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an Islamist movement that is designated a terrorist organisation by Ankara and Washington. But Turkey is in effect the ultimate protector of the area.

Those clashes ended with Turkey and Russia reaching a ceasefire agreement and the main front lines have been stagnant since, underscoring the foreign actors’ influence over the fate of millions of Syrians.

Today, Ankara has varying degrees of responsibility for more than 9mn Syrians, including the refugees inside Turkey, just under half the Arab state’s prewar population.

Murat Yeşiltaş, an analyst at Seta, a Turkish-think tank with close links to Erdoğan and his government, estimates the Syria intervention is costing Ankara about $2bn annually. Turkey has 4,000 to 5,000 troops inside the areas it controls and some 8,000 soldiers around Idlib, he adds.

He says Ankara is grappling with the contradiction between Turkey’s professed desire for a unified Syria — not least to prevent any form of Kurdish state — while at the same time realising that “Turkey is . . . ultimately undermining the potential territorial integrity of Syria.”

The options, he says, are direct rule, which would give Turkey greater scope to resolve the economic and security problems on the ground but would in effect be annexation; governing “behind the line,” which would give Ankara influence without it being involved in any form of government; or exiting and putting its faith in a pro-Turkish local administration to maintain order.

At the moment, Turkey is pursuing a mix of the first two, Yeşiltaş says, adding: “If you are asking me who is the boss, of course Turkey is the boss.”

He says the “current map” does not allow for an exit strategy, while suggesting that taking the northern cities of Tal Rifaat and Manbij would bolster Ankara’s longer-term security and economic aims.

Any new operation would be rife with risks. There are reports that Russian-backed Assad fighters and Iranian-aligned militias have been mobilising around Manbij and Tal Rifaat. The Kurdish-dominated SDF has warned it would co-ordinate with Damascus to counter any offensive.

Despite its war in Ukraine, Turkish and western officials say there are few signs that Russia’s posture in Syria has altered. A western diplomat puts the number of Russian troops at between 2,000 and 5,000, the key being air support to the Assad regime.

"For Russia, this [Syria] is a major success . . . and I don't think they're going to risk it and pull out," says James Jeffrey, a former US ambassador to Turkey and former Syria envoy.

Russia's intervention in Syria in 2015 not only tilted the war in Assad's favour, it also bolstered Moscow's influence in the Middle East and secured it naval and air bases in the Mediterranean.

Jeffrey also sees little prospect of the US pulling out any time soon, particularly after the debacle of its withdrawal from Afghanistan. He believes the status quo suits all the external actors if it maintains a fragile stability with frozen front lines. "They would rather live with this messy military commitment that doesn't achieve anything other than block the other side from winning and creating more dangerous security situations for them," he says. "That's the calculus."

One thing that could change the calculus in Ankara is if the opposition capitalises on Erdoğan's waning popularity to clinch victory in the upcoming elections. Most Turkish parties share the president's concerns about Kurdish militias but criticise his decision to back the Syrian rebels. All the large parties have said that, if they win power, they would re-establish relations with Damascus, a move they say would be a prelude to sending Syrians home.

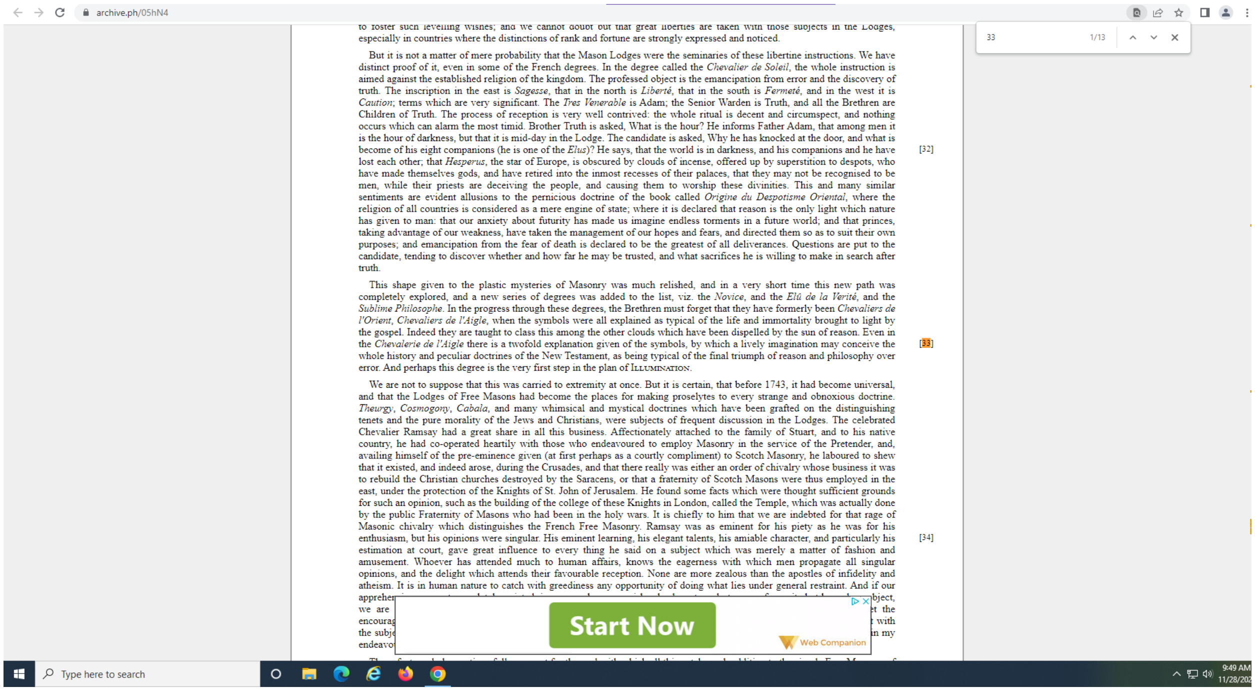
But experts argue that few refugees would return to a broken nation ruled by the despotic regime they fled. They add that Assad would be likely to demand the withdrawal of Turkish troops, raising the risk that border regions could again become a haven for Kurdish militias.

Either way, many Syrians believe Turkey is in for the long haul as they see no endgame to their country's crisis.

"The situation will stay like this," says Abdulghani Shobak, a Syrian opposition official. "The Syrians don't have the decisions any more. The US has its say, and there is Russia, Iran and Turkey."

journal, censorship, media: Strange. When you search for the

number 33 in the book “proofs of a conspiracy”, it shows that it is mentioned 13 times.



to foster such levelling wishes; and we cannot doubt but that great liberties are taken with those subjects in the Lodges, especially in countries where the distinctions of rank and fortune are strongly expressed and noticed.

But it is not a matter of mere probability that the Mason Lodges were the seminaries of these libertine instructions. We have distinct proof of it, even in some of the French degrees. In the degree called the *Chevalier de Soleil*, the whole instruction is aimed against the established religion of the kingdom. The professed object is the emancipation from error and the discovery of truth. The inscription in the east is *Sagesse*, that in the north is *Liberté*, that in the south is *Fermeté*, and in the west it is *Caution*; terms which are very significant. The *Tres Venerable* is Adam; the Senior Warden is Truth, and all the Brethren are Children of Truth. The process of reception is very well contrived: the whole ritual is decent and circumspect, and nothing occurs which can alarm the most timid. Brother Truth is asked, What is the hour? He informs Father Adam, that among men it is the hour of darkness, but that it is mid-day in the Lodge. The candidate is asked, Why he has knocked at the door, and what is become of his eight companions (he is one of the *Elus*)? He says, that the world is in darkness, and his companions and he have [32] lost each other; that *Hesperus*, the star of Europe, is obscured by clouds of incense, offered up by superstition to despots, who have made themselves gods, and have retired into the inmost recesses of their palaces, that they may not be recognised to be men, while their priests are deceiving the people, and causing them to worship these divinities. This and many similar sentiments are evident allusions to the pernicious doctrine of the book called *Origine du Despotisme Oriental*, where the religion of all countries is considered as a mere engine of state; where it is declared that reason is the only light which nature has given to man: that our anxiety about futurity has made us imagine endless torments in a future world; and that princes, taking advantage of our weakness, have taken the management of our hopes and fears, and directed them so as to suit their own purposes; and emancipation from the fear of death is declared to be the greatest of all deliverances. Questions are put to the candidate, tending to discover whether and how far he may be trusted, and what sacrifices he is willing to make in search after truth.

This shape given to the plastic mysteries of Masonry was much relished, and in a very short time this new path was completely explored, and a new series of degrees was added to the list, viz. the *Novice*, and the *Elû de la Verité*, and the *Sublime Philosophe*. In the progress through these degrees, the Brethren must forget that they have formerly been *Chevaliers de l'Orient*, *Chevaliers de l'Aigle*, when the symbols were all explained as typical of the life and immortality brought to light by the gospel. Indeed they are taught to class this among the other clouds which have been dispelled by the sun of reason. Even in the *Chevalerie de l'Aigle* there is a twofold explanation given of the symbols, by which a lively imagination may conceive the [33] whole history and peculiar doctrines of the New Testament, as being typical of the final triumph of reason and philosophy over error. And perhaps this degree is the very first step in the plan of ILLUMINATION.

We are not to suppose that this was carried to extremity at once. But it is certain, that before 1743, it had become universal, and that the Lodges of Free Masons had become the places for making proselytes to every strange and obnoxious doctrine. *Theurgy*, *Cosmogony*, *Cabala*, and many whimsical and mystical doctrines which have been grafted on the distinguishing tenets and the pure morality of the Jews and Christians, were subjects of frequent discussion in the Lodges. The celebrated Chevalier Ramsay had a great share in all this business. Affectionately attached to the family of Stuart, and to his native country, he had co-operated heartily with those who endeavoured to employ Masonry in the service of the Pretender, and, availing himself of the pre-eminence given (at first perhaps as a courtly compliment) to Scotch Masonry, he laboured to shew that it existed, and indeed arose, during the Crusades, and that there really was either an order of chivalry whose business it was to rebuild the Christian churches destroyed by the Saracens, or that a fraternity of Scotch Masons were thus employed in the east, under the protection of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. He found some facts which were thought sufficient grounds for such an opinion, such as the building of the college of these Knights in London, called the Temple, which was actually done by the public Fraternity of Masons who had been in the holy wars. It is chiefly to him that we are indebted for that rage of Masonic chivalry which distinguishes the French Free Masonry. Ramsay was as eminent for his piety as he was for his enthusiasm, but his opinions were singular. His eminent learning, his elegant talents, his amiable character, and particularly his [34] estimation at court, gave great influence to every thing he said on a subject which was merely a matter of fashion and amusement. Whoever has attended much to human affairs, knows the eagerness with which men propagate all singular opinions, and the delight which attends their favourable reception. None are more zealous than the apostles of infidelity and atheism. It is in human nature to catch with greediness any opportunity of doing what lies under general restraint. And if our

appreher … bject,
we are … t the
encourag … t with
the subj … in my
endeavo

Erdogan, war, middle east: nov27

readlater

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Turkish_offensive_into_north-eastern_Syria

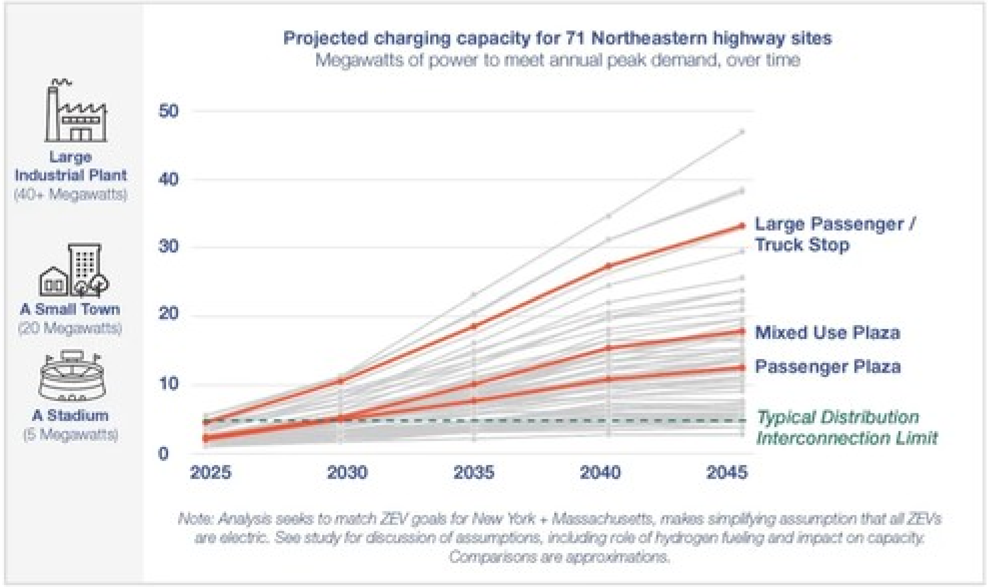
energy, stats, planet, journal (large charging station to require as much electricity as a small town by 2035, according to new report from National grid): nov27

EV Charging Stations By 2035 Will Need More Power Than A Small Town

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, NOV 27, 2022 - 12:00 AM

A new report from the electricity and gas utility National Grid (which serves parts of New York and Massachusetts) found a rapid increase in electric vehicles on the city streets and highways will require upgraded power grids to handle all the new demand. By 2035, a charging station could demand as much power as a sports arena or small town.

National Grid expects by 2035, large charging stations serving EVs, from SUVs and pickup trucks to delivery vans and semi-trucks, would require 19 megawatts of peak power -- that's approximately what a small town uses. In 2045, those large charging stations could demand upwards of 30 megawatts of capacity, with peak usage of a large manufacturing plant.



National Grid said current charging stations couldn't serve the EV demand of the future, indicating significant power-grid improvements would be needed. It said expanding the charging infrastructure would take time:

"Building these high-voltage interconnections and upgrades can take years, which is why it's important to take action right now.

"By making 'no-regrets' upgrades at 'no-regrets' sites, we can make sure fast-charging is there when drivers need it—and not a moment too late," the report said.

Today, the impact of EV charging on the grid is small, and there is enough excess capacity to handle the current fleet of cars, SUVs, vans, and pickup trucks.

As EV adoption expands, so will the electricity demand, and as we've noted, nuclear power generation will be the best form of on-demand clean energy. The White House understands nuclear is the future for a sustainable clean grid, as they rush to secure a "large amount" of funding for a domestic uranium strategy.

Unreliable solar and wind won't be enough to power the Biden administration's ambitious plan for half of all new vehicles sold in 2030 to be electric. Meanwhile, California set a target of 2035 to phase out the sale of new gasoline-powered light-duty vehicles.

Momentum is certainly building to electrifying vehicle fleets. In doing so, increasing investments in zero-emission nuclear power production and sourcing uranium domestically will be the key to sustainably powering future EV demand.

Africa, stats, media, censorship: nov27 cool comment

Mali is no more a real country than Libya ever was – both are creations of European imperialism, which drew arbirary borders in the Great Scramble and then left, leaving local tribes and clans to fight it out among themselves

Stats, media, history, sanctions, censorship: *"Gentlemen, I must speak from a higher and more truthful plane. It must be stated openly that, in effect, superior races have rights over inferior races."*

Jules Ferry, ***twice prime minister of France, from [1880-1881, 1883-1885].***

https://web.viu.ca/davies/H479B.Imperialism.Nationalism/Ferry.Fr.imperialism.1884.htm

stats, energy, europe, journal, sanctions: nov27, Sonatrach, an Algerian oil company, is the largest company in Africa; most of algerian oil (2/3rds) is unexplored

from 1882 to 1956, the british controlled the suez canal

Israel's victory in the Six-Day War left the entirety of the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula up to the eastern bank of the Suez Canal under Israeli control.

https://www.forbesmiddleeast.com/lists/top-100-ceos-in-the-middle-east-2022/osama-rabie/

The **Suez Crisis**, or the **Second Arab–Israeli war**,[15][16][17] also called the **Tripartite Aggression** (Arabic: العدوان الثلاثي, romanized: *Al-ʿUdwān aṯ-Ṯulāṯiyy*) in the Arab world[18] and the **Sinai War** in Israel,[19] was an invasion of Egypt in late 1956 by Israel, followed by the United Kingdom and France. The aims were to regain control of the Suez Canal for the Western powers and to remove Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser, who had just swiftly[20] nationalised the foreign-owned Suez Canal Company, which administered the canal. Israel's primary objective was to re-open the blocked Straits of Tiran.[21] After the fighting had started, political pressure from the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Nations led to a withdrawal by the three invaders. The episode humiliated the United Kingdom and France and strengthened Nasser.[22][23][24]

On 26 July 1956, Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal Company, which prior to that was owned primarily by British and French shareholders. On 29 October, Israel invaded the Egyptian Sinai. Britain and France issued a joint ultimatum to cease fire, which was ignored. On 5 November, Britain and France landed paratroopers along the Suez Canal. Before the Egyptian forces were defeated, they had blocked the canal to all shipping by sinking 40 ships in the canal. It later became clear that Israel, France and Britain had conspired to plan the invasion. The three allies had attained a number of their military objectives, but the canal was useless. Heavy political pressure from the United States and the USSR led to a withdrawal. U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower had strongly warned Britain not to invade; he threatened serious damage to the British financial system by selling the U.S. government's pound sterling bonds. Historians conclude the crisis "signified the end of Great Britain's role as one of the world's major powers".[25][26][27][*page needed*]

In 1978, Sadat and Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, signed a peace treaty in cooperation with United States President Jimmy Carter, for which they were recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize.

As President, he led Egypt in the Yom Kippur War of 1973 to regain Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, which Israel had occupied since the Six-Day War of 1967, making him a hero in Egypt and, for a time, the wider Arab World. first Muslim Nobel laureate at the time.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anwar_Sadat

The **Convention of Constantinople**[3][4] is a treaty concerning the use of the Suez Canal in Egypt. It was signed on 29 October 1888 by the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the Russian Empire, and the Ottoman Empire. The Khedivate of Egypt, through whose territory the Canal ran, and to whom all shares in the Suez Canal Company were due to revert when the company's 99-year lease to manage the Canal expired, was not invited to participate in the negotiations, and did not sign the treaty.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention_of_Constantinople

middle east, stats, history, Erdogan: eye opening

John Pilger summed up the past 8 years of Obama by writing, “according to a Council on Foreign Relations survey, in 2016 alone Obama dropped 26,171 bombs. That is 72 bombs every day. He bombed the poorest people on earth, in Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, Somalia, Syria, Iraq, Pakistan.

“Every Tuesday – reported The New York Times – he personally selected those who would be murdered by mostly hellfire missiles fired from drones. Weddings, funerals, shepherds were attacked, along with those attempting to collect the body parts festooning the “terrorist target.”

Crypto, sanctions, stats, readlater, journal: blockchain increases trust in logistics (pay first, free on board, etc.)

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/10/this-is-what-the-future-of-logistics-looks-like/

https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/fob.asp

learned about forfaiting from trying to investigate wtf happened with this company after it spiked 1000% in only 2 days for what seemed to be no logical reason

> “The tiny, little known stock first caught Wall Street’s attention in mid-December. Shares soared well over 1,000 percent in two days after Longfin announced it was buying Ziddu. A filing showed the microlending company was purchased from a private Singapore firm called Meridian Enterprises that is 95 percent owned by Longfin CEO Meenavalli.”

In the U.S., forfaiting is mainly used by established large and medium-sized corporations that export capital goods and commodities on transactions exceeding $100,000. Forfaiting can also offer opportunities in markets considered high-risk.

Most forfaiting transactions will have a maturity ranging between 180 days and seven years, the payment period for foreign buyers of U.S. exports. Forfaiters, not U.S. exporters, are responsible for collecting payments from foreign buyers.

tradedotgov/forfaiting

history, Russia: Circassian genocide

The **Circassian genocide**,[3][4][5][6][7] or **Tsitsekun**,[a][b] was the Russian Empire's systematic mass murder, ethnic cleansing, and expulsion of 80–97%[3][7] of the Circassian population, around 800,000–1,500,000 people,[3][4][5] during and after the Russo-Circassian War (1763–1864).[1][9][10] The peoples planned for removal were mainly the Circassians, but other Muslim peoples of the Caucasus were also affected.[9] Several methods used by Russian forces such as impaling and tearing the bellies of pregnant women were reported.[1][11] Russian generals such as Grigory Zass described the Circassians as "subhuman filth", and glorified the mass murder of Circassian civilians,[1][12][13] justified their use in scientific experiments,[14] and allowed their soldiers to rape women.[1]

During the Russo-Circassian War, the Russian Empire employed a genocidal strategy of massacring Circassian civilians. Only a small percentage who accepted Russification and resettlement within the Russian Empire were completely spared. The remaining Circassian population who refused were variously dispersed or killed en masse.[15] Circassian villages would be located and burnt, systematically starved, or their entire population massacred.[3] Leo Tolstoy reported that Russian soldiers would attack village houses at night.[16] William Palgrave, a British diplomat who witnessed the events, adds that "their only crime was not being Russian".[17] In 1864, "A Petition from Circassian leaders to Her Majesty Queen Victoria" was signed by the Circassians requesting humanitarian aid from the British Empire.[18][19][20] In the same year, mass deportation was launched against the surviving population before the end of the war in 1864 and it was mostly completed by 1867.[21] Some died from epidemics or starvation among the crowds of deportees and were reportedly eaten by dogs after their death.[17] Others died when the ships underway sank during storms.[22]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circassian_genocide

vaccine, health, government, war, censorship: nov25 stanford professor of medicine says academic freedom is dead

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jay_Bhattacharya

"If Stanford really truly were committed to academic freedom, they would have… worked to make sure that there were debates and discussions, seminars, where these ideas were discussed among faculty," he urged, adding that ***"power replaced the idea of truth as the guiding light."***

Anti-Lockdown Stanford Professor: "Academic Freedom Is Dead"

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, NOV 25, 2022 - 03:15 PM

Authored by Steve Watson via Summit News,

A Stanford Professor who challenged the orthodoxy of lockdowns has warned that "academic freedom is dead," and that all those who have stood up to the regime narrative now face "a deeply hostile work environment."

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, an author of the Great Barrington Declaration in which thousands of scientists called for a policy of herd immunity over lockdowns, warned that "When you take a position that is at odds with the scientific clerisy, your life becomes a living hell."

Speaking at the Academic Freedom Conference at Stanford's Graduate School of Business recently, Bhattacharya, who previously described lockdowns as the most catastrophically harmful policy in "all of history," and "the single worst public health mistake in the last 100 years," noted "we have a high clerisy that declares from on high what is true and what is not true."

Watch:

In a further interview with Fox News, Bhattacharya noted "The basic premise is that if you don't have protection and academic freedom in the hard cases, when a faculty member has an idea that's unpopular among some of the other faculty – powerful faculty, or even the administration … If they don't protect it in that case, then you don't have academic freedom at all."

Bhattacharya and thousands of other academics and scientists were initially vilified for damning lockdowns, but have since been vindicated as the societal and medical toll of the shutdowns has been revealed.

Bhattacharya said of the declaration, ***"The purpose of the one-page document was aimed at telling the public that there was not a scientific consensus in favor of lockdown, that in fact many epidemiologists, many doctors, many other people – prominent people – disagreed with the consensus."***

The professor then described how proponents of the declaration were systematically frozen out of discussions and debates.

"If Stanford really truly were committed to academic freedom, they would have… worked to make sure that there were debates and discussions, seminars, where these ideas were discussed among faculty," he urged, adding that ***"power replaced the idea of truth as the guiding light."***

"So you have somebody like Tony Fauci who says unironically, that if you question me, you're not simply questioning a man, you're questioning science itself," Bhattacharya further noted, adding "That is an exercise of raw power, where he places himself effectively as the pope of science rather than a genuine desire to learn the truth."

"They systematically tried to make it seem like everyone agreed with their ideas about COVID policy, when in fact there was deep disagreement among scientists and epidemiologists about the right strategy," the professor asserted.

Bhattacharya has also called on new Twitter owner Elon Musk to "expose the government censorship regime,":

Bhattacharya's comments come as a new analysis of federal and state data revealed that for the first time a majority of Americans dying from COVID were at least partially vaccinated.

"Fifty-eight percent of coronavirus deaths in August were people who were vaccinated or boosted," the Washington Post reports in a piece headlined 'Covid is no longer mainly a pandemic of the unvaccinated'.

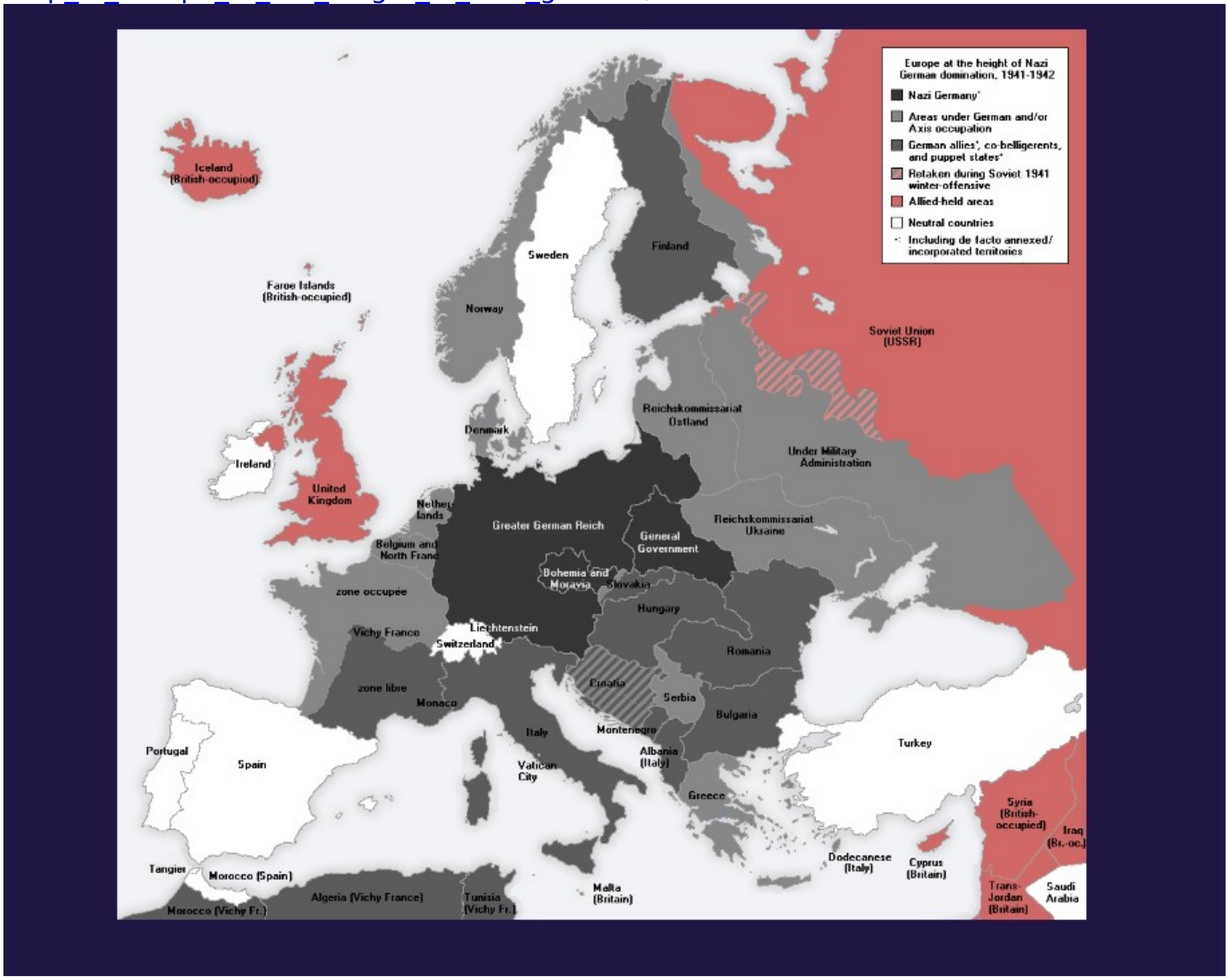
History, stats, Europe, journal, Germany, war: leon hess was jewish lithuanian, part of the eastern jewish diaspora..(most jews are in eastern Europe)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leon_Hess

nazi germany at its height composed almost all of europe

https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/jewish-population-of-europe-in-1933-population-data-by-country

https://www.reddit.com/r/MapPorn/comments/23xw7j/map_of_europe_at_the_height_of_nazi_german/


Europe at the height of Nazi German domination, 1941-1942
Nazi Germany*
Areas under German and/or Axis occupation
German allies*, co-belligerents, and puppet states*
Retaken during Soviet 1941 winter-offensive
Allied-held areas
Neutral countries
*: Including de facto annexed/incorporated territories
Iceland (British-occupied)
Faroe Islands (British-occupied)
Sweden
Finland
Norway
Soviet Union (USSR)
Reichskommissariat Ostland
Denmark
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zone libre
Serbia
Monaco
Bulgaria
Italy
Montenegro
Portugal
Spain
Turkey
Vatican City
Albania (Italy)
Greece
Syria (British-occupied)
Iraq (Br.-oc.)
Dodecanese (Italy)
Cyprus (Britain)
Tangier
Morocco (Spain)
Malta (Britain)
Trans-Jordan (Britain)
Saudi Arabia
Algeria (Vichy France)
Tunisia (Vichy Fr.)
Morocco (Vichy Fr.)

History, holy roman, empire, Germany, church: pope, germans: read later

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_and_state_in_medieval_Europe

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Investiture_Controversy

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_the_Romans

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Habsburg

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria-Hungary

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lands_of_the_Bohemian_Crown

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudeten_Germans

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudetenland

history, holy roman empire, church: Munich Betrayal https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munich_Agreement

history, holy roman empire: The **Holy Roman Empire**[17] since 1512 also the **Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation**, was a political entity[18] in Western, Central and Southern Europe that developed during the Early Middle Ages and continued until its dissolution in 1806 during the Napoleonic Wars.[19]

On 25 December 800, Pope Leo III crowned the Frankish king Charlemagne as emperor, reviving the title in Western Europe, more than three centuries after the fall of the earlier ancient Western Roman Empire in 476

The title was revived again in 962 when Otto I, King of Germany, was crowned emperor by Pope John XII, fashioning himself as the successor of Charlemagne[29] and beginning a continuous existence of the empire for over eight centuries.[30][31][e] Some historians refer to the coronation of Charlemagne as the origin of the empire,[32][33] while others prefer the coronation of Otto I as its beginning.[34][35] Henry the Fowler, the founder of the medieval German state (ruled 919–936),[36] has sometimes been considered the founder of the Empire as well.[37] The modern view favours Otto as the true founder.[38] Scholars generally concur in relating an evolution of the institutions and principles constituting the empire, describing a gradual assumption of the imperial title and role.[39][32]

The exact term "Holy Roman Empire" was not used until the 13th century,[40] but the Emperor's legitimacy always rested on the concept of *translatio imperii*, that he held supreme power inherited from the ancient emperors of Rome.[39] The imperial office was traditionally elective through the mostly German prince-electors.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire

government, stats: commonwealth info

Under the Balfour Declaration of 1926, dominions were proclaimed as considered "equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown"[22][6][23][24][25][26] and the monarch is "equally, officially, and explicitly [monarch] of separate, autonomous realms".[6][23][27][25] Andrew Michie wrote in 1952 that "Elizabeth II embodies in her own person many monarchies: she is Queen of Great Britain, but she is equally Queen of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, and Ceylon... it is now possible for Elizabeth II to be, in practice as well as theory, equally Queen in all her realms."[28] Still, Boyce holds the contrary opinion that the crowns of all the non-British realms are "derivative, if not subordinate" to the crown of the United Kingdom.[29]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_realm

war, middle east, energy: important links , read later

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran%E2%80%93Israel_proxy_conflict

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Lebanon_conflict_(1985%E2%80%932000)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_September
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashemites

middle east, war, stats: kurdistan region only recognized after saddam was deposed

The Iraqi High Tribunal sentenced Saddam Hussein and two others to death in November for the killing of 148 men and boys from the town of Dujail in 1982. The tribunal's statute prohibits, contrary to international law, the possibility of commuting a death sentence. It also requires that the execution take place within 30 days of the final appeal.

https://web.archive.org/web/20070104080629/http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/12/30/iraq14950.htm

war, middle east: houthis took credit for the missile strike on saudi arabia in sept 2019

The Houthis took credit for the September 14th drone attack on Saudi oil facilities that crippled the kingdom's oil output. Both the U.S. and Saudis blamed Iran for the attack, and the U.S. responded by sending a few hundred troops and some military equipment to Saudi Arabia.

newsdotantiwardotcom/2019/09/28/yemens-houthis-claim-an-assault-on-southern-saudi-arabia/

stats, tech, censorship, journal: nov24

China unviels super camera that can pin point a face out of 10 000 people.

The massive videos and images captured by the camera can also be uploaded to a cloud data center.

Due to the "ultra-long distance" and "high-definition imaging" characteristics, the camera aroused personal privacy concerns, Zeng said.

Zeng called for laws and regulations to standardize the application of the camera.

http://www.ecns.cn/news/sci-tech/2019-09-23/detail-ifzpefys6628597.shtml

iran, sanctions ,war: maximum pressure

Recent date from the IMF shows why this theory was persuasive. The IMF’s most recent “Regional Economic Outlook: Middle East and Central Asia,” reports that Iran’s “Gross Official Reserves” fell from an average of $70 billion in 2000-2017, and $122.5 billion in 2018, to $12.4 billion in 2019 and an amazing $4 billion in 2020. At that level Iran was on a rough par with countries such as Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Armenia, and Georgia. By contrast, in 2020 Algeria had $46.7 billion in reserves, Iraq had $54.1 billion, Libya $51 billion--and Afghanistan $8.6 billion, twice as much as Iran.

cfrdotorg/blog/did-maximum-pressure-campaign-against-iran-fail

nov24 turkey usually supports syrian army against rebels

Turkey’s rebels aren’t directly aligned with al-Qaeda, but they also aren’t fighting, and during times of Syrian offensives, Turkey tends to support whoever Syria is fighting.

newsdotantiwardotcom/2019/09/26/military-buildup-in-northern-syria-reinforcements-head-to-front-line

media, stats, journal: marital rape has been considered legal in the Commonwealth up until the 1990s

"The husband cannot be guilty of a rape committed by himself upon his lawful wife, for by their mutual consent and contract the wife hath given up herself in this kind unto her husband, which she cannot retract."
Marital rape - Wikipedia
https://www.pepysdiary.com/encyclopedia/5639/

age of consent for canada was raised from 14 to 16..but only in 2008....

wtf..

The last time the law was changed was in the year 1890, when it was raised from 12 to 14...
https://web.archive.org/web/20110505222100/http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/LOP/researchpublications/prb993-e.htm

The man who codified the law that allowed men to legally rape their wives also attempted to change the law so that the mimimum age for which a person could be executed would be reduced to 14.

> “Modern scholars also offer criticism of Hale for his execution of at least two women for witchcraft in the Bury St Edmunds witch trials and his belief that capital punishment should extend to those as young as fourteen.[5]

stats, war, sanctions: nice wikipedia for the term client state

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Client_state

media, war: nov24 top french editorial says ukraine is a worse crisis than ehtiopia or even haiti

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https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2022/11/24/la-guerre-en-ukraine-est-un-rouleau-compresseur-qui-ecrase-d-autres-situations-de-crise-comme-celles-en-ethiopie-ou-en-haiti_6151423_3210.html

-

“The war in Ukraine is a steamroller that crushes other crisis situations like those in Ethiopia or Haiti”

Chronic

Jean-Philippe Remy

The Ethiopian conflict and the Haitian crisis are relegated to limited visibility, notes, in his column, Jean-Philippe Rémy, head of the International Service of the "World".

Posted today at 12:45 p.m., updated at 12:45 p.m. Time toReading 3 mins.

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Article reserved for subscribers

Ihere are so many ways to tell about the war, its bravery, its horrors. The one raging in Ukraine is no exception: a large disparate narrative is bubbling there, against a backdrop of geopolitical changes and global concerns. This war is also, like any major crisis, a steamroller crushing any form of alternative attention.

Read also: Article reserved for our subscribers Ethiopia: in Lalibela, life to the rhythm of the civil war

Elsewhere in the world, other crisis situations are relegated to limited visibility by this high-stakes, high-spectacle machine. A civil war in northern Ethiopia has been going on behind closed doors for two years. Is it over? Hardly anyone outside the region bothered to make sure. The fate of a nation of over 100 million people depends on it. The conflict that tears it apart may have resulted in the deaths of 100,000 people. Or even double. Figures of an order of magnitude comparable to that of the estimates of military losses on both sides in Ukraine.

In a different genre, a country collapses on itself in a slow motion to which no one seems to pay the attention it deserves. This country is Haiti. Tiny progress has been made there recently, which speaks to the ordeal the Caribbean nation is going through. In early November, a series of police operations, equipped with new armor, drove the coalition of G9 gangs – whose figurehead is the former police officer Jimmy Chérizier, known as “Barbecue” – from the entrance to the terminal. oil tanker in Varreux, Haiti's main access point for fuel. Tanker trucks under strong escort began to supply gradually Port-au-Prince, the capital, then the rest of the regions, after two months of shortage.

“Our country is on the verge of collapse”

Unblocking the terminal will not solve all the ills from which the country suffers, where more than a hundred gangs are now active. A new cholera epidemic is gaining momentum. The armed gangs, partly responsible for this situation, are indifferent to it. However, these gangs are not neighborhood banditry, even aggravated. For a long time, hoodlums have served Haitian political leaders, from the “tontons macoutes” of President Duvalier, to the “chimeras” of Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"During the last three decades, some politicians have dealt with gangs and armed groups in the context of political mobilizations, campaigns and electoral operations, repression of protest movements", summarizes the professor at the University of State of Haiti Jhon Picard Byron in a column published by *AlterPresse* , August 27. On election days, thugs are used to direct the voting of entire neighborhoods. But, for ten years and the coming to power of Michel Martelly (2011-2016) , everything has exploded: the power of these gangs, corruption, attacks against institutions.

You have 50.85% of this article left to read. The following is for subscribers only.

History, stats nov24 Couscous connection

brother of tunisian dictator with no political opposition carged in absentia for being part of an international drug traifficking ring involved in money laundering...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Couscous_connection

middle east, war, history, journal:

arab spring, yemen, sept 18th, 2019 front page

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemeni_Revolution

antiwardotcom/past/20190919.html

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houthi_movement

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abqaiq%E2%80%93Khurais_attack

energy, china, stats, pipeline:

turkmenistan is chinese natgas

In December 2009 the first line, Line A, of the Trans-Asia pipeline to China opened, creating a second major market for Turkmen natural gas. By 2015 Turkmenistan was delivering up to 35 billion cubic meters per annum (bcma) to China.[125] China is the largest buyer of gas from Turkmenistan, via three pipelines linking the two countries through Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. In 2019, China bought over 30bcm of gas from Turkmenistan,[126][127] making China Turkmenistan's main external source of revenue.[128]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkmenistan#Natural_gas_and_export_routes

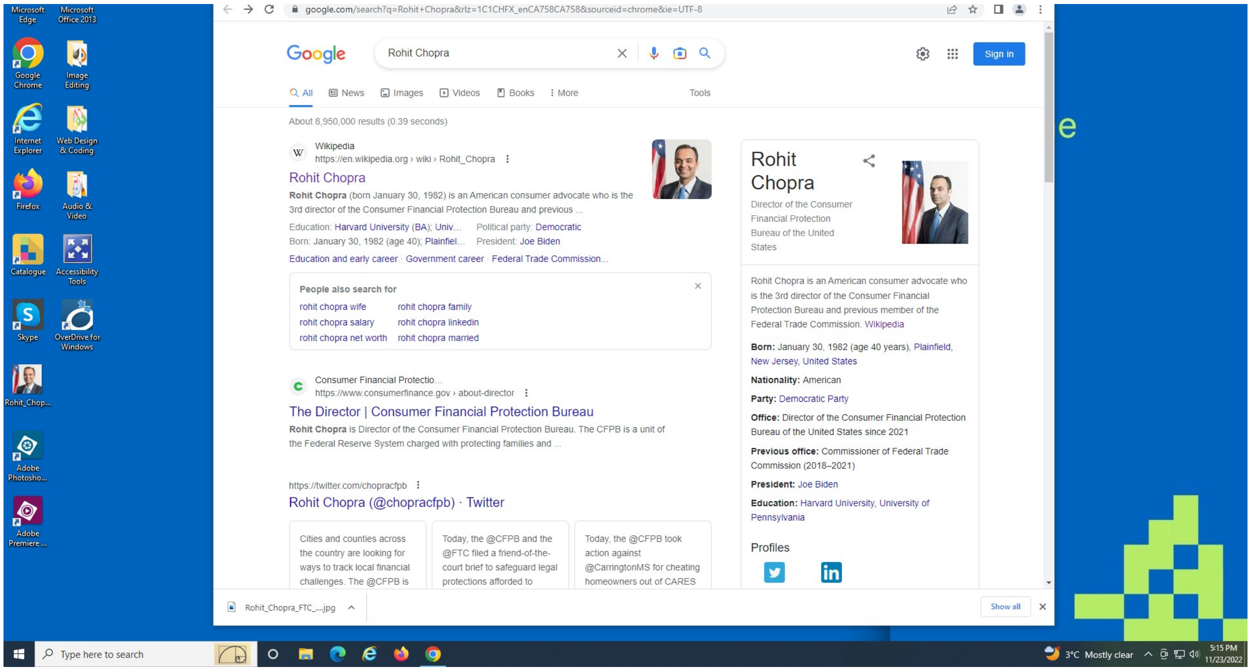
markets, government, journal:

nov23 they already did it in China with baba's makeover of their fintec industry. chinese government forced him to form holding company or something like that--forget the exact details.

In April, Mr. Chopra said he would tap what he called the consumer bureau’s “dormant authority” to conduct supervisory audits of nonbank financial-technology firms whose activities the agency has “reasonable cause to determine pose risks to consumers.” Conservative critics say this novel exercise of the bureau’s powers risks strangling a nascent fintech industry.

wsjdotcom/articles/rohit-chopra-biden-regulation-cfpb-fdic-ftc-11654713281

journal: **lists nationality: American**


Microsoft Edge
Microsoft Office 2013
Google Chrome
Image Editing
Internet Explorer
Web Design & Coding
Firefox
Audio & Video
Catalogue
Accessibility Tools
Skype
OverDrive for Windows
Rohit_Chop...
Adobe Photosho...
Adobe Premiere ...
Type here to search
3°C Mostly clear
5:15 PM
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Rohit Chopra

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Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org › wiki › Rohit_Chopra

Rohit Chopra

Rohit Chopra (born January 30, 1982) is an American consumer advocate who is the 3rd director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and previous ...

Education: Harvard University (BA); Univ... Political party: Democratic
Born: January 30, 1982 (age 40); Plainfiel... President: Joe Biden

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Rohit Chopra is Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The CFPB is a unit of the Federal Reserve System charged with protecting families and ...

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Cities and counties across the country are looking for ways to track local financial challenges. The @CFPB is

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Rohit Chopra

Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau of the United States

Rohit Chopra is an American consumer advocate who is the 3rd director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and previous member of the Federal Trade Commission. Wikipedia

Born: January 30, 1982 (age 40 years), Plainfield, New Jersey, United States

Nationality: American

Party: Democratic Party

Office: Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau of the United States since 2021

Previous office: Commissioner of Federal Trade Commission (2018–2021)

President: Joe Biden

Education: Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania

Rohit_Chopra_FTC_....jpg

War, russia: Rather, the experienced Russian Foreign Minister was received at the Indonesian holiday island with red carpets and an Honour Guard on the runway. Even a traditional dance was performed for him. In this way, even Lavrov’s reception made it clear that the Russian delegation was a welcomed party to the G20. It is noted that not even US President Joe Biden was welcomed in the same way as Lavrov.

originaldotantiwardotcom/ahmed-adel/2022/11/22/western-attempts-to-isolate-russia-at-g20-summit-failed/

markets, journal, inflation: credit suisse was at the forfront of the 3x leveraged volatility and comodities ETF's

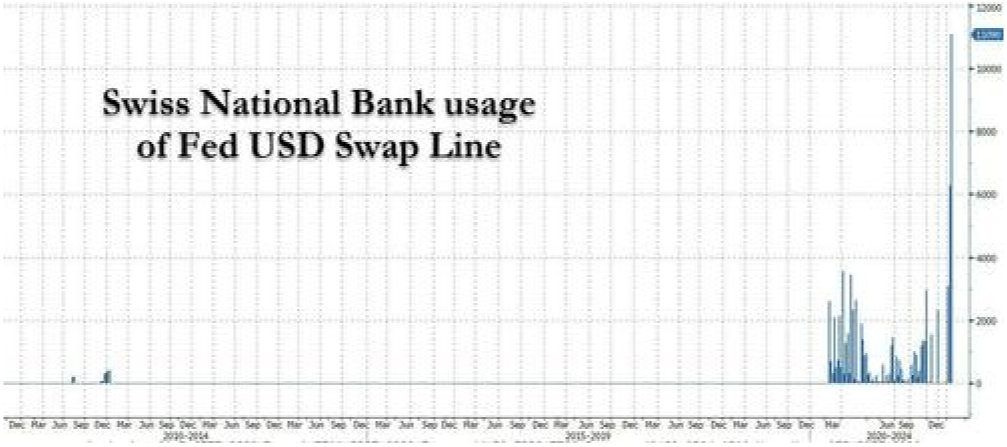
https://www.cnbc.com/2022/11/15/credit-suisse-to-sell-securitized-products-business-to-apollo-as-it-accelerates-restructure.html

Credit Suisse Craters To Record Low After Revealing Staggering $88 Billion Bank Run

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, NOV 23, 2022 - 11:29 AM

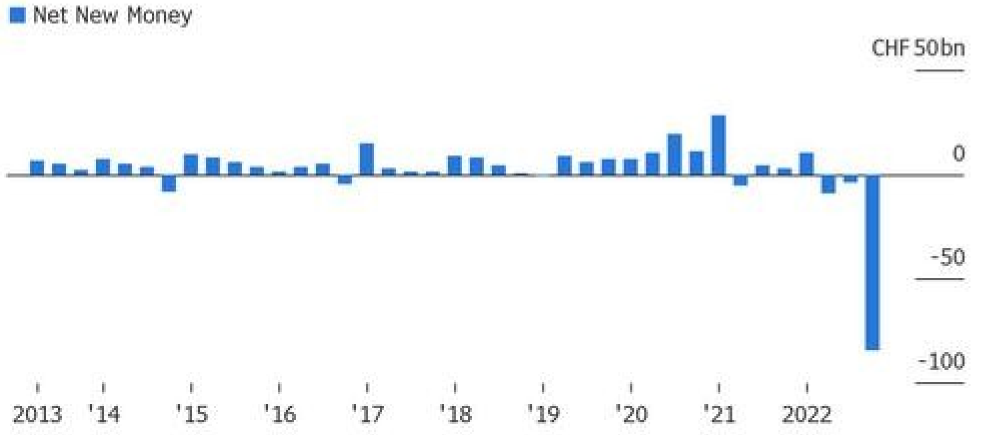
One month ago, weeks before the crypto sector was shaken by the crushing FTX bankrun which led to a quick and painful bankruptcy, and revealed that one of the world's biggest crypto exchanges and its "JPMorgan-esque" owner were nothing but hollow shells of fraud, another bank was suffering from a far bigger bank run.

Readers will recall that in mid-October we reported that the Fed was quietly wiring increasingly greater dollar amounts to the Swiss National Bank - which eventually peaked at around $11 billion weekly - which in turn was then using these dollar swap lines to plug USD funding holes within one or more Swiss commercial banks.



One didn't need to be a rocket surgeon to figure out that the bank in question was Credit Suisse, which had seen its stock tumble amid a relentless barrage of scandals, corporate mistakes and the occasional fraud (that we know of), and which we said was likely suffering from a painful behind-the-scenes bank run.

Fast forward one month, when this morning the 2nd largest Swiss bank confirmed our worst-case speculation, admitting that it had just gone through a staggering bank run in which **clients pulled as much as 84 billion Swiss francs, or $88.3 billion, of their money from the bank during the first few weeks of the quarter,** underlining ongoing concerns over the bank’s restructuring efforts after years of scandals.



Mammoth Outflows

Credit Suisse experiences historic outflows in fourth quarter of 2022

Source: Bloomberg Intelligence and company financial statements.
Note: 4Q22 figure is from Oct.1 to Nov. 11. BI data only goes back to 1Q13.

Of course, as FTX learned the hard way, bank runs don't have a happy ending, and the Zurich-based bank warned on Wednesday that **it will face a loss of up to 1.5 billion Swiss francs ($1.6 billion) for the three final months of the year,** in large part as a result of the decline in wealth and asset management client funds from the start of October to Nov. 11. That, according to Bloomberg, **is the worst exodus since the financial crisis.**

The outflows were especially acute at the key wealth management unit, **where they amounted to 10% of assets under management.** While they have been “reduced substantially from the elevated levels of the first two weeks of October 2022,” **they have yet to reverse,** the bank said.

This means that just as we expected, the massive dollar swap lines were being used by the SNB to provide Credit Suisse with much needed, critical funding; had the funds not arrived, Credit Suisse would likely have liquidated!

The client withdrawals contrast with inflows at rival wealth managers in recent months. AT UBS Group AG, investors added more than $17 billion to the wealth management unit in the third quarter. Julius Baer Group Ltd. said on Monday that it saw a “clear improvement” in new money flows since the end of June, with wealthy clients adding a net 4.1 billion francs in the four months through October.

“The massive net outflows in Wealth Management, CS’s core business alongside the Swiss Bank, are deeply concerning -- even more so as they have not yet reversed,” said Andreas Venditti, banking analyst at Bank Vontobel AG in Zurich. “Credit Suisse needs to restore trust as fast as possible - but that is easier said than done.”

Analysts at JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Jefferies said the wealth-management outflows were much worse than expected, and warned that bank wasn’t out of the woods. Ethos Foundation, a proxy advisor, said more steps may be needed to restore investor confidence than the bank has so far outlined.

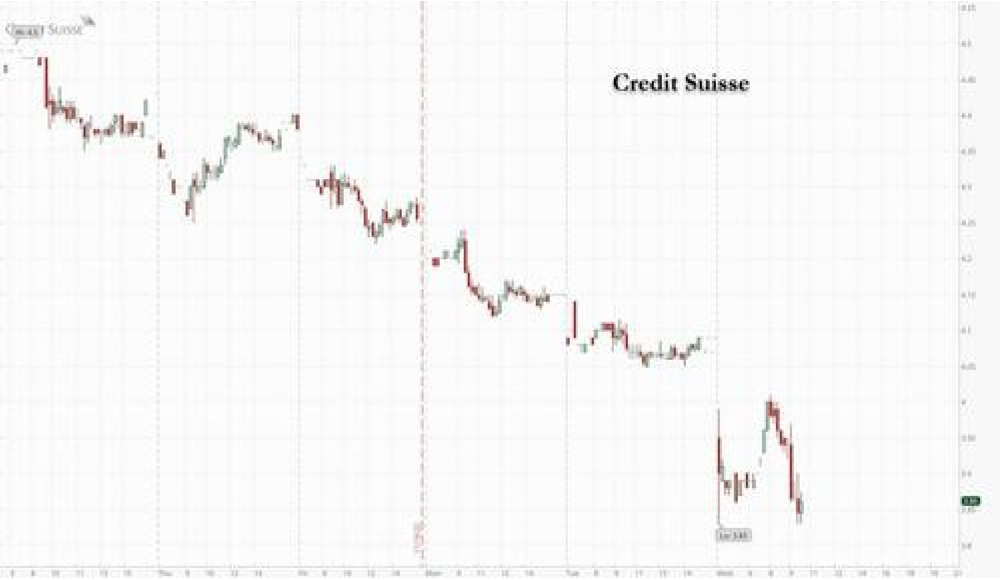
“Cutting cost is one thing but growing the business is another one,” Vincent Kaufmann, Chief Executive Officer of Ethos, said on Bloomberg TV. “Maybe they can do both, but it remains to be seen.”

Besides the massive bank run which has drained the bank's capital, the Zurich-based bank said it expects losses in both the wealth management division and its investment banking unit due to “subdued activity, market conditions, continued outflows of customer assets and the sale of non-core businesses.”

The bank's grim outlook underscores the urgency for the bank's latest (and soon to be former) Chairman Axel Lehmann to put Credit Suisse on a sustainable footing again through a sweeping overhaul that will see its investment bank carved up and greater focus placed on private banking. **Shareholders on Wednesday approved a capital raise of about 4 billion francs that’s needed to finance the restructuring, which will also see about 9,000 jobs cut by 2025.**

“Credit Suisse is on an important journey,” Lehmann said in a speech posted on the lender’s website. “We will work to rebuild and refocus this proud 166-year-old Swiss institution with global reach.”

The market was not as optimistic, and Credit Suisse tumbled more than 5%, crashing to a new record low.



In conclusion, the dismal Credit Suisse news provides a handy comparison between the fiat and crypto regimes:

- **FTX was hit with record bank run, and filed for bankruptcy in days, with no central bank to bail it out.**

- **Credit Suisse hit with record bank run, and both the SNB and Fed rushed to bail it out.**

  One wonders which system is a better representation of what true capitalism should be like...

Censorship, media, government: nov22 They literally just took the black guys money without any evidence, then didn't give it back....

After hours of being detained, Johnson returned home the next day - without the money, and without the truck. He was never charged with a crime.

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11450893/Arizona-cops-seized-40-000-cash-black-trucking-boss-traveling-buy-new-rig.html

middle east, history, iran, Erdogan, sanctions, censorship kurdistan region only recognized after saddam was executed

The Baghdad government only recognized the autonomy of the Kurdistan Region after the fall of Saddam Hussein, with a new Iraqi constitution in 2005

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurdistan_Region

Africa, journal, europe: nov22

Emmanuel Macron Comes Clean: "We Need A Single Global Order"

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, NOV 22, 2022 - 07:30 AM

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News,

During a speech at the Apec summit in Bangkok, where world leaders gathered, French President Emmanuel Macron called for a “single global order.”

Macron made the comments while discussing the power interests of Russia and China and the threat of war.

"We are in a jungle and we have two big elephants trying to become more and more nervous," he said.

"If they become very nervous and start a war, it will be a big problem for the rest of the jungle. You need the cooperation of a lot of other animals, tigers, monkeys and so on," added Macron.

"Are you on the U.S. or the Chinese side? Because now, progressively, a lot of people would like to see that there are two orders in this world. This is a huge mistake, even for both the U.S. and China."

"We need a single global order," he concluded.

Macron's words are sure to confuse the 'fact checker' industry, which continues to insist that claims about the 'New World Order' or one world government are a baseless conspiracy theory.

Indeed, much hilarity ensued last week when it was revealed that Google-owned YouTube had effectively fact-checked a video published by 'The World Government Summit 2022'.

In the video, the host of a panel discussion asks H.E. Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Diplomatic Advisor to the UAE President, ***"Are you ready for a new world order?"***

Underneath the video is a fact check box about the 'New World Order' which links to a Wikipedia article that states, "The New World Order (NWO) is a conspiracy theory which hypothesizes a secretly emerging totalitarian world government."

The tone of the article debunks the notion that there is a move towards a 'New World Order', despite the panelists at the World Government Summit openly discussing that very agenda.

Government, media, stats, war, journal: nov21 70 000 african migrants have entered not just europe, but italy alone, and just this year...WTF!

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11448161/Italian-PM-Giorgia-Meloni-slams-France-forcing-Burkina-Faso-hand-50-imports.html

censorship, vaccine, journal: nov20 very dystopian

“We assess conspiracy theories linking the spread of COVID-19 to the expansion of the 5G cellular network are inciting attacks against the communications infrastructure globally and that these threats probably will increase as the disease continues to spread, including calls for violence against telecommunications workers,” the U.S. Department of Homeland Security reported Wednesday in an intelligence report obtained by ABC News.

“Violent extremists have drawn from misinformation campaigns online that claim wireless infrastructure is deleterious to human health and helps spread COVID-19, resulting in a global effort by like-minded individuals to share operational guidance and justification for conducting attacks against 5G infrastructure, some of which have already prompted arson and physical attacks against cell towers in several US states,” the report concluded.

abcnewsdotgodotcom/US/feds-warn-attacks-related-bogus-covid-19-conspiracy/story

finished here

CISA has defended its burgeoning social media monitoring authorities, stating that “once CISA notified a social media platform of disinformation, the social media platform could independently decide whether to remove or modify the post.” But, as documents revealed by the Missouri lawsuit show, CISA’s goal is to make platforms more responsive to their suggestions.

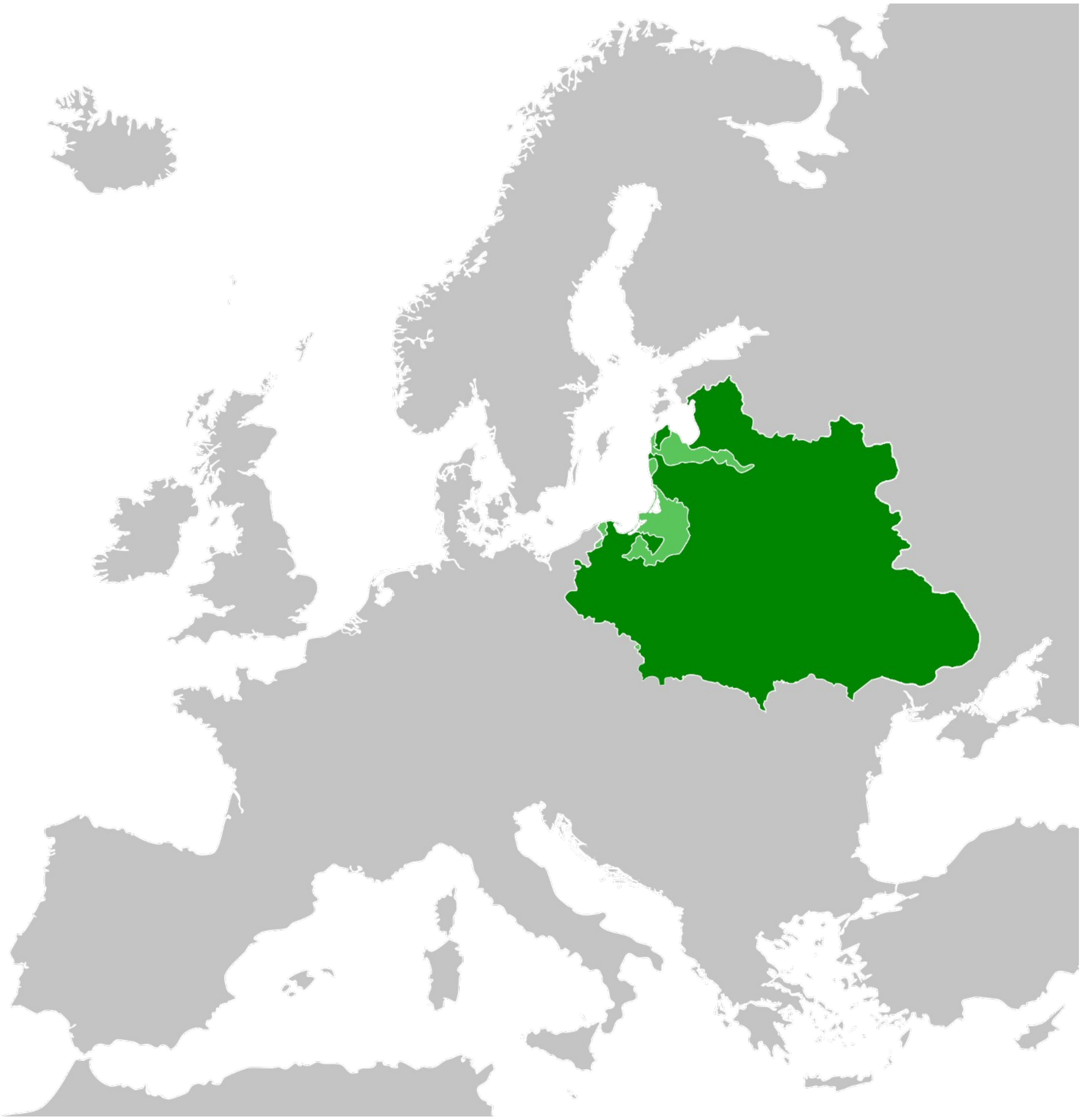
History, middle east, tech, stats: islamic golden age, bagdad, 8th-14th century https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Golden_Age#Mathematics

history, holy roman empire, europe: Polish and Latin were the two co-official languages of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth

The Commonwealth was established by the Union of Lublin in July 1569, but the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania had been in a *de facto* personal union since 1386 with the marriage of the Polish queen Jadwiga (Hedwig) and Lithuania's Grand Duke Jogaila, who was crowned King *jure uxoris* Władysław II Jagiełło of Poland. The First Partition in 1772 and the Second Partition in 1793 greatly reduced the state's size and the Commonwealth was partitioned out of existence due to the Third Partition in 1795.

The Union possessed many features unique among contemporary states. Its political system was characterized by strict checks upon monarchical power. These checks were enacted by a legislature (*sejm*) controlled by the nobility (*szlachta*). This idiosyncratic system was a precursor to modern concepts of democracy,[19] as of 1791 constitutional monarchy,[20][21][22] and federation.[23] Although the two component states of the Commonwealth were formally equal, Poland was the dominant partner in the union.[24]

It was one of the largest[13][14] and most populous countries of 16th to 17th-century Europe



King Frederick William II broke Prussia's alliance with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. He joined with Catherine the Great's Imperial Russia and the Targowica Confederation of anti-reform Polish magnates to defeat the Commonwealth in the Polish–Russian War of 1792.

The 1791 Constitution was in force for less than 19 months.[2][3] It was declared null and void by the Grodno Sejm that met in 1793,[1][3] though the Sejm's legal power to do so was questionable.[3] The Second and Third Partitions of Poland (1793, 1795) ultimately ended Poland's sovereign existence until the close of World War I in 1918. Over those 123 years, the 1791 Constitution helped keep alive Polish aspirations for the eventual restoration of the country's sovereignty. In the words of two of its principal authors, Ignacy Potocki and Hugo Kołłątaj, the 1791 Constitution was "the last will and testament of the expiring Homeland."[c]

The Constitution of 3 May 1791 combined a monarchic republic with a clear division of executive, legislative, and judiciary powers. It is generally considered Europe's first and the world's second modern written national constitution, after the United States Constitution that had come into force in 1789.[3][d]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_3_May_1791

middle east, history: nov19 Muhammad Ali of Egypt and the Sudan was an Albanian Ottoman governor and de facto ruler of Egypt from 1805 to 1848, considered the founder of modern Egypt

He was a military commander in an Albanian Ottoman force sent to recover Egypt from a French occupation under Napoleon. Following Napoleon's withdrawal, Muhammad Ali rose to power through a series of political maneuvers, and in 1805 he was named *Wāli* (viceroy) of Egypt and gained the rank of Pasha.

The dynasty he established would rule Egypt until the revolution of 1952 when King Farouk was overthrown by the Free Officers Movement led by Mohamed Naguib and Gamal Abdel Nasser, establishing the Republic of Egypt.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_Pasha

censorship, government, journal: nov19 ALAMEDA RESEARCH taking out PPP loans. FUCK

(ZH) "FTX was founded in 2019 and in July 2021 did a $900 million funding round that valued the company at $18 billion. Later that year, it did another capital raise at a valuation of $25 billion. Investors included Tiger Global and Temasek, per Reuters.

In 2022, the company's valuation went to $32 billion when SoftBank invested near the top in January, putting $400 million into the business.

We bet the company wishes it had the $370k back now...it could probably go a long way towards legal fees."

Small business owner whose about to lose mortgage be like....

Companies and nonprofit organizations that receive PPP loans may have the loans forgiven if they meet certain criteria, including not laying off employees during the defined period covered by the loan. Applicants must attest in their application that the loans are necessary for their continuing operation. Note: This data reflects loan applications approved by banks and submitted to the SBA. It may not account for money not distributed to, or credit not used by, a given company.
If you are a representative of this company and believe this record is in error, use this form to let the SBA know.
projectsdotpropublicadotorg/coronavirus/bailouts/loans/alameda-research-llc-3971737204

energy, government, journal, stats: there was an energy crisis in 2005?

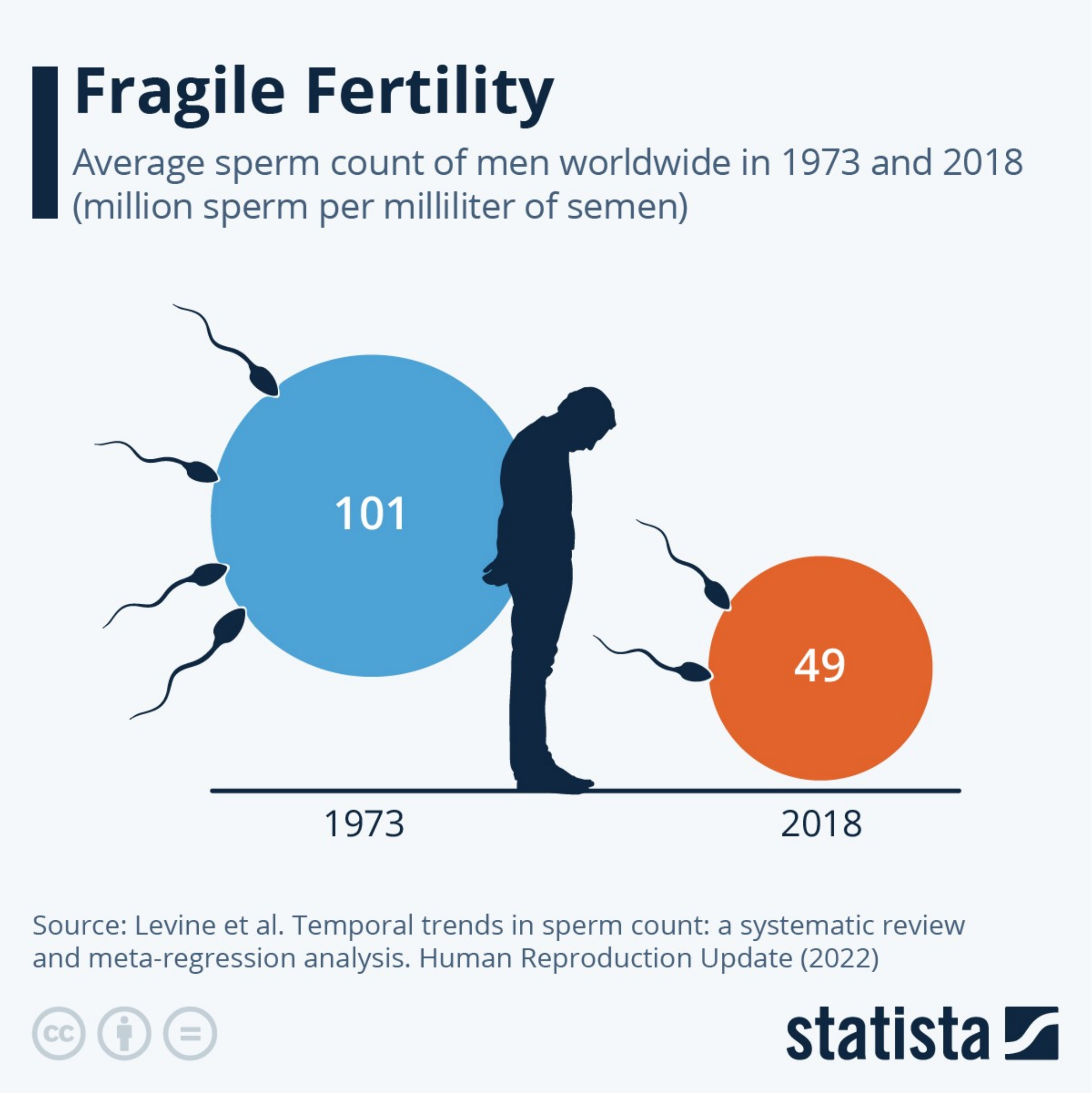
The problem in 2005, as now, was inflation in energy costs that was feeding through to inflation in general. Inflation in food prices was especially a problem. The Federal Reserve chose to fix the problem by raising the Federal Funds interest rate from 1.00% to 5.25% between June 30, 2004 and June 30, 2006.

Stats, government: nov19 american demographics

https://www.zerohedge.com/economics/visualizing-americas-changing-demographics-over-past-100-years

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/visualizing-u-s-population-by-race/

journal, stats: Top Israeli Physician Calls World Decline in Male Sperm Count a "Crisis"



Fragile Fertility

Average sperm count of men worldwide in 1973 and 2018 (million sperm per milliliter of semen)

Source: Levine et al. Temporal trends in sperm count: a systematic review and meta-regression analysis. Human Reproduction Update (2022)

"Members include senior figures in the health sector, namely people who have greatly influenced the structure of the healthcare system, existing services, and the health system management".
https://publichealth.doctorsonly.co.il/about-the-israeli-association-of-public-health-physicians/

Commenting on the decline, lead author of the study, Hagai Levine, said "I think **this is another signal that something is wrong with the globe** and that we need to do something about it" adding:

"I think it's a crisis, that we better tackle now, before it may reach a tipping point which may not be reversible".

https://www.statista.com/chart/10439/sperm-counts-of-western-men-halved-in-38-years/

war, sanctions, Russia, markets, energy, iran, Erdogan, journal: nov19 world oil deamnd is now ABOVE 2019 levels by 1 million barrels....

In September, global oil demand was at 101 percent of pre-Covid levels, while crude production was at 99 percent of those levels, the data showed.

The rise in September demand was driven by diesel consumption in China and gasoline demand in the United States, said the IEF, the world's largest international organization of energy ministers.

Yet, global inventories remain 442 million barrels below the five-year average, the IEF said.

oilpricedotcom/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/World-Oil-Demand-Topped-Pre-Covid-Levels-In-September.html

censorship, government, tech: nov19 lawyer calls secret government installed andriod app "dystopian"

"The Massachusetts DPH, like any other government actor, is bound by state and federal constitutional and legal constraints on its conduct. This 'android attack,' deliberately designed to override the constitutional and legal rights of citizens to be free from government intrusions upon their privacy without their consent, reads like dystopian science fiction—and must be swiftly invalidated by the court."

Persuading the public to voluntarily adopt such apps may be difficult, but it is also necessary in a free society. The government may not secretly install surveillance devices on your personal property without a warrant—even for a laudable purpose. For the same reason, it may not install surveillance software on your smartphone without your awareness and permission."
— Sheng Li, Litigation Counsel, NCLA

nclalegaldotorg/2022/11/ncla-files-class-action-against-massachusetts-for-auto-installing-covid-spyware-on-1-million-phones

censorship, government, media, stats, journal: nov17

Just what weve been waiting for!: a realife example of employees within the national security apartus getting bribed to hack into clients personal accounts.

"Oops": Fired Facebook Employees Took Bribes To Hijack User Accounts

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, NOV 17, 2022 - 02:10 PM

Facebook parent Meta has fired or disciplined **over two dozen employees and contractors** over the last year who have been accused of **improperly hijacking user accounts** - in some cases for bribes, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, citing people familiar with the matter and documents seen by the outlet.

The suspects accepted **thousands of dollars in bribes** from outside hackers in some cases.

> *Some of those fired were contractors who worked as security guards stationed at Meta facilities and were given access to the Facebook parent’s internal mechanism for employees to help users having trouble with their accounts, according to the documents and people familiar with the matter. -WSJ*

The mechanism, known internally as "Oops," was created during the company's early years in order to help users who either forgot their passwords or emails, or had their accounts taken over by hackers.

"Individuals selling fraudulent services are always targeting online platforms, including ours, and adapting their tactics in response to the detection methods that are commonly used across the industry," according to Meta spokesman Andy Stone, who added that the company would continue to take "appropriate action against those involved in these kinds of schemes."

Meta contractor Allied Universal said in a statement that it "takes seriously all reports of violations of our standards of conduct."

When users are locked out of their accounts, there are automated procedures to try and recover it - including trying to reach Meta by phone or email, which is typically an exercise in futility.

"Oops," which stands for Online Operations, is supposed to be limited to special circumstances, such as friends, family, business partners and public figures as a way to cut in line for assistance. In 2020, it serviced over 50,000 tasks - up from 22,000 just three years earlier. In order to file an Oops report, the employee or contractor lists an email address to be reset. They must answer a series of questions, including whether the request is being made for someone on CEO Mark Zuckerberg's team, a celebrity, Meta partner, or family member, the *Journal* reports.

Because so many people depend on social media for their businesses, or to manage critically important aspects of their lives, gaining illicit control of an account can be lucrative. Stolen Facebook and Instagram handles can be sold for tens of thousands of dollars on other online forums.

But in part because the Oops system is off limits to the vast majority of Facebook users, a cottage industry of intermediaries has developed who charge users money to regain control of their accounts. In interviews with the Journal, some of those third parties claim to have access to Meta employees to help reset accounts. -WSJ

"When you take someone’s Instagram account down that they’ve spent years building up, you’re taking away their whole means of generating an income," said Nick McCandless, whose company McCandless Group operates a platform for content creators and **charges people to reset their accounts through an inside contact at Meta**.

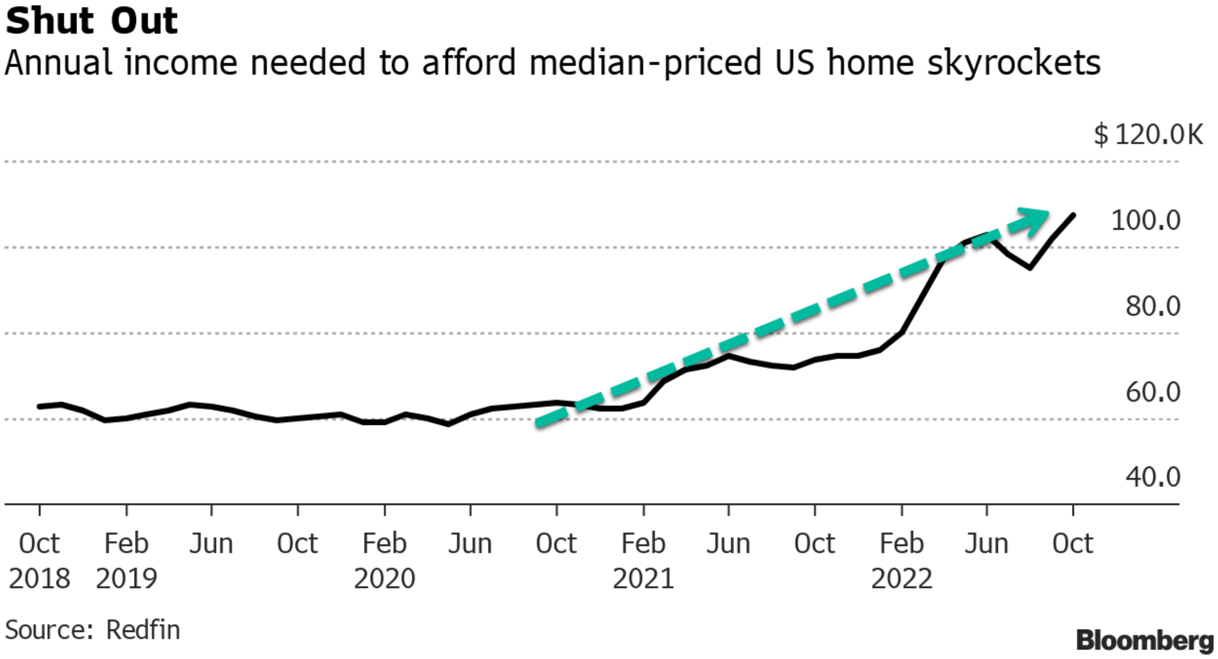
"You really have to have someone on the inside who will actually do it."

Stats, media: nov17 "Organized Crime" Looters Steal Astounding $400 Million In Goods From Target Stores

https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/target-suffers-400-million-losses-organized-crime-gangs-loot-stores

house, inflation, government, journal: nov17

A sign of the times:Rates and inflation have priced out people making UNDER $100 000



Source: Redfin

A new report via real estate brokerage firm Redfin Corp. found that in October, the average buyer needed to earn $107,281 to afford the monthly mortgage

payment of a median-priced home, up a whopping 46% from a year ago of $73,668.

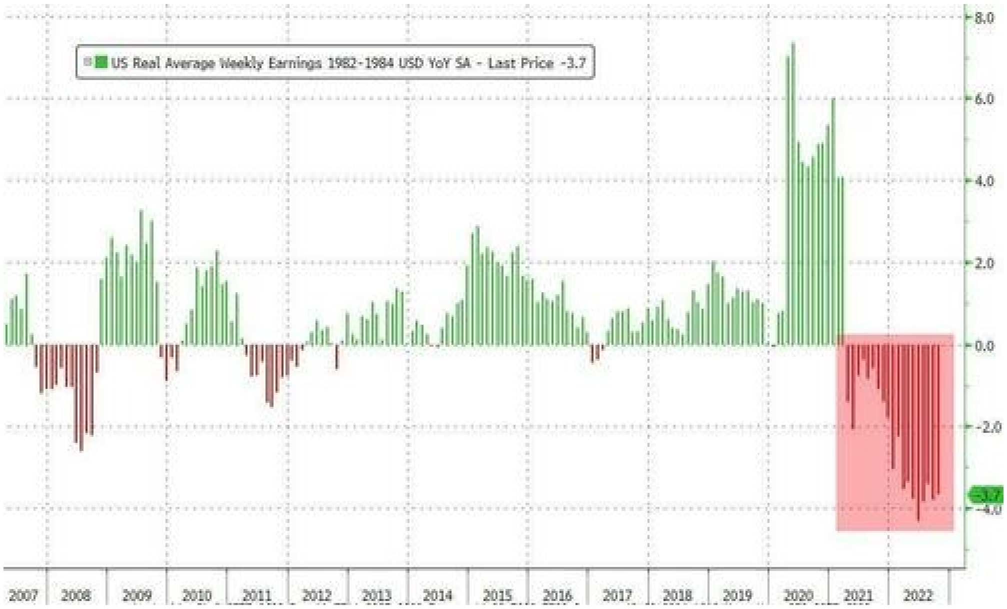
Housing Affordability Worsens As Homeownership Out Of Reach For Anyone Making Under $100k

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, NOV 16, 2022 - 07:00 PM

The US housing affordability crisis continues to worsen as mortgage rates skyrocket to two-decade highs while the cost of an average home is still at bubbly levels. Financing costs are through the roof, and anyone earning less than $100,000 has been priced out of homeownership.

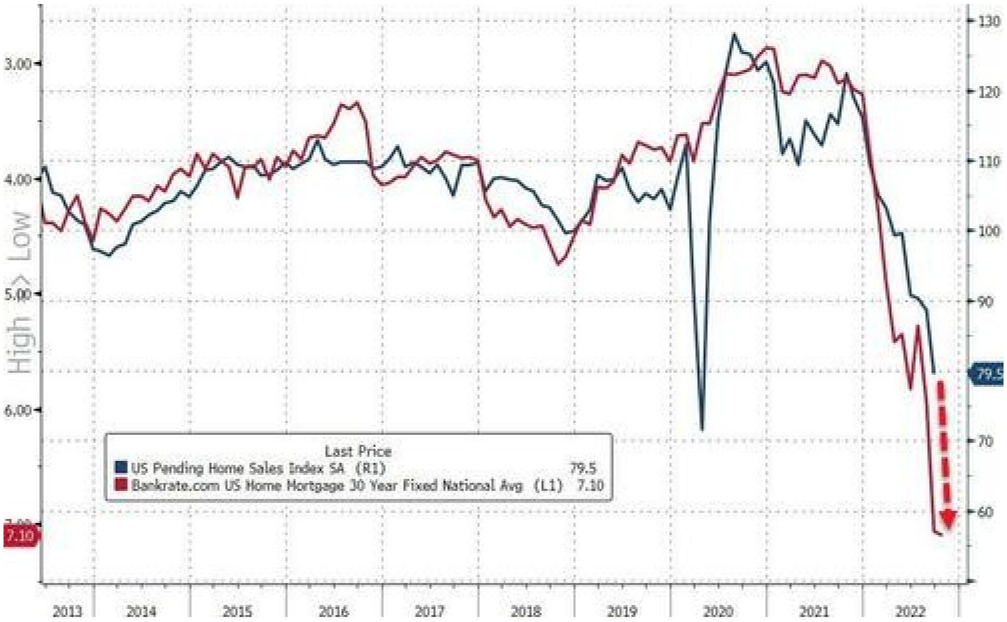
A new report via real estate brokerage firm Redfin Corp. found that in October, the average buyer needed to earn $107,281 to afford the monthly mortgage payment of a median-priced home, up a whopping 46% from a year ago of $73,668.

Considering there have been a record 19 consecutive months of negative real wage growth, most of which have been under President Biden's tenure, many prospective homebuyers have likely given up and are now renting (or back in their parent's basement).

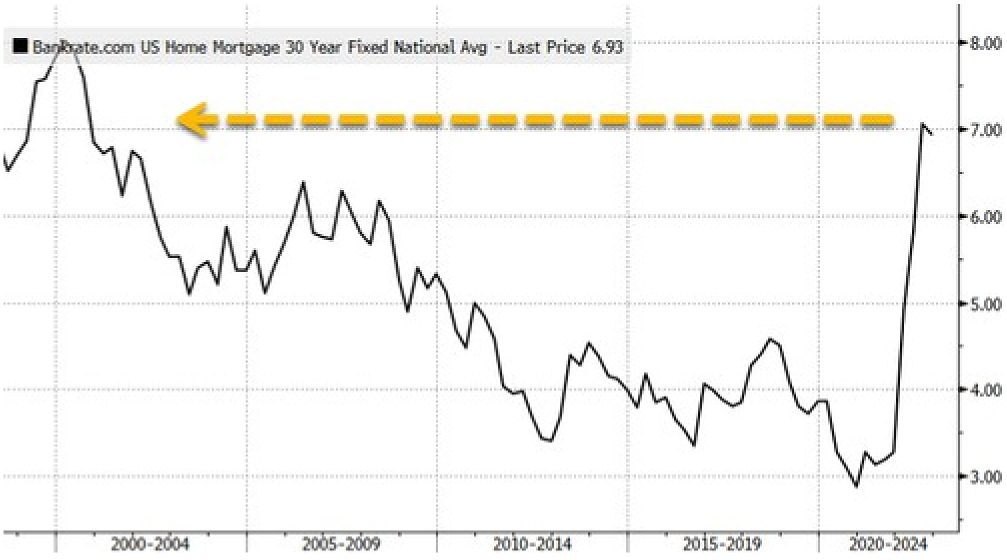


Considering there have been a record 19 consecutive months of negative real wage growth, most of which have been under President Biden's tenure, many prospective homebuyers have likely given up and are now renting (or back in their parent's basement).

"Affordability challenges are a major reason why home sales have slowed so dramatically over the last few months," Redfin said in the report.

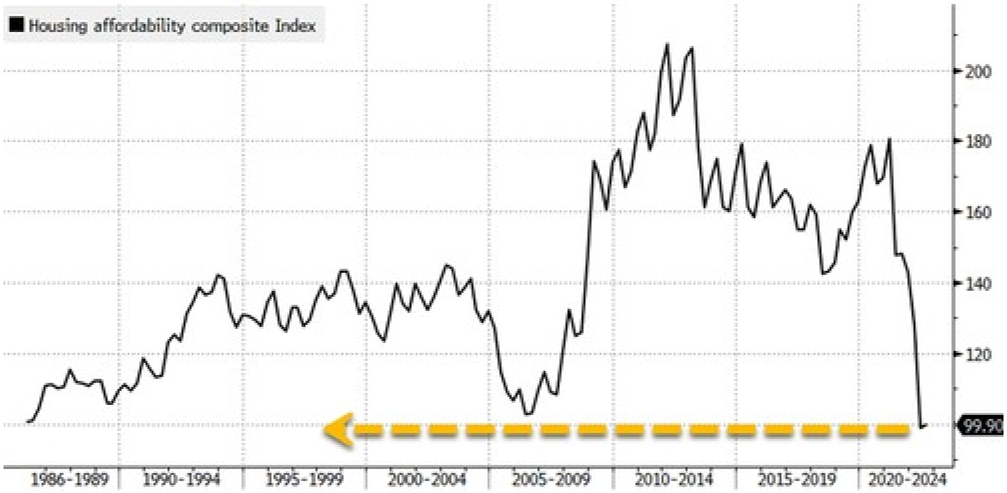


What's made the affordability crisis worse is the Federal Reserve's most aggressive interest rate hiking in decades to quell inflation has sent the 30-year fixed mortgage above 7% within the last several quarters.



This has caused a 'payment shock' as elevated rates, high home prices, and faltering wage growth have priced out millions of Americans.

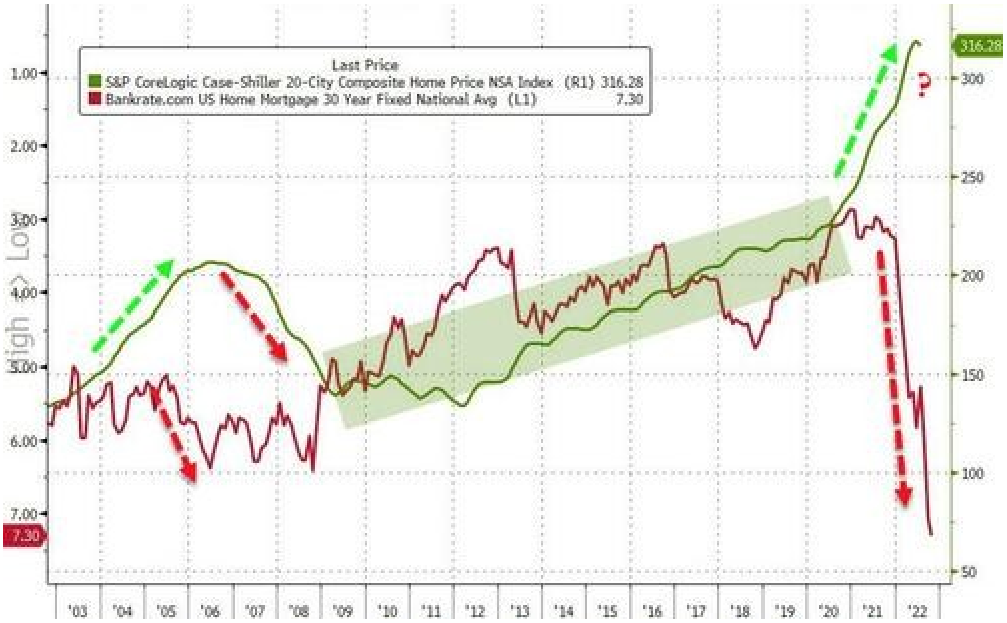
According to the National Association of Realtors, today's souring homebuying environment has been described as the 'worst in decades'.



None of this should surprise readers since we first stated in March that soaring interest rates would significantly challenge *housing affordability*.

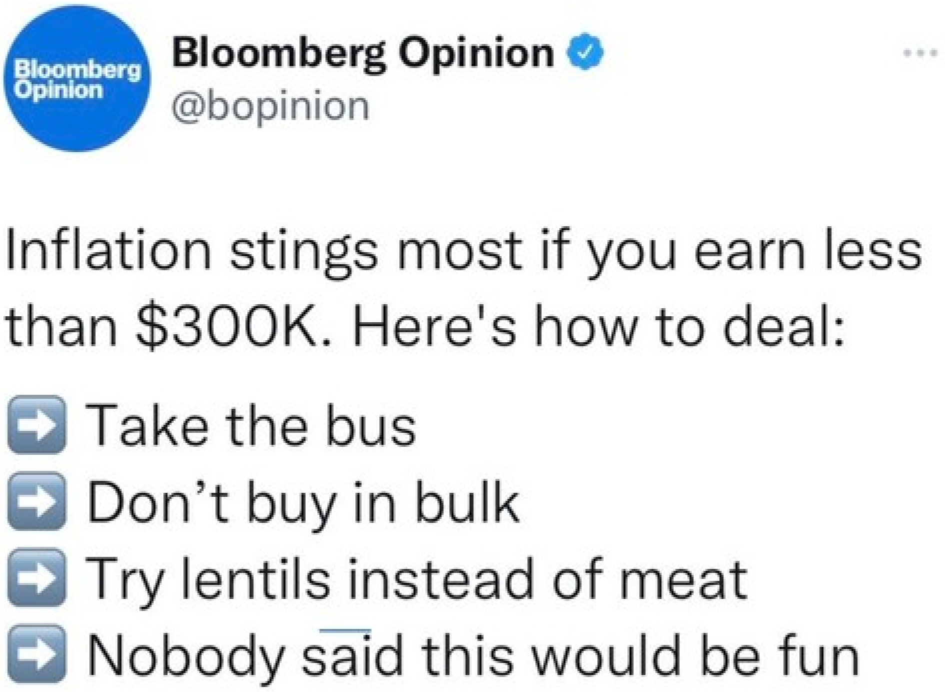
Today, we see the "Death Of The American Dream And Home Ownership." And what's the result: you'll rent and own nothing... Well, that's a very similar statement from the World Economic Forum: by 2030, "you'll own nothing, and you'll (still) be happy.

More importantly, all of this suggests home prices could be on the cusp of a major downturn.



We suspect 2023 will be a tumultuous year for the housing market until the Fed pivots.

... And we almost forgot that a Bloomberg OP-ED earlier this year said anyone earning less than $300k should eat lentils.



Bloomberg Opinion
@bopinion

Inflation stings most if you earn less than $300K. Here's how to deal:

➡️ Take the bus
➡️ Don’t buy in bulk
➡️ Try lentils instead of meat
➡️ Nobody said this would be fun

Stats, war, sanctions: nov17 new tool shows map of us bases

https://worldbeyondwar.org/no-bases/

stats, government, markets, journal:

interesting comment found in zh comments section.

International central banking was officially started in 1099. By **** in the Lombardi region of Italy

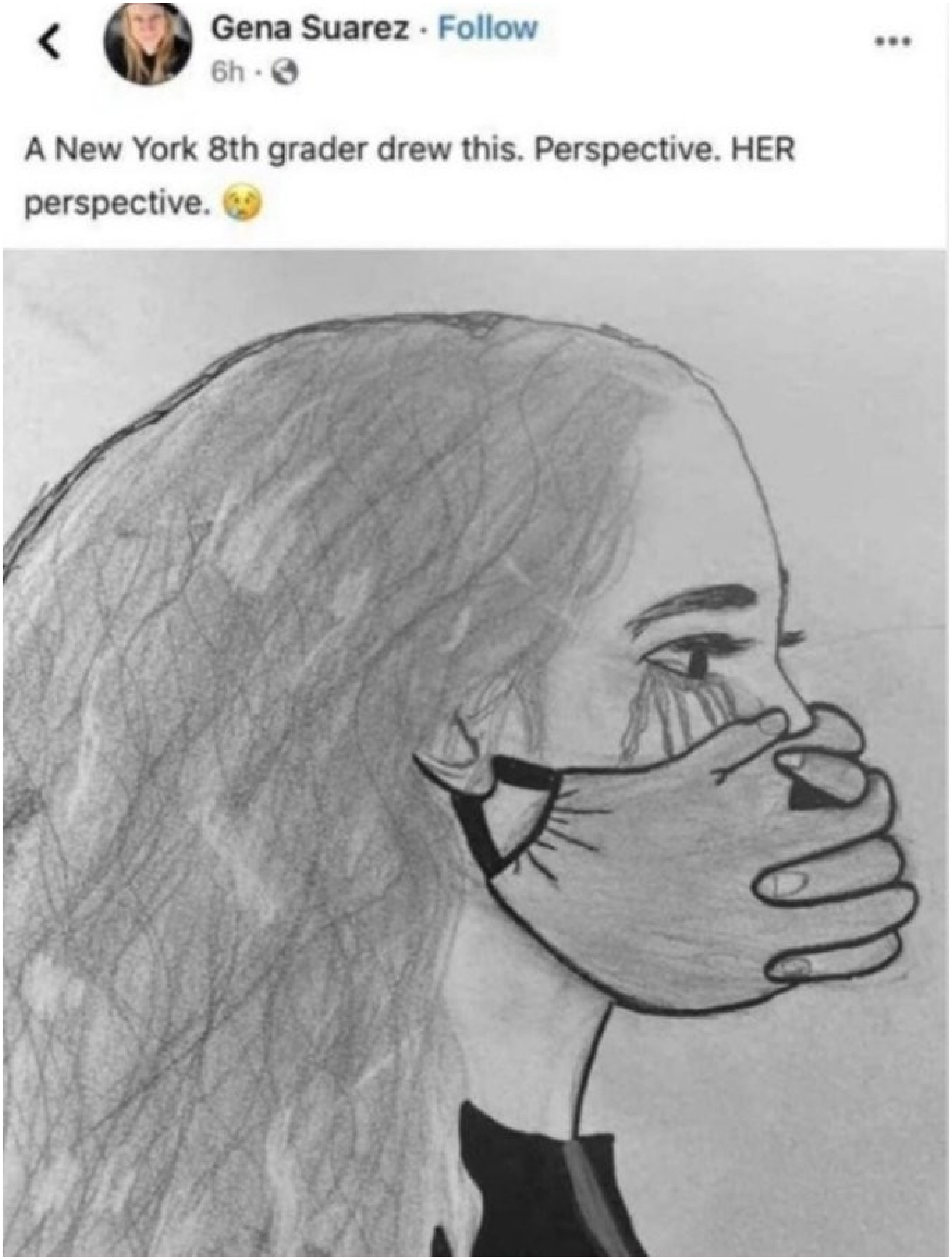
Funny how you IRS form is coded 1099. I wonder how that came about?

The **** financed and insured grain, its harvest, marketing and delivery and crop losses, but based these on "futures" pricing. What was the value of the grain not at harvest, but when it reached a distant market? Thats how they made a good profit, and they charged usury of course, which Christian and Muslims were forbidden to do.

They now just do that in every market worldwide. Cohencidence?

No. Ye was right all along. There is a reason for them being kicked out of 115 city states, countries and protectorates since the exodus. If only those poor persecuted people (that you can't criticize) could explain why that is...

censorship, government, history: nov17 picture



Gena Suarez · Follow

6h ·

A New York 8th grader drew this. Perspective. HER perspective. 😢

Russia, war, sanctions: nov15 Interest on the national debt was $399 billion in FY22, up from under $300 billion in FY16, and is now on track to exceed $700 billion in FY24.

theburningplatformdotcom/2022/11/14/fourth-turning-winter-of-death

energy, sanctions, war: pipeline stats

https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/europes-alternatives-if-russia-shuts-off-gas-supply-2022-10-20/

stats, war, markets, government,
history: nov15 they declared force majeure..get it? "yeah, something happened, (sarcasm) ".

A force majeure clause is **a contractual provision stating that certain contractual obligations are suspended on certain triggering events**. (Typically, in a lease, a force majeure clause will go on to state that in any event, the obligation to pay rent and other sums will not be suspended.)Jul 27, 2022
What Is a Force Majeure Contract Clause, and How Does It Work? (investopedia.com)

Censorship, journal, readlater: nice free speech article with tons of links
https://jonathanturley.org/2022/11/12/your-words-are-violence-coulter-cancelled-at-cornell/

energy, stats: nov12 great energy infographic

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/sp/why-fusion-will-power-the-race-to-net-zero/

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"While people often think of the Internet as an immaterial object, the data that makes up the Internet is actually stored at a very physical location: data servers. Businesses sometimes operate their own servers or rent out servers from data centers, enabling them to store online files -- like those that make up a website -- and make them globally accessible. Essentially, an Internet data center server is the saving location for files accessible from the Internet."

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"They Can Do Audio, Video, & Physical Surveillance On You 24H/365D A Year": Rex Lee On Intrusive Apps

by Tyler Durden
Sunday, Aug 14, 2022 - 08:25 PM

In this special episode, The Epoch Times' Tiffany Meier sat down with Rex M. Lee, cybersecurity adviser at My Smart Privacy. He helps shed light on China’s cyberattacks on America, how they affect us in our daily lives, and what can be done to stop them.

Lee notes one way adversarial countries can get in is through invasive apps:

*“**You have to look at an app as legal malware.** And that’s the best way you can describe apps today. An app—whether it’s a social media app developed by Bytedance, such as TikTok, or Facebook, or Instagram—any of these apps, they are basically legal malware that enable the developer to monitor, track, and data mine the end user for financial gain 24 by seven, 365 days a year.*

“A single intrusive app enables the developer to collect over 5,000 highly confidential data points associated with the end user’s personal information, business information, medical information, legal information, and employment information because **the surveillance and data mining done by these companies is indiscriminate**, meaning that they’re not only collecting consumer information, they’re collecting every bit of information from the end user, including text messages, email, email attachments, calendar events, and so forth,” he added.

As to just how invasive these are, Lee said:

*“**What an app will do is it will interlink with all of the hardware on the device and the sensors on the device, such as camera and microphone, as well as sensors, such as the accelerometer. So they can do audio, video and physical surveillance on you 24 hours, 365 days a year while collecting those 5,000 highly confidential data points on the end user.** What they’re doing is they package that and they monetize it. But also, as we’re seeing in the news, is that these tech companies are aligned with governments. So the information a lot of times is ending up in the hands of the government.”*

Meier also sat down with Greg Copley, president of the International Strategic Studies Association and author of “The New Total War.” He touches on the recent buzz over House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s trip to Taiwan and what that means for this November, both in terms of our midterm elections and Chinese leader Xi Jinping seeking an unprecedented third term.

Copley said:

*“**We’re now getting a better idea as to how the People’s Liberation Army [PLA] would fight a war against Taiwan, if it came to that.** And if they in fact allowed the General Secretary Xi to make them go to war on the Taiwan issue, Japan has made it clear, and it repeated that declaration during Speaker Pelosi’s visit, that Japan would support Taiwan in the event of a military attack by the People’s Republic of China. Certainly, the U.S. will be drawn into it one way or another. Yes, it would involve high risks and the potential for many casualties. But it would also involve higher risks for the People’s Republic of China, not just in the direct conflict between the PLA and the Republic of China armed forces and the United States armed forces and the Japanese self-defense forces, but also there are other forces who would become engaged automatically.*

“That probably would include Australia, but it would certainly include India, and the Indian factor is one which Beijing does not wish to discuss openly. Even in the current war game posture against Taiwan, the PLA started moving additional forces down into the Tibetan plateau to be ready for an Indian response there. The Indian response would be massive. India has a similar force capability in many respects to the People’s Republic of China, and could move the entirety of its forces against the PRC, both on the Tibetan plateau and in the Eurasian context, but also in the Indian Ocean in a naval context,” he added.

Watch the full interview below:

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